

## **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes May 5, 2020**

The Empire Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Tom Kaldunski at 8:00 PM at the Empire Township Public Works Building.

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

Dee McDaniels, Dakota County Environmental Specialist provided an update on Dakota County Ordinance 50, an ordinance relating to Shoreland and Floodplain Management. It is anticipated that a public hearing on the proposed revisions will take place on June 19th.

It was reported that the Township has received a request to consider a possible amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding solar electric systems (Section 6.20). The Planning Commission reviewed the request and how it pertains to language in the Ordinance. It was discussed that the ordinance could possibly be amended to ensure that solar systems are installed in a way to comply with all building and fire codes. It was recommended that the firm requesting the amendment file an application for zoning amendment. Township staff will work with building officials on a possible ordinance amendment. A public hearing on the amendment would need to take place.

It was reported that the Township has received notification from the Met Council that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for Empire Township is complete for review. The final review of the plan by the Met Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th. Tom Kaldunski thanked Jane Kansier and staff at Bolton & Menk for their work on the plan. It was recommended that once the plan is approved, discussion continue regarding the two parcels (one near Highway 56 and one on Chippendale Ct.) relating to their possible rezoning. Jane Kansier reported that she is going to invite Brad Fischer, an engineer with Bolton & Menk, to future Planning Commission meetings to discuss infrastructure in those areas.

The Planning Commission reviewed information from the City of Farmington regarding a proposed amendment to their 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The amendment calls for the rezoning of a parcel just to the south of the Farmington High School from A-1 (Agricultural) to R-3 (Medium Residential) for a Planned Unit Development. The Planning Commission had no comment on the proposed amendment.

It was reported that the Township has received information from Senator Matt Little's office regarding the relocation process as it relates to predatory offenders. Mark Bliven, Director of Risk Assessment and Community Notification for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, provided information on the relocation of a particular offender into Empire Township and has offered to speak to the Township to address questions. The Planning Commission discussed inviting Mr. Bliven and our State representatives to a Town Board Meeting after the current legislative session has adjourned and it is safer for large groups to meet.

It was reported that the property owner at 20828 Ahern has some questions regarding the installation of a solar project. The information about the project was not ready for tonight's meeting so the owner will join the next meeting.

It was reported that the Feely West solar project has not installed the required landscaping as was indicated in their IUP. The Planning Commission recommended that a letter be sent to the operators of this solar array, giving them until July 1st to install the landscaping. If the landscaping is not installed, the Township will withdraw from their letter of credit to install the landscaping.

It was reported that follow up should take place with the living quarters at the Jirik Sod Farms to make sure that they are in compliance with the Governor's social distancing guidelines for employees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.