

**Becker County Planning Commission
January 14th, 2020**

Members Present: Chairman Jim Bruflodt, Harry Johnston, County Commissioner Larry Knutson, Mary Seaberg, Jeff Moritz, Dave Blomseth, Brian Bestge, Ray Thorkildson, John Skarie, and Planning & Zoning Director Kyle Vareberg.

Members Absent: James Kovala, and Bob Merritt.

Chairman Jim Bruflodt called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Kyle Vareberg recorded minutes.

Moritz made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 10th, 2019 meeting. **Blomseth second. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Bruflodt explained the protocol for the meeting and stated that the recommendations of the Planning Commission would be forwarded to the County Board of Commissioners for final action on January 21st, 2020.

New Business:

Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

1. AMENDMENT: Chapter 8 – Conditional use timeline requirements for previously denied applications.

The intent of the proposed amendment is to prevent applicants from re-applying for a conditional use permit without substantial changes or new circumstances to be determined by the Board of County Commissioners.

Vareberg said the amendment will be retroactive and will be applied one year prior from the date adopted by the County Board if the County Board should so choose to adopt the proposal.

Richard Laine was present and asked for clarification on how an applicant affected by the rule could re-apply.

Vareberg stated the applicant would need to go before the Board of Commissioners to receive approval to re-apply.

Bruflodt mentioned Laine’s previous change in his application would be an example of a significant change to be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners.

One written correspondence from Clark Lee was received.

Testimony was closed.

47 Knutson mentioned there may be discussion by the Board of Commissioners on how
48 many times an applicant may table their application.

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51 **Skarie made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance amendment. Seaberg**
52 **second. All in favor. Motion carried.**

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54 **2. AMENDMENT: Chapter 9 – Conditional use appeal process.**

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56 This proposal comes at the recommendation of Assistant County Attorney Lisa Tufts.
57 The proposal outlines where CUP's are appealed to.

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59 Vareberg said the proposal directs appeals to District Court only and removes the Board
60 of Adjustments as an option.

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62 Vareberg asked Chairman Brufloft if he'd ever seen one come before the Board of
63 Adjustments.

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65 Brufloft said he had not.

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67 Richard Laine was present and asked for clarification on the proposal.

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69 Vareberg explained to Laine that as of now, applicants or citizens may appeal decisions
70 made by Becker County to either the Board of Adjustments or District Court. He
71 confirmed the proposal would limit the option to District Court only.

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73 Laine asked what the Board of Adjustments is.

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75 Brufloft explained the Board of Adjustments is made up of members appointed by the
76 County Board. He said the variance applications they normally deal with are riparian lots
77 with setback issues.

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79 No written correspondence were received.

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81 Testimony was closed.

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83 Seaberg stated she liked the idea to confirm the process in writing.

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85 Blomseth questioned if the thirty day time limit to appeal was long enough.

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87 Knutson stated it is statute.

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89 **Seaberg made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance amendment. Bestge**
90 **second. All in favor. Motion carried.**

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93 Since there was no other business to come before the Board, a Motion to adjourn was
94 made by **Thorkildson** and was seconded by **Skarie**. All in favor. The motion carried
95 and the meeting was adjourned.

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IV. Other Business

100 1) **Tentative Date for Informational Meeting:**
101 **February 5th, 2020**; 8:00 am; 3rd Floor Meeting Room of the
102 Becker County Courthouse, Detroit Lakes, MN.

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Jim Bruflodt, Chairman

Jeff Moritz, Secretary

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ATTEST _____

Kyle Vareberg, Zoning Administrator

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