

# MOWER COUNTY

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

55912



## Minutes Mower County Planning Commission

Members Present: Gary Braaten, Oliver Hillier, Greta Kraushaar, Meri Jo Lonergan, Don Olson, Keith Voorhees.

Members Absent: Duane Hanson.

Others Present: William Buckley, Fred Hoisington, Daryl Franklin.

Vice-Chair Don Olson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 1994, in the Conference Room of the Mower County Courthouse, Austin, Minnesota. Minutes of the July 11, 1994; meeting were approved with an amendment that Oliver Hillier should have been present instead of absent on a motion by Oliver Hillier, seconded by Keith Voorhees. The motion passed unanimously.

**Conditional Use Permit #480 - Southern MN Municipal Power Agency** - Conditional use permit for a 69kV electrical line in Windom, Red Rock, and Lansing Townships. Staff report was presented. Reference was made to the on-site visit by the investigating committee of Don Olson and Duane Hanson on July 20, 1994. Richard Hettwer and representatives from Dairyland and Austin Utilities presented the proposal. The location and reason for the line was discussed. Some of the property owners were concerned on the routing of the line. There was concern about the difficulty of farming with the placement of the poles. A suggestion was made to use the DNR trail from Ramsey Golf Course to Brownsdale. Greta Kraushaar asked for specific concerns. Someone was concerned with problems associated with farming and pole placement. After some discussion a motion was made by Greta Kraushaar, seconded by Meri Jo Lonergan, to recommend approval of conditional use permit #480 for a 69kV power line because it was in accordance with Section 14-31 of the Mower County Code with the following conditions:

1. Permit will be permanent.
2. Secure necessary easements.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Mower County Individual Sewage Treatment System Ordinance** - Don Olson then called on Fred Hoisington to review and offer suggestions on the ordinance. It was explained that the County Board wanted the Planning Commission to review the ordinance considering the hearings that were held and to make suggestions for change.

- \* Section 11-3, Subd. 2(a) The first item of discussion related to minimum lot size. The Planning Commission recommended that they leave the verbiage as currently contained in Section 11-3, Subd 2-.
- \* Section 11-3, Subd. 2(d) Page 9-D, Two sites required. The Planning Commission recommended that this section be incorporated into the minimum lot size area.
- \* Section 11-3, Subd. 2(e)1 Upgrading, replacement, repair of failing systems upon property transfer. The Planning Commission recommends that the County Board defer to the state requirements for disclosure.
- \* In addition, the Planning Commission recommends that the County Board adopt the state requirements for variances and zoning permits for upgrading the system.

- \* Section 11-3, Subd. 2(g) System maintenance on page 10. The Planning Commission discussed this and received input from people present. They modified it to a recommendation that sewer systems are maintained and a clause added that systems installed with federal or state funds would be required to have the system maintenance on a three year basis.
- \* Section 11-3, Subd. 3 Standards for Septage Treatment. The Planning Commission feels that even if this is not required in the State law there should be control of septage. (Harold Boverhuis, Lansing Township, shared that in 1993 he had complaints of septage spreading close to the Cedar River and that he was informed that there was no jurisdiction in the current ordinance with where septage can be spread.)
- \* Section 11-4, Subd. 4 System Design and Site Evaluation Requirements. The Planning Commission was in favor of this section where the Environmental Health Department would be removed from the role of site evaluators and designers and just do inspections and do it as soon as possible.
- \* Section 11-4, Subd. 4 page 14 would be deleted since it is incorporated in section 11-3, subd. 2.
- \* Section 11-6 Subd. 1 Page 19 - County Licensing and certification requirements would be required until the State licensing and certification become effective in March 1996 then this section would be suspended.
- \* Section 11-6, Subd. 8 Page 24 - revocation of licenses would be the same as above.

It was explained that these Planning Commission recommendations would be given to the County Board for approval or modifications. The County board would then review the modifications and then inform Fred Hoisington to prepare the Sixth draft of the proposed ordinance. A motion was made was made by Greta Kraushaar, seconded by Gary Braaten, to proceed with the above recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Buckley brought up a second point, the County Board wanted the Planning Commission to review the "Blue Policy" relating to road inspections and surveys and upgrading systems in 1997. A discussion took place on the road survey. Harold Boverhuis felt that it is not fair to make double standards that if anyone has to correct their system all should have to do it. No exceptions should be made if they are agricultural or urban. After some discussion, a motion was made by Greta Kraushaar, seconded by Gary Braaten, that the Planning Commission recommend to the County Board to proceed with the inventory in 1994, 1995, 1996, and notification starting in 1997; it was added that property owners be given warning prior to being sent a notice of violation. There was a split vote on this.

Aye: Greta Kraushaar, Gary Braaten, Oliver Hillier, Don Olson.

Nay: Meri Jo Lonergan, Keith Voorhees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. on motion by Greta Kraushaar, seconded by Meri Jo Lonergan. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
 Daryl W. Franklin  
 Planning Director