The Washington County Commissioners spent a portion of their regular meeting Dec. 18 talking turkey.

Colleen Barrigar, who lives in Franklin Township, voiced concern over a turkey farm that is being built next to her property.

She provided the commissioners with an extensive packet of information to back up the reasons for her concern about why she and some of her neighbors are upset.

“We met the neighbor a couple of weeks ago and he told us he was building a home, but we learned a couple days later that the homes, were homes for turkeys and not for him,” Barrigar said.

Barrigar said both and her neighbors are concerned about the effect the farm will have on their property values and “health and quality of our lives, living in this neighborhood.”

Commissioner Attorney Tom Scifres told Barrigar that the more appropriate audience for her to voice concerns would be the plan commission.

“Ultimately, the commissioners are the legislative and body and they will ultimately enact an ordinance,” he said. “The plan commission is more the investigative and drafting, advisory body to them and as far input, information, background and research (that you provided), would be best presented to the plan commission as they work on an ordinance.”

Commissioner David Brown agreed.

“Tom is absolutely right,” he said. “You need to be addressing the plan commission, because as of right now, we have no proposals before us. There is nothing that has been put here yet.”

Brown said the information provided by Barrigar could be beneficial to the plan commission.

“That could help them (the plan commission) adopt a proposal that would be workable for everyone,” Brown said.

Barriagar said she approached the commissioners first because she wanted to make sure all the elected officials who has input on the plan commission was informed.

In other business

County Emergency Management Director and 911 Coordinator Desi Alexander said she received a grant thanks to grading high on an assessment done by the state.

“That allows us to get extra money and spend it on things that we need,” she said. “This year we got that again.”

Alexander said she would like to use the money, which totals $4,054, to establish a couple of damage assessment teams and purchase educational materials and display boards.

She also said she would like to use some of the money to make preparedness packs.

“Out teams will be able to grab the packs and go where they need to go,” Alexander said.

The commissioners approved the motion unanimously allowing Alexander to use those funds how she sees fit.

The commissioners tabled one item on the agenda and that was to set meeting dates for 2013.

Brown said since Commissioner John Mishler’s term is up and newly elected Commissioner Phillip Marshall will take his seat in January, it’s better to wait and set the meeting times.

The commissioners held a special meeting on Dec. 31 in their attorney’s office.

They met in executive session to discuss insurance issues and then had a regularly scheduled meeting to approve the claims and also vote on an insurance contract for 2012.

Their next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2012.