

MINUTES
Blue Earth County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 1, 2015
7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Lyle Femrite. Planning Commission members present were Bill Anderson, Kip Bruender, Lyle Femrite Chuck Grams, and Berry Jacques. County staff members Mike Schulte, Ben Effa and George Leary were also present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grams made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2015 Regular Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Jacques seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Leary indicated there were two additional items to discuss.

4. NEW BUSINESS

PC 05-15

Phillip Miller - Request for an after-the-fact conditional use permit for the placement of more than 500 cubic yards of fill to create a raised elevation for the planting of trees and shrubs to act as a windbreak. The site is located in Lot 1 Block 2 of the Jones Ford Crossing Subdivision which is located in part of the SW Quarter of the NE Quarter of Section 27 South Bend Township. The property is zoned conservation.

Mr. Effa presented the staff report.

The applicant was present and had no comment.

Dennis Gremel, a neighboring resident was present. He indicated to the commission his original understanding that a berm was part of the CUP resolution of the Forrey gravel pit, but apparently it was not.

There was no other public comment.

There was little discussion by the commission.

Mr. Bruender made a motion to forward a recommendation of approval of the request to the County Board.

Mr. Jacques seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Leary provided a brief update on the changes made to the developing solar energy ordinance relative to the Urban Fringe Overlay Districts. Mr. Leary indicated the following language had been added for large solar energy systems: *Any system proposed within an area governed by an Orderly Annexation Agreement shall have written approval from the city and township prior to the county accepting an application.*

The commission discussed the proposed language. The potential impact of a change to the boundaries of an orderly annexation area was in question. Staff was directed to conduct further review of the orderly annexation areas of the affected cities with Urban Fringe Overlay Districts. The general consensus was the ordinance, with possible change to the Urban Fringe Overlay District, is ready to move forward at the May Planning Commission and County Board meetings.

Mr. Leary informed the commission that Perry Wood had suffered a mild heart attack a few weeks ago. At the advice of his doctors, he has resigned from the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission. Mr. Leary had a card for Mr. Wood available for the members to sign.

ADJORNMENT

There was no further business. Mr. Bruender made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Jacques and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Planning Commission Chair

Date

Planning Commission Secretary

Date