



REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2021 6:30 PM

Note: All motions were carried by a roll-call vote through the video conference meeting, this meeting was recorded and will be kept in electronic records with the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL: Chair Dave Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll Call: Those present: Dave Johnson, Vickie Kettlewell, Terry Quick, Scott Hendrickson, Dave Skogen, Board Liaison Greg Bennett, and Colleen Putnam, Deputy Clerk. Sign-In sheet attached (no signatures due to covid).

Agenda: Scott Hendrickson moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Dave Skogen and the motion carried.

Minutes:

January 14, 2021 PC Meeting amend/approve: Dave Skogen moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott Hendrickson and the motion carried.

Public Input:

Shane Rauen – Cut Right Lawn Care via Zoom: Shane Rauen received a letter from the Township regarding a business operating at his residence, Shane lives at 1170 127th St SW Brainerd. Since the time he received the letter the Township and Cass County are in talks to decide who should be doing the commercial permitting in a residential area. Shane stated when he got his permit to build his residence and shop from Cass County, he told them he had a lawn care business and would be storing his equipment there. After further discussion it was decided he should contact Cass County Environmental Services regarding getting a Home Business permit until an agreement is made with Cass County.

Mike North, 1321 21st Ave SW, Pillager: Mike is here regarding MN Power CUP.

Dan McCourtney – MN Power via Zoom: Mn. Power has submitted an application for a CUP to construct a solar farm located at the corner 21st Ave. and West Gull River Rd. Dan presented the preliminary plans which is issued for 30% review which shows what the project is going to be planned, 60% is when all the engineering and detail work is completed then 90% it is put out for bids. Dan stated the solar farm will be a 10-megawatt solar farm and the facility will be 70 acres in size. The panels will be 3x6 and mounted on pivot heads. There will be a fence around the facility along with the access roads. On the west side of the project there will be a visual buffer with shrubs planted on the top of it. Between the berm and panels there will be a infiltration system. They will be getting a stormwater permit. Some questions from the Planning

Commission members and Mike North were: if there could be additional screening done on the north and west side. Also questions regarding the slope area. What color is the fence going to be, is there any possibility of doing a green fence. Are there going to be trees cut down. Could there be vines incorporated on the fence and junipers screening the berm. The question was asked as to the approximate start date. Dan stated they need to get approval from the Public Utilities Commission and Sylvan Township. Hopefully, it will be proceeding mid to late summer. There was discussion the property needs to be rezoned commercial. Dan will send a request to Sylvan Township by email. The Township will then need to send it to Cass County.

There was discussion at this time regarding Cass County wanting to take control of business permitting in Sylvan's residential area. Cass County Environmental Services Department met with 2 board members and 2 PC members regarding who should be handling the business permitting in Sylvan Township residential area. The Sylvan Township Board of Supervisors will be working on a Memorandum of Understanding. Cass County ESD looked over the SCO with the changes being made and thought it was not as restrictive at Cass County's. Dave Johnson met with Greg Bennett and a few more changes were made which will be presented at the Public Hearing on the ordinances.

Correspondence Received:

Cass County Permit Log – January 2021: There were 8 holding tank renewals issued for the month of January 2021.

Correspondence Sent:

None

Reports:

Greg Bennett, Town Board Liaison: Greg gave a report on their previous meeting:

1. Had their budget meeting before regular meeting, it is close to the previous year.
2. Greg Bennett and Bryan Drown will be meeting with the residents on Shady Hollow Road to come up with a solution for their road.
3. The Road Maintenance Contract is coming up for renewal.
4. There was an emergency management meeting, nothing new on that.
5. The Board reviewed all three (3) ordinances with the public hearing going to be held on Tuesday, February 16,2021 at 6:30pm.
6. Looking at the fee schedule and possibly making some changes.
7. Will be having the Board of Audit meeting before the first Board meeting in March.
8. Looking at getting a different accounting firm.

Previous Board Minutes: You received in your packets, please read them over for your information.

Old Business:

Sylvan Lake Park: The park committee met on Wednesday, February 10,2021 to discuss some different options for the park. There were 6 residents in attendance and 5 on zoom. The residents stated they would like to see more trails constructed. Other items discussed were:

finishing the pit area, doing the North trail and also doing a switchback trail. Dave stated he needs to order more seed and additional trees. There was discussion that once the snow melts we will be getting a group of people to go to the park and remark the borders on both sides of the trail, after that get the trail roughed in. The committee needs to make a list of items that will be needed at the park. There was also discussion in regard to letting the residents on Sylvan Lake know what is taking place and see if they would have any interest in donating items or a monetary donation for the park.

At this time Dave informed the Planning Commission members he had met with Todd Holman with Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape who told Dave there is a possibility of another 40 acres becoming available for the Township from Cass County. Todd will be in contact with Cass County regarding this.

New Business:

None

Annual Reviews: None

Announcements: Read

Adjournment: Scott Hendrickson **moved to adjourn**, seconded by Vickie Kettlewell and the motion carried with the meeting being adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Colleen Putnam, Deputy Clerk

PC Member Dave Skogen approved the minutes as amended, seconded by Scott Hendrickson and the motion carried.

Amendments: Under Town Board Liaison Report # 4 change the word not to nothing

Date: 3-11-21