

Public Packet

**Lynden Township, Stearns County
Monthly Meeting
Proposed Agenda**

Monday, January 8, 2024 7:00PM

- A. **Call the Meeting to Order**
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. **Review for Approval January 8, 2024 Meeting Agenda**
- D. **Review for Approval December 4, 2023 Board Minutes**
- E. **Review for Approval December 2023 Treasurer's Report**

I. Unfinished Business

- 1. Lack of driveway permit Lowest Cost Inc. 21963 Fairfax Rd. PID #19.10865.000
- 2. Driveway Violation LacQuay 264 Elderberry Rd PID #19.11054.0006
- 3. Camper Violation Brock Tuntland 15187 Co Rd 44 PID #19.10765.0054
- 4. Ordinance #12 review and updates
- 5. ARPA Projects
- 6. Township Hall Study Group
- 7.
- 8.

II. New Business

- 1. Newsletter
- 2. TriCounty Humane Society Contract
- 3. Audit/Budget planning
- 4. Annual meeting planning
- 5. Spring Clean up
- 6.

III. Review Building Permits

IV. Review Driveway and Right of Way Permits Issued

V. Planning and Zoning Updates

VI. Review Correspondence

VII. Review Bills and Claims for Approval

- 1. Review for Approval O'Konek, Niemi, Plaggerman claims
- 2. Review for Approval All Other Bills and Claims

VIII. Meeting Dates

- 1. Planning Commission – As needed
- 2. Audit Meeting – Proposed Wedn, January 24, 6:00 p.m.
- 3. Budget Meeting – Proposed Wedn, January 24, 6:30 p.m.
- 4. Monthly Meeting – Monday, February 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

IX. Adjourn - *Agenda is Subject to Change in Content and/or Sequence

water
MONTHLY MEETING IN PERSON
DECEMBER 4, 2023

Those present at the Lynden Township Hall were Supervisors Tom Plaggerman, Dennis Niemi and Scott O’Konek, Clerk Jenny Schmidt and Treasurer Jean Schermer. James Kantor, Planning Administrator, was also present. Plaggerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda: Plaggerman asked if there were any additions to the agenda from the Board or public. Add 5 Year Road Study prepared by Hakanson Anderson Engineering. Plaggerman made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

Meeting Minutes: The November 6 Board meeting minutes and November 20 special meeting minutes were reviewed for approval. O’Konek made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer’s report: The report prepared by Treasurer Schermer was reviewed. Receipts totaled \$274,109.18; Disbursements totaled \$37,510.23; Ending Balance \$633,187.01, which includes \$105,271.47 of ARPA Funds. Plaggerman questioned the Annandale Fire Fund as he recognizes a claim was paid to Annandale Fire for the 2nd half of the fire contract. Treasurer Schermer inputted the numbers in to CTAS as provided by Burns Co and will follow up on the distribution allocations. O’Konek made a motion to accept the November 20th treasurer’s report, noting Schermer will follow up on Annandale Fire Fund and make adjustments as necessary, and authorize the board to sign off on CTAS forms including the claims list, Net pay account distribution, and cash control statements; motion seconded by Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

Lack of driveway permit Lowest Cost Flooring 1963 Fairway Rd PID #19.10865.0000: The compliance letter to address the driveway that was constructed without obtaining a permit and the fact that it does not meet the township standards in Ordinance #12 was returned undeliverable. Wright Co records reflect a company name of Lowest Cost Flooring Inc, Jeffery A Mason, with a Maple Grove address. Clerk to again send a letter with a compliance deadline of December 31, 2023.

Driveway Violation LacQuay 264 Elderberry Rd PID #19.11054.0006: Supervisors have observed the third (3rd) driveway has not been completed. Clerk and Kantor confirm no application or fee has been received. Clerk to send an administrative notice instructing LacQuay to remove it no later than January 15, 2024 or the township will remove it at his expense, and if unpaid it will be assessed to taxes.

Ordinance #12 review and updates: Couri is reviewing draft changes. Table to January meeting.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects: Total funds received to date \$226,869.93, with \$105,271.47 remaining.

- M-R Sign order placed and ARPA funds will be used. Invoice pending. Expected installation remains spring 2024.

