

**MINUTES
OF
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Budget and Land Services Discussion
October 24, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota**

Chair Matt Ludwig called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Steve Chaffee and John Mikrot, Jr. Also present were County Administrator David Minke, Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder, Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson, County Attorney Reese Frederickson, County Auditor-Treasurer Cathy Clemmer, and Probation Director Terry Fawcett.

Others Present: Richard Glattly, Planning Commission member and Gary Valvoda, Board of Adjustment member.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mikrot. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Steve Hallan arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Those present introduced themselves.

Land Resources Manager Caleb Anderson provided a shoreland zoning update and explained the importance and role of zoning including information regarding water quality. The Pine County Board of Adjustment roles and variance criteria was reviewed; the Pine County Planning Commission roles were reviewed.

Board of Adjustment roles: review variance requests and staff recommendations, variance appeals, zoning district boundaries

Planning Commission: conditional use permitting process, ordinance amendment recommendations to County Board; review of final plats

The advantages and disadvantages of merging the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission were discussed. Land Services Director Kelly Schroeder stated combining the boards would provide a continuity of ordinance implementation, efficiency in meeting coordination and reduction in member recruitment demands. The board requested flow charts be prepared to include procedures for processing of the conditional use permits and variance applications currently, and how they could be processed under a combined board. Additional information was also requested on how the County Board can have more involvement with Zoning, including having a County Commissioner liaison involved with the combined board/commission and possibly a county zoning ordinance which townships can opt-in or opt-out of.

Land and Resources Manager Anderson stated the Planning Commission has been reviewing changes to the Shoreland Ordinance based on the updated Comprehensive Plan and comments from the public.

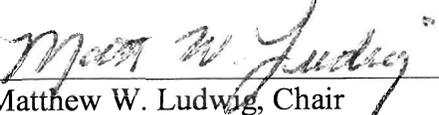
Blight in shorelands, retaining walls in shorelands, and consideration of establishing an administrative variance process was discussed. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with shoreland ordinance language addressing blight, use of rip rap and vegetated slopes only or engineered-designed retaining walls if more than four feet high, and county staff performing administrative variances.

The requirement of establishing buffer strips at the time of new permits for properties with greater erosion concern to address water quality concerns was discussed. Commissioners Hallan, Chaffee, Mikrot and Ludwig were supportive of this suggestion; Commissioner Mohr stated his opposition.

Currently Minnesota Rule 8420.0420 allows a 20-square foot exemption of wetland impact inside the shore impact zone. Allowing no exemption within the shore impact zone was discussed. The consensus of the board was to make no change to the current exemption.

The 2018 budget and property tax levy was discussed. The consensus of the commissioners was to proceed with a 5.5% property tax levy increase; no changes were made to the preliminary budget.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.


Matthew W. Ludwig, Chair
Board of Commissioners


David J. Minke, Administrator
Clerk to County Board