

Planning Board/ZBA Ethics Scenario

A board meeting was held in your town last night about a very controversial development application. The permit is being looked on favorably by a majority of the board since the applicant seems to meet all the standards in the ordinance, but an angry abutting owner disagrees about everything that is happening. One member of the Board is on the angry neighbor's side, and seems to be going after the applicant.

The angry neighbor sees you, a board member, in the grocery store aisle. How would you react to the following:

- He asks you about how you will be voting on the application.
- He wants a copy of the notes he saw you jotting down last night as the meeting was going on, on a pad that you brought with you from home.
- He wants to bring a video camera to the next meeting and film it, so he can show his friends that are in Florida now, what has been going on.
- He tells you that he has a deed that shows that the applicant doesn't really own all the acreage he says he does, and wants you to give you the information now to take home with you so you can read it.
- He lets you know that he and one of your fellow board members hold a grudge against the applicant. This other board member has a secret grudge against the applicant, because the applicant is his wife's ex-husband, and that explains why he was being so hard on the applicant last night.
- He complements you for your hard work volunteering for the town, and gives you a Home Depot gift card for \$25.00.
- He complements you for your hard work volunteering for the town, and gives you a box of eggs from his hen house.
- He wants to know what happened at the end of the meeting last night, because he had to leave early.
- He tells you that his son really needs the construction job that will happen if the permit is issued by the Board, and he will support you for the chairmanship of the local rotary club if you help the applicant, since you seem to be supporting the project anyway. He then offers you a box of eggs from his hen house.

Have any of these happened to you? Other examples from your life, you could share?