- Street Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) received from Hakanson Anderson Engineering. Invoice pending. This plan will be key at the January 2024 budget meeting.
- Niemi will obtain 2 quotes for brush clearing of the recent land purchase. No RFP is needed as the project is under the \$25,000 threshold.

Twp Hall Study Group: Meetings continue with the next one being December 7th.

2023 Local Road Improvement Plan (LRIP) Funding: Niemi intends to submit the application on December 8th after meeting with Teich on December 7th.

Schroeder reduced speed zone inquiry 155th Str: Darlene Schroeder represented Marlin and family on this request for improved signage in 155th Str area. Many drivers ignore the stop sign, drive too fast and seem to be unaware of the farmers and slow-moving vehicles. O'Konek's rough calculations indicate the area does not meet the statutory requirements for a speed zone sign, and the area is not dense enough. Plaggerman informs Schroeders Supervisor Niemi will contact the Stearns Co Deputy assigned to Lynden Township and request more police presence.

Report of Camper Violation Brock Tuntland 15187 Co Rd 44 PID #19.10765.0054: Supervisors observed the recent changes to the property, including garbage and camper. Clerk to send an administrative notice citing the structure does not meet building code, which is a violation of Lynden Township Ordinance #7, Section 7.23.4 and Lynden Township Ordinance #5, adopting the building code. The deadline for compliance is December 31, 2023.

Feedlot review Katherine Lange 21832 Co Rd 44 PID #19.10515.0002: SCES has asked for our review of the Permit Application for an Animal Feedlot or Manure Storage area submitted by Lange asking to be allowed up to 99 animal units. Lynden Township is more restrictive on parcels less than 10 acres but this is over 10 acres. Plaggerman spoke with BettyJo/SCES and informed her of the neighbors' concerns which include animal shelter, manure piles and proximity of home to the feedlot.

Notice of filing for town offices to be elected / Candidate filing notice: Filing period is open from January 2 to January 16, 2024, one supervisor, one clerk. Clerk will publish notice as required.

Building permits: 6 permits were issued by Building Inspector Nancy Scott for the month of November but we not submitted for review due to low volume. There are a total of 123 building permits issued in 2023; 6 new single family houses, 1 billboard and overall 2023 valuation of \$8,162,800.00 per her October report. The November valuation is not available at this time.

Driveway Permits and Right of Way Work Permits: 0 driveway, 6 ROW from Midco

Planning and Zoning Updates: In November Kantor issued 1 construction site permit, fielded zoning questions and a possible CSP on a non-conforming shed on PID #19.10244.0020.

Correspondence: was reviewed which included:

- Stearns County Ntc PH Jason Braun/Ruff's Pet Resort Rezoning PID #19.10313.0015
- Certificates of Liability Insurance from Midco x2

Review Bills and Claims for Approval:

- Plaggerman made a motion to approve O'Konek payroll claim, seconded by Niemi, 2 in favor, O'Konek abstained, motion passed.
- Plaggerman made a motion to approve Niemi payroll and expense claim, seconded by O'Konek, 2 in favor, Niemi abstained, motion passed.
- O'Konek made a motion to approve Plaggerman payroll claim, seconded by Niemi, 2 in favor, Plaggerman abstained, motion passed.
- Plaggerman made a motion to approve all other bills and claims, utilizing check number 8690 through 8709, seconded by O'Konek, all in favor, motion passed.

Meeting Dates 2023:

- Planning Commission – As needed
- Monthly Meeting – January 8, 7:00 p.m.
- Audit Meeting – January 24, 6:00 p.m.
- Budget Meeting – January 24, 6:30 p.m.

O;Konek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt, Clerk

Thomas Plaggerman, Chair

December 31, 2023

Lynden Township
c/o Jenny Schmidt
20517 Woodbine Road
Clearwater, MN 55320

RE: Monthly Billing Statement – November / December 2023

BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY

PERMIT #	DATE	OWNER / LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	VALUATION
118-23	11/10/23	Michael Murray 15015 Hidden River	Reshingle	1,000.00
119-23	11/28/23	Christian Ethen 21823 Fairfax Rd.	Windows	1,000.00
120-23	12/27/23	Shawn Nevonon 19407 CR 44	Dwelling & Garage	600,000.00
121-23	11/20/23	Lyle Johnson 237 Alder Rd.	Reshingle / Reside	2,000.00
122-23	11/1/23	Constant Okonek 141 168 th St. E.	Windows	1,000.00
123-23	11/26/23	Paul Schneider 14192 CR 144	Windows	1,000.00
124-23	12/18/23	Cassandra Johnson 15145 CR 44	Reshingle	1,000.00
125-23	11/20/23	Elizabeth Beck 676 Crescent Rd.	Reshingle	1,000.00

