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Decision on grocery store delayed

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By **COURTNEY LOMAX**
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FORKS TWP. | Closing arguments in a zoning case involving a proposed grocery store were delayed Monday because too much time had elapsed between the first hearing and the last, according to Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Michael Shay.

Zoning board members will have time to review transcripts and see legal briefs outlining each side's case before making a decision.

Supervisors in February gave Weis Market Forks Inc. preliminary conditional approval to build an approximately 60,000-square-foot grocery and gas station on an 8.9-acre tract in the employment center district at Sullivan Trail and Uhler Road.

A group of residents is challenging the supervisors' July decision to allow the grocery store, saying the addition is spot zoning designed to benefit one developer.

"This is not a classic spot zoning case," Shay said.

Spot zoning happens when one land owner gets special treatment separate from others around him, Shay said. In this case, a conditional use for a grocery store was granted on a tract that already allowed businesses similar to grocery stores.

Monday's hearing, like several preceding it, focused on the traffic increase a grocery store at Sullivan Trail and Uhler Road would bring.

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