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Developer given more time on land plan

Proposal calls for 182 homes on 435 acres.

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By **COURTNEY LOMAX**
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FORKS TWP. | The group of developers challenging township zoning in the farmland preservation district was given an extension on plans for an alternative option on the same land.

Supervisors voted 3-2 Thursday to accept the extension for Bethlehem-based developer KMRD LP.

Township planners recommended the plans be rejected last week, saying no soil tests or other required work had been completed on the 435 acres.

Revised plans were submitted Thursday afternoon, hours before the supervisors' meeting.

Supervisors Bonnie Nicholas and C. David Howell voted against the extension Thursday.

Howell said he didn't think the developer was acting in good faith and was delaying the process.

"Enough is enough," Howell said.

Nicholas said she's not confident the developer is serious about the project.

Supervisors Chairman David Hoff and Supervisors Donald Miller and John Ackerman voted in favor of the extension.

The approval gives the developer until the end of January to submit revised preliminary plans for 182 homes on 435 acres on tracts near Richmond and Kuebler roads and Kessler'sville and Uhler roads.

Developers are challenging township zoning laws on that same land where they want to build 3,000 homes.

The original deadline to submit revised plans for the smaller project was Nov. 8, and the developer's attorney, John VanLuvanee, asked to extend the deadline to July 31, 2007.

Original plans were submitted December 2005.

VanLuvanee said the time was needed because of the project's scope.

Township Solicitor Karl Kline said he didn't want to hear excuses at the next deadline.

"The concern is we get to February and nothing is done," Kline said.

"If they haven't completed (plans) by Jan. 31, that really tells you they're not serious about the plans," Kline told supervisors.

Hoff agreed and said he would be reluctant to extend the deadline past Jan. 31.

VanLuvanee said he can't commit to that date because he doesn't know how long soil tests will take.

The development includes 182 homes on 2-acre lots with on-lot water and septic systems.

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