Total Permits This Month	8
Total Permits Year-To-Date	125
Total Single Family This Month	1
Total Single Family Year-To-Date	7
Total Valuation This Month	608,000.00
Total Valuation Year-To-Date	8,770,800.00

BUILDING PERMIT FEE SUMMARY

November / December 2023

PERMIT #	PERMIT FEE	PLAN REVIEW FEE	SURCHARGE	TOTAL
118-23	25.00	0.00	1.00	26.00
119-23	25.00	0.00	1.00	26.00
120-23	3,600.00	2,340.00	300.00	6,240.00
121-23	50.00	0.00	1.00	51.00
122-23	25.00	0.00	1.00	26.00
123-23	25.00	0.00	1.00	26.00
124-23	25.00	0.00	1.00	26.00
125-23	25.00	0.00	1.00	26.00
TOTALS	3,800.00	2,340.00	307.00	6,447.00

PLUMBING PERMIT SUMMARY

November / December 2023

PERMIT #	DATE	APPLICANT / ADDRESS	SURCHARGE	AMOUNT
13-23p	12/30/23	El-Jay 20012 21 st Ave. E.	1.00	39.00
14-23p	12/30/23	Precise 723 Cascade Rd.	1.00	125.00
TOTAL			2.00	164.00

MECHANICAL PERMIT SUMMARY

November / December 2023

PERMIT #	DATE	APPLICANT / ADDRESS	SURCHARGE	AMOUNT
15-23m	12/30/23	FireWorks 18509 Dover	1.00	43.00
16-23m	12/30/23	Precise 723 Cascade Rd.	1.00	87.00
TOTAL			2.00	130.00

Lynden Township

MONTHLY STATEMENT SUMMARY

November / December 2023

Building Permit Fees	3,800.00	x	75%	=	\$ 2,850.00
Plan Review Fees	2,340.00	x	100%	=	\$ 2,340.00
Plumbing Permit Fees	164.00	x	90%	=	\$ 147.60
Additional Plumbing Inspections	0.00	x	100%	=	\$ 0.00
Mechanical Permit Fees	130.00	x	90%	=	\$ 117.00
Additional Mechanical Inspections	0.00	x	100%	=	\$ 0.00

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE = \$ 5,454.60

Date Range : 1/1/2024 To 1/31/2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
01/08/2024	Schabel Enterprise of Central Mn	Invoice 1908 Snow Salt \$3000 monthly service fee	2129	\$7,523.43	201-43110-300-	Road Maintenance	\$7,523.43
01/08/2024	Republic Services	Invoice 0891-December 541 Units at \$6.76 = \$3657.16	2130	\$3,657.16	100-43230-384-	Waste (Refuse) Collection	\$3,657.16
01/08/2024	AllSpec Services, LLC	November December	2131	\$5,454.60	100-42401-300-	Building Inspections Administration	\$5,454.60
01/08/2024	Minnesota Dep of Labor & Industry	2023 4th Quarter building surcharge report	2132	\$510.00	100-42401-311-	Building Inspections Administration	\$510.00
01/08/2024	Hakanson Anderson	Invoice 52154 Street Evaluation and Capital Improvement Plan CIP	2133	\$9,460.00	203-43110-300-	Road Maintenance	\$9,460.00
01/08/2024	M-R Sign Company	Invoice 22720 Bulk Sign and Post Order	2134	\$5,120.64	203-43110-226-	Road Maintenance	\$5,120.64
01/08/2024	Couri & Ruppe PLLP	General	2135	\$437.50	100-41610-300-	City/Town Attorney	\$437.50
01/08/2024	MATIT Mn Association of Twp Insur T	Workers Comp Premium Policy 5593 Invoice 5593	2136	\$828.00	100-49201-150-	Unallocated Expenditures	\$828.00
01/08/2024	Minnesota Association of Townships	MAT Dues - previously sent to Stearns County Assoc of Townships. Now sending to MAT	2137	\$1,006.80	100-41110-433-	Council/Town Board	\$1,006.80

