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### **Minutes Mower County Planning Commission**

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Mel Haldorson, Representatives of SMMPA, Daryl Franklin.

Chair Duane Hanson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 1994, in the Conference Room of the Mower County Courthouse, Austin, Minnesota. Minutes of the October 25, 1994; meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Greta Kraushaar, seconded by Keith Voorhees. The motion passed unanimously.

**Rehearing of Conditional Use Permit #480 -- Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency** - CUP applicable to Section 14-51(r) of the Mower County Zoning Ordinance for a 69kV power line in Red Rock and Lansing Townships. Staff report was presented. Reference was made to the on-site visit by the investigating committee consisting of the entire Planning Commission on November 23, 1994. Rick Hettwer explained the proposal. Dave Peterson and Ron Steckman of Freeborn-Mower Electric also provided information on the need for the power line and that it will provide a multiple feed for 2,400 of their 5,500 customers. Bryan Adams of the Austin Utilities described the value for their customers. Chair Hanson asked for any opposition. Don Huinker questioned the need for a new 69kV and that he felt it was not necessary because all of the area already has a back-up. Ron Steckman reported that the Sargeant area does not have a back-up service. John Akkerman stated that there isn't a need for the line and is concerned about its negative impact on his property value. Mr. Akkerman felt the line was being built for the Hormel Company and is of no value to anyone else. Tom Freese was concerned about health

and safety factors because the line is 78 feet from his house. He opposed the route going on the abandoned railroad right-of-way. Rhonda Akkerman was worried about cancer, birth defects and other health issues. Carlton Thompson was opposed because of health issues. Ken Kahler has a pace maker was concerned about health effects. Omar Wangen opposed the line and supported the other complaints. Mrs. Jerry Wangen wanted to know why there is a need for a power line with a decreasing population. According to Rick Hettwer, the line is estimated to cost \$850,000.00. Chair Hanson requested any Planning Commission questions. Oliver Hillier asked if the power line would be on all the time - Rick Hettwer said "yes". Gary Braaten was concerned about the public relations from SMMPA - Rick Hettwer felt the same way and apologized. Keith Voorhees wanted to know if the line would have helped with the recent power outages - Ron Steckman said that it wouldn't have helped with that one. After some discussion, a motion was made by Don Olson, seconded by Greta Kraushaar, to recommend approval of CUP #480 for a power line because it was in accordance with section 14-31 of the Mower County Code with the following conditions:

1. Permanent permit.
2. Secure necessary easements.

Aye: Braaten, Hanson, Hillier, Kraushaar, Olson, Voorhees.

Nay: Lonergan.

Motion passed by a 6-1 vote.

**Doubling of Fees** -- The Planning Commission discussed the doubling of fees. After some discussion, a motion was made by Don Olson, seconded by Gary Braaten, that no doubling of fees be initiated. Motion passed unanimously with Oliver Hillier abstaining.

**CUP for Concrete Road Base or Parking Lots** -- Lee Hanson, a contractor, was present to offer some comments. After some discussion, a motion was made by Gary Braaten, seconded by Keith Voorhees, not to require a CUP for the use of concrete in road base or parking lot. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on motion by Meri Jo Lonergan, seconded by Keith Voorhees. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daryl W. Franklin  
Planning Director