

MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

August 2, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on August 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Jeff Baldus, Vice-Chair Mike Ankeny, John Mueller, Jerry Reinartz and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, Michal Hanson, Angie Lipelt, Valerie Sheedy, Loni Swenson

Public Works Director Michal Hanson was asked to respond to questions regarding damage to CSAH 58 and to the approach off CSAH 21 into Mandolin Apartments. The Public Works department is working with the parties and the contractors for damage repairs.

Environmental Services Supervisor Angela Lipelt and Assistant Public Works Director Valerie Sheedy came before the Board for a discussion on after the fact permit fees established by Resolution Number #50-16 and an appeal process.

There was discussion on creating uniformity among all appeal processes. However, Ms. Sheedy and Ms. Lipelt noted specific reasons why each appeal process is different and recommended that they remain as written in the ordinances. The Board concurred.

The Board reviewed and discussed the After-the-Fact permit policy established by resolution #50-16 adopted September 6, 2016. The County has a Land Use plan that is designed to protect the health and safety of county residents and to promote planned development for the most effective use of county land. Zoning and Solid Waste Ordinances establish the rules and processes to provide alignment with the Land Use Plan. As well these ordinances contain language to enforce statutorily mandated regulations regarding septic system compliance and allowable uses in certain areas such as flood plain and shoreland areas.

Permits exist as a preventative mechanism and educational opportunity for landowners to understand allowable land uses. In 2016, the County was experiencing a high number of land use non-compliance caused by failure to obtain a permit. This non-compliance was creating hardship for landowners. The After-the-fact permit fees were established as a remedy to encourage landowners to obtain permits. Recently the Board has received an increase in appeals of after the fact permits. The Board reviewed the previous resolution and discussed alternative options to achieve the intended goal. One suggested option is to reduce after-the-fact permit fees from triple to double for permits over \$300. Additionally, it was discussed to seek advice from land use attorney Scott Anderson on criteria for the Land Use Committee to use when hearing appeals. Staff was directed to prepare a resolution for the Board's review and consideration at the August 9 Board.

The Board noted that it would like to also review the Sign Ordinance at a future date. The Board will be reviewing and discussing the Housing Tax Abatement policy at the next work session.

Ms. Lipelt inquired of Commissioner Glynn the status of the stored decommissioned wind turbines in Grand Meadow. Commissioner Glynn indicated that the company planning to recycle the wind turbines is in the process of arranging transportation to Ohio.

County Administrator Trish Harren provided some brief background information pertaining to an expected Human Resources staffing request for the August 9 Board.

The work session concluded at 4:03 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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