Date Range : 1/1/2024 To 1/31/2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
01/08/2024	Midco Communications	2023 ROW PermitRefund \$5400 prepaid for 27 permits 15 complt permits=\$3000 refund of \$2400	2138	\$2,400.00	201-43110-810-	Road Maintenance	\$2,400.00
01/08/2024	Patriot News MN	Invoice 10662	2139	\$91.30	100-41130-300-	Ordinances and Proceedings	\$91.30
01/08/2024	Midco Communications	Account 367647601 Invoice 36764760113040 \$85.42 x 6 months \$512.52	2140	\$512.52	100-41940-321-	General Government Buildings and Plant	\$512.52
01/08/2024	Dennis Niemi	December mileage	2141	\$62.68	100-41110-331-	Council/Town Board	\$62.68
01/08/2024	Gary Schmidt	July to Nov Mileage. Mileage to Fergus Falls for bulk sign and post pickup	2142	\$288.85	100-43121-331-	Paved Streets	\$288.85
01/08/2024	James Kantor	Beacon subscription and WebHost for 3 years	2143	\$146.00	100-41910-355-	Planning and Zoning	\$146.00
01/08/2024	Pat Voigt	Town hall cleaning supplies	2144	\$14.00	100-41940-210-	General Government Buildings and Plant	\$14.00
Total For Selected Claims				\$37,513.48			\$37,513.48

Date Range : 1/1/2024 To 1/31/2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
01/08/2024	M.L. Schendzielos and Sons Inc	Invoice 11440 Grading brush chipper patching	2145	\$13,837.50	201-43122-312-	Unpaved Streets	\$5,035.00
					201-43110-314-	Road Maintenance	\$7,255.00
					201-43121-300-	Paved Streets	\$1,547.50
Total For Selected Claims				\$13,837.50			\$13,837.50

Dennis Niemi	Town Supervisor	Date
Scott O'Konek	Town Supervisor	Date
Thomas Plaggerman	Town Supervisor	Date

Lynden Township

Cash Control Statement

1/4/2024

For the Period : 12/1/2023 To 12/31/2023

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Total Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Less Deposits In Transit</u>	<u>Plus Outstanding Checks</u>	<u>Total Per Bank Statement</u>
General Fund	\$80,180.13	\$1,814.43	\$12,365.10	\$69,629.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,629.46
Road and Bridge	\$328,873.14	\$2,724.75	\$27,957.48	\$303,640.41	\$0.00	\$14,027.50	\$317,667.91
Federal Grants - COVID	\$105,271.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105,271.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105,271.47
Annandale Fire Fund	\$11,973.83	\$87.17	\$5,400.00	\$6,661.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,661.00
Clearwater Fire Fund	\$106,888.44	\$612.34	\$47,646.38	\$59,854.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,854.40
Total	\$633,187.01	\$5,238.69	\$93,368.96	\$545,056.74	\$0.00	\$14,027.50	\$559,084.24

Dennis Edwin Niemi	Town Supervisor	Date
Scott M O'Konek	Town Supervisor	Date
Thomas Plaggerman	Town Supervisor	Date

Date Range: 1/1/2024 To 1/31/2024

Date	Vendor	Description	Claim #	Total	Account #	Account Name	Detail
01/08/2024	MN DEPT OF REVENUE	Jan 2024 withholdings	50337	\$59.04	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$30.47
01/08/2024	IRS	Jan 2024 withholding	50338	\$721.15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$28.57
01/08/2024	PERA	Jan 2024 retirement	50339	\$403.92	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$120.28
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$20.88
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$28.14
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$89.28
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$15.94
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$68.20
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$29.24
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$44.25
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$125.00
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$40.70
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$112.84
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$26.40
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$72.00
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$141.12
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$55.00
					[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	\$135.80

Total For Selected Claims

\$1,184.11

\$1,184.11

Dennis Edwin Niemi	Town Supervisor	Date
Scott M O'Konek	Town Supervisor	Date
Thomas Plaggerman	Town Supervisor	Date

