

**Planning Commission Meeting
May 9th, 7 pm Community Center**

Commission Members:

Matt Lazorik, Susan Keachie, Fred Schlicting, and Joni Vaughan

Members of the Public: Dennis and Barb Edwards, Greg Price

The Plan Commissioners present and Barb and Dennis Edwards met on the north end of Superior Ave. to view and discuss some of the options presented at a previous meeting. Some measurements were taken and the location of culverts and ditches noted. Discussion continued when we returned to the Community Center for the remainder of the meeting.

Fred made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April meeting. Joni 2nd and the Minutes were approved.

Updates: None

Greg Price attended the meeting to propose a trade of some land that he owns for some Town Land. His topic was not on the posted Agenda so it could not be discussed at this meeting. He will be put on the Agenda for next month's meeting.

Parking on Superior Ave.:

Commissioners present agreed after visiting the location that the best plan moving forward is that proposed at the March meeting. That plan involves trying to improve the ditches running along Superior Ave. and move them farther outside the paved driving lanes and try creating parallel parking on both sides of Superior Ave. that would allow vehicles to be off the street leaving two lanes clear for traffic traveling north and south. Matt will meet with Matt Hipsher from the Town Roads to discuss what might be done by the Town and when it could be done. The idea being that as much as possible be done this year with remaining improvements budgeted for and completed next year. Hopefully the Town crew would be able to do much of the improvements with other contractors being brought in only if necessary.

Class Action Rezone:

The Return Receipt for the registered letter sent to Jon Spencer relating to the Class Action Rezone was returned so we know that Jon received the letter. However the required letter giving the Town permission to proceed with the Class Action Rezone with his signature has not arrived. Until it is received the Plan Commission cannot proceed with this Action.

Artesian Well Water:

Fred reported on the information that he collected on the possibility of monitoring Artesian well overflow in the Town. According to the Ashland office of the Department of Natural Resources a throttle valve has been required by the DNR since 1991. However, no flow level is described and there is no system of regular monitoring in place. The DNR will look at well overflows on an individual basis when contacted. In conclusion, Plan Commissioners present determined that there is not action that the Town can take at this time.

Senior Housing:

Joni had done some research and provided some documents including a survey that CORE had done, a market study on affordable housing that the Town of Bayfield had done and a Market Study that had been done for Northern Lights in Washburn.. Discussion: Should we try to address senior and affordable housing together or as separate issues? Fred had some information on the occupancy levels at some of local facilities for senior and assisted living. Joni had data from the Northern Lights study. Both reported local facilities being under-occupied. Commissioners decided that affordable housing is currently not an issue for the Town to address there are few jobs to be filled at this time. WE decided to proceed with the senior housing survey at this time. The Plan Commission will try to develop the survey to accompany the next mailing that the Town might do to residents. Some of the questions that might be included in a survey could ask whether residents might move parents that needed assistance here to be close to them and/or whether a resident might want to move to where their children live if it came to a point when they needed assistance. Susan will review the CORE survey and present a draft of a possible survey for the Town of Bell.

Xcel power line project:

Bill Sloan provided a draft of a letter directed to Xcel Energy relating to the Town wishes for the proposed power line upgrade project. Commissioners proposed a few changes. Matt will edit and send back to Bill. Matt also suggested that the Town Board follow up a little farther into the process with a letter directed to the Public Utilities Commission(the entity that will grant the Permit for the project) restating specifically the Towns desire that the upgrade follow the existing line.

Susan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Matt 2nd and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM with Matt's signature "Okey Dokey".

The next meeting will be on **Thursday June 6th** in the Community Center basement at 7 pm.