

## **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes June 18, 2019**

The Empire Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Tom Kaldunski at 8:00 p.m.

Present were: Tom Kaldunski, Trent Larson, Jared Sachs, Chris Williamson, Bob Bjerke, Jane Kansier, Charles Seipel and liaison Ed Gerten.

The Planning Commission welcomed new Commission Members Chris Williamson and Bob Bjerke.

The meeting was opened to a public hearing on the proposed CUP amendment for the MCES Empire Waste Water Treatment Plant at 2540 197th Street West. Ed Gerten read the public hearing notice.

Heidi Hutter, engineer for the Metropolitan Council, presented information about the Empire treatment plant as well as the aspects of the proposed expansion. Hutter reported that the additions and improvements proposed to be made at the plant site include: a 280' X 262' X 40' biosolids cover and pad, consisting of a concrete and steel structure; a new 40' X 32' X 18'-8" gas treatment building with brick exterior finish; a new 24' X 10' X 34'-4" truck bay addition with brick exterior; and reconstruction of the entrance road, with the elevation of the road to be raised one foot in order to raise it above the 100-year flood elevation. The road width will remain at 24 feet. It is anticipated that the project will begin this summer and be completed in 2021, with total construction costs estimated at \$13million.

Ed Gerten expressed his frustration with the Met Council in regards to cleaning the drainage ditch that runs through the treatment facility property. Gerten stated that the Met Council has not been easy to work with. Representatives from the Met Council stated that the drainage ditch was a separate issue from the CUP amendment application.

Trent Larson pointed out that there is a lot of standing water in farm fields near the treatment facility due to water flow impediment by the treatment facility and the Met Council's unwillingness to address the water flow issues.

Discussion was held on the proposed expansion, including the proposed raise of the access road. Jared Sachs stated that he would like to see an engineering report that addresses water flow and how the flow will be affected by any subsurface alterations with associated with raising the road. Mr. Adelman, a property owner near the Met Council site, stated that he would also like to see the report as his property drainage is affected by the water treatment plant site.

Met Council staff stated that they will provide the Township engineer with the subsurface water flow information that they have gathered in the past few weeks.

Trent Larson made a motion to continue the public hearing on the proposed CUP amendment for the MCES Empire Waste Water Treatment Plant on Tuesday, July 16th at 8:00 PM. Jared Sachs seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The Planning Commission reviewed a proposed amendment to the City of Apple Valley's comprehensive plan. The plan includes the rezoning of a golf course area on 140th Street West to medium and high density housing. The Planning Commission had no comment.

A proposed shared bike trail that would run on the west side of Highway 3 between Empire Township and Farmington from Willow Street to 205th Street was discussed. The proposed trail was discussed at the EFPAC meeting that was held earlier in the evening. The trail is contingent on grant funding that has been applied for by the City of Farmington. The trail crossing at the Highway 3 Bridge would be separated from the road by a divider. Trent Larson made a motion to support the construction of the proposed Highway 3 trail between Empire Township and Farmington. Tom Kaldunski seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

It was reported that a proposed water supply connection between Empire Township and the City of Farmington was discussed at the EFPAC meeting. At the meeting, the engineers for each entity were asked to look into the possibility of installing an emergency connection along Highway 3 that would be constructed in conjunction with the proposed new bike path. An additional future connection could possibly be built in conjunction with a proposed new water tower that the City of Farmington plans to build north of the Fairhill subdivision in the next few years. It is common for communities in Dakota County that lie adjacent to one another to have emergency water service connections. The Planning Commission spoke in support of emergency water service connections with the City of Farmington. Jane Kansier recommended that discussion on water connections continue as development moves forward.

It was reported that the status of the Orderly Annexation Agreement and the Highway 3 Corridor Plan in the City of Farmington was also discussed at the EFPAC meeting.

Discussion was held on the possible placement of RV's for temporary living quarters at 2765 Vermillion Trail. The Planning Commission recommended that the Dakota County Fairgrounds be contacted as a potential spot for the RV's.

The Planning Commission commended and thanked Jim Hagerty for his years of service to the Empire Township Planning Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.