For the payroll period ending: 01/31/2024

Account #	Employee #	Employee Name	Amount
100-41110-103	36	O'Konek, Scott M	117.01
		Plaggerman, Thomas	266.42
			Account Total
100-41425-103	15	Schmidt, Jenny B.	180.60
			790.64
			Account Total
100-41510-103	37	Schermar, Jean	628.92
			628.92
			Account Total
100-41910-103	31	Randor, James	763.47
			53.47
			Account Total
100-43121-300 <i>103</i>		Schmidt, Gary D.	540.34
			490.38
			Account Total
100-41110-103		Unallocated (Due to rounding)	\$0.00
			Total For Period
			\$3,503.84

_____ Dennis Edwin Niemi	_____ Town Supervisor	_____ Date
_____ Scott M O'Konek	_____ Town Supervisor	_____ Date
_____ Thomas Plaggerman	_____ Town Supervisor	_____ Date

ML SCHENDZIELOS & SON, INC
 PO Box 245
 Clear Lake, MN 55319
 320-743-2000 kelly@mlschendzielos.com

PROPOSAL Lynden Twp clearing brush
DATE 12/28/2023

Proposal submitted to:		Work to be performed at:	
Name	Lynden Township	Address	
Address	21367 County Rd 44	City, State	
City, State	Clearwater, MN 55320	Date of Plans	
Phone No.		Architect	

We hereby propose to furnish the materials and perform the labor necessary for the completion of

Work to be completed on township proposed building site
 Clearing brush less than 1 1/2" to 2" in diameter
 Clean up dead fall

All material is guaranteed to be as specified, and the above work to be performed in accordance with the drawings and specifications submitted for above work and completed in a substantial workmanlike manner for the sum of:

Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$ 10,800.00)

Respectfully submitted

ML Schendzielos & Son, Inc.

PER _____

Note - This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within 30 days.

Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written order, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents, or delays beyond our control.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted.
 You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____



December 5, 2023

Lynden Township
20517 Woodbine Rd.
Clearwater, MN. 55320

To Whom It May Concern:

It is time to renew your animal impound contract with the Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) for the 2024 calendar year. Please review the attached contract, sign, and return to TCHS by December 31, 2023. Handwritten edits to this contract will not be accepted. If you would like to request changes, please contact us.

We appreciate your partnership as we work together to assist animals in need in our community.

Sincerely,

Kari Boehmer
Customer Service Manager
(320) 252-0896 ext. 22
esm@tricityhumanesociety.org



ANIMAL IMPOUND AGREEMENT

This agreement is between the municipality of **Lynden Township** and the Tri-County Humane Society. This agreement is effective **January 1 - December 31, 2024** and may be removed or revised yearly.

The following is mutually agreed upon by the parties:

1. That the Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) agrees to:
 - a. Receive, feed, and house impounded dogs, cats, and other domestic animals that are retrieved or legally seized by the municipality's community service officer (CSO), animal control officer (ACO), other authorized representatives, or a citizen where verbal authorization has been granted by the municipality.
 - b. Hold stray animals for five business days unless claimed sooner.
 - c. Hold seized animals for ten business days unless a sooner release is authorized by the municipality having custody as per Minnesota State Statute 343.235.
 - d. Examine all animals, perform medical treatment if deemed necessary, and vaccinate and de-worm all dogs and cats upon intake.
 - e. Publicize all stray animals on the TCHS website upon intake.
 - f. Handle all inquiries that come to TCHS concerning the impounded animals.
 - g. Charge citizens a stray impound fee if they are reclaiming their pet within the stray holding period.
*Municipality will not be billed for stray animals returned to their owners.
 - h. Charge citizens a seized impound fee upon municipality release if they are reclaiming their pet within the seized holding period. *Municipality will not be billed for seized animals returned to their owners.
 - i. Take ownership of unclaimed impounded animals at the end of the five-day hold for stray animals or ten-day hold for seized animals and evaluate for adoption, euthanasia, or transfer.
 - j. Invoice the municipality clerk quarterly for unclaimed animals per the schedule below.

2. That the municipality agrees to:
 - a. Deliver or authorize delivery of stray or seized animals within their municipality to the TCHS.
 - b. Refer to a veterinarian for animals that are sick, injured, dangerous, or suspected of having rabies if the TCHS intake staff determines the animals' needs are beyond the capabilities of the TCHS.
 - c. Provide a list of names and phone numbers of those who can authorize animal impounds if a stray is brought in by a citizen. (See reverse side.)
 - d. Pay the TCHS quarterly upon receiving invoicing for impound services per the schedule below.

