

Crow Wing Township Planning Commission Meeting April 3, 2023, 6:00 PM

Commission Members Present: Brad Arnold (Chair), and Commissioners Dan Lee and Paul Stephany (Township Board Supervisor), & Sue Kern (Township Clerk), and Scott Saeher, Planning and Zoning Administrator. David Nelson arrived at 7:28 pm. Linda Schuety was absent. Brad called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Everyone was introduced to the public.

Public Hearings: None.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Brad added a few items. Brad has been on medical leave from January through March. There were no meetings during that period. Elections were to take place in February but there was not a meeting due to a lack of agenda. There are some zoning requirements that need to be discussed.

Open Forum: None.

Approval of Minutes: The December 12, 2022, meeting minutes were reviewed. Dan made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Brad seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed 2-0. Paul abstained as he was not on the Commission at that time.

New Business: Jacob Frie, MN DNR Hydrologist, was present. He introduced himself and talked about his background and his new role as a hydrologist. His job is to review permits for public waters. He explained his job and that he would be available to work with the Township as needed. It was noted we have riverfront properties and an environmental lake. Brad questioned him on drainage ditches, creeks, low land, and marsh land and the use of geothermal.

Planning Commission Appointments: After a discussion and in lieu of the fact that David and Linda were not present, it was decided to post pone Chair and Vice Chair appointments. Brad made the motion to table appointments. Dan seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business: Short Term Rentals: The Crow Wing County Short-Term Rental Licensing Ordinance was reviewed. Brad stated that we need to take action even though we don't have a lot of this going on in our Township. Scott questioned what the impact is in the Township and possible permits, number of requests and enforcement with the lack of Township staff. Scott talked about contracting the county's ordinance or to do our own. If we did it through the county they would collect permit fees and do enforcement as needed and it would possibly be a pass through for the Township. Implementation, fees, and jurisdiction would need to be discussed. We don't have a major attraction in the township like there is up north or on a lake. Brad stated we are fast approaching bike trails, hiking trails, snowmobile trails and ATV trails. Brad thought we should have an ordinance in place for when or if this becomes an issue. The town board previously had decided to not do anything with this but Brad stated that we are bound to do something. Scott was to research more and bring it back to the Commission. A public hearing will be needed to adopt the Ordinance and we could do so in the next few months. The website and a fee schedule would need to be updated. Scott will check into the matter.

P&Z Administrator's Report: The reports were reviewed. Lot splits and lot combinations were discussed. The Deason hoop structure and Mattern violations were discussed. It was decided that Scott would send them another letter. Brad will contact Greg regarding the other property.

Town Board Correspondence: None.

Paul questioned the fact that the Township has 6 parcels and does it make sense to combine them. Brad explained that it would not benefit the Township to combine the property.

Brad brought David up to speed on the agenda when he arrived. David questioned the 3 per bedroom clause on the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. This is a septic driven issue and it would be complaint driven.

Scott and Brad discussed the roof reconstruction permit. It was decided to remove the fee for that unless it was a very extensive change.

Adjournment: Dan made the motion to adjourn. Paul seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.