SCHEDULE

- Holding per dog, cat, or other domestic animal:
 - a. Seized animal held for up to 10 business days: \$150 per animal
 - b. Stray animal held for up to 5 business days: \$75 per animal*

*The fee for litters of puppies, kittens, or other animals under 12 weeks of age will be capped at \$150.

- Euthanasia and disposal per animal as deemed necessary:
 - a. \$75 (Disposal fees have increased significantly in the past year as we have moved to cremation services.)

Clerk of Municipality _____

Clerk Phone Number _____

Billing Address _____

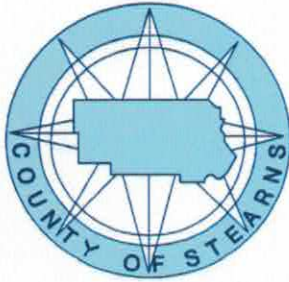
Clerk Email _____

Billing City, State, Zip _____

Clerk Signature _____

Tri-County Humane Society

735 8th Street NE St. Cloud, MN 56304 | PO Box 701 St. Cloud, MN 56302 | 320.252.0896
csm@tricityhumanesociety.org | www.tricityhumanesociety.org



COUNTY OF STEARNS

Environmental Services Department

Stearns County Service Center • 3301 County Road 138 • Waite Park, MN 56387
320-656-3613 • 1-800-450-0852

TO: Township Clerks and Supervisors, City Clerks/Administrators

FROM: Angie Berg, Land Use Division Supervisor

DATE: December 18, 2023

RE: Public Hearing – January 16, 2024

Stearns County Board of Commissioners Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Stearns County Board of Commissioners, in and for the County of Stearns, will conduct a public hearing to consider enactment of **Ordinance Number 667**, an Ordinance amending Stearns County Ordinance #439 related to accessory structures.

Notice is further given that the above hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the County Board Room of the Stearns County Administration Center, located at 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, MN 56303.

If you would like to participate in public testimony by telephone or other electronic means, please contact Deborah Heim at (320) 656-3613.

You may submit written testimony by emailing angie.berg@stearnscountymn.gov by 4:30pm by Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Written testimony may also be mailed to the Stearns County Environmental Services Department, Service Center, 3301 County Road 138, Waite Park, MN 56387.

Copies of the proposed changes are attached.



COUNTY OF STEARNS

Environmental Services Department

Stearns County Service Center • 3301 County Road 138 • Waite Park, MN 56387
320-656-3613 • 1-800-450-0852

December 12, 2023

Ronald Bartsiewski
15463 3rd Avenue
South Haven, MN 55382

Jerry Konz
909 Isabella Avenue
Clearwater, MN 55320

Dear Applicant:

19,10424.0002

This letter is to notify you of the decision of the Stearns County Board of Commissioners on December 12, 2023. The County Board concurred with the Planning Commission's recommendation to **approve** the Rezoning request to rezone approximately 10 acres from the Agricultural 40 (A-40) zoning district to the Residential 10 (R-10) zoning district and Enact Ordinance #664 of Stearns County Land Use and Zoning Ordinance #439.

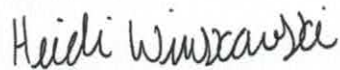
The Stearns County Board of Commissioners concurred with the Planning Commission finding of fact are as follows:

1. The proposal is consistent with Land Use and Zoning Ordinance #439. The purpose of the request is to gain 1 additional building entitlement. This is a tool that has been used to limit growth.
2. The proposal conforms to the Stearns County Comprehensive Plan, specifically, Agricultural Goal 3, Living Goal 2, and Agricultural Use Policy 1. None of the property is used as farmland and this wouldn't be taking away an agricultural use.
Agricultural Goal 3
(3) Retain areas with highly valued agricultural land or economically viable animal agriculture operations.
Living Goal 2
(2) Manage the impacts of growth and development on the County's rural character and natural resources.
Agricultural Use Policy 1
(1) Primary land uses in the "Agricultural" areas should be agriculturally oriented, including animal agriculture, crop production and specialized agricultural

- enterprise, in combination with limited agricultural related business, solar and wind, recreational, institutional, and open space uses.
3. The proposal is compatible with the existing neighborhood. There are other similar residential properties in the area.
 4. The proposal is not compatible with the existing neighborhood. There are feedlots nearby and the neighborhood residents oppose the request.
 5. Lynden Township recommended approval of the request as it is consistent with the Lynden Township Comprehensive Plan.
 6. The applicant amended the request to rezoned less land than originally requested.
 7. The applicant is aware of the agricultural activities in the area.
 8. There was considerable testimony to maintain the agricultural area.

Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Heidi Winskowski
Environmental Specialist

CC: Clerk, Lynden Township

Town Officers Association of Stearns County

P.O. Box 344, Albany MN 56307
stearnscountownofficers@gmail.com

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**“ In Unity There is
Strength”**

December 16, 2023

To: MAT Board of Directors, Executive Director, General Counsel

Ref: Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting was a huge disappointment.

The question that should have been asked is:

What can we do to proceed? The board should have thought about this before telling everyone that business cannot be conducted. The present by-laws state: *“These By-Laws may be amended or repealed by two-thirds vote of the members of the Association present and voting at any annual meeting of the Association.”*

MAT, at their Annual Meeting, has been passing motions under these by-laws for more than 30 years and thought they were correct in doing so. Is this a change in by-laws, or a change in interpretation of the State Statutes?

Our suggestion would be to develop a By-Law Committee, consisting of one MAT Board Member, and a Township Officer from each district, chosen by each district at their annual meeting. This committee would recommend By-Law changes to the MAT Board of Directors, and then be presented at the MAT Annual Meeting to be approved or denied by the voting members present.

There was a vote of no confidence in Leadership at the Annual Meeting. Who are the leaders? The Board of Directors or our Executive Director and General Counsel? The Executive Director is hired by the board, and it appears at this time, he is dividing the board with his decisions. It seems the current MAT Board of Directors are intimidated based on the past court case against a former district director. The MAT Board of Directors need to be united to represent their constituents that have voted them onto the MAT Board.

MAT is a very important role for township officers. They provide training sessions, have connections with the State Auditor's Office, Secretary of State, Legislators, and many more resources to pass along to officers. We want to maintain this association to continue with the resources we are familiar with. We need to fix the problems currently occurring on the MAT board and give the voice back to the constituents of MAT.

Sincerely,

Town Officers Association of Stearns County

Distribution list:	Dist. 1, Rex Edge	Dist. 2, Sandra Hooker
	Dist. 3, Vacant	Dist. 4, President Gary Burdorf
	Dist. 5, Donnell Williamson	Dist. 6, Lyle Stai
	Dist. 7, Tammy Carlson	Dist. 8, Frank Hard
	Dist. 9, Vance Bachmann	Dist. 10, Kevin Cornick
	Dist. 11, Rex Edge	Dist. 12, Mel Milender
	Dist. 13, Jill Hall	Exec. Dir. Jeff Krueger
	General Counsel Steve Fenske	



2ND PHASE OF INPUT FOR THE STEARNS COUNTY PARKS PLAN



Review the Draft Recommendations for the Future of the County Parks and Trails System

Over 1,200 people responded to the Stearns County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan Phase 1 survey earlier this year. In addition to the online survey, which was open from January to August 2023, the first phase of engagement included gathering input on the existing parks and trails system through various stakeholder meetings (cities, townships, natural resource groups, recreation organizations, and more) and several pop-up meetings held at existing events (Summertime by George, Stearns County Fair, Moonlight Ski and Hike events, and more).

The results of the public survey that closed in August were reviewed by the master plan steering committee, the Stearns County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the County Board. Recommendations for future investments in the park system have been drafted. These recommendations include goals for trail development, new facilities, and expansion of activities in the parks.



Attendees at a Summertime by George event in June 2023 learned about the plan and provided input.



PROVIDE YOUR INPUT!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StearnsCoParks_Fall2023

A second short survey is open now where you can provide feedback on how you think the county should prioritize investments in parks, trails, and recreation.

This Phase 2 survey is meant to gather feedback on priorities for future investments and investment strategies for Stearns County. This survey will be open through the end of November 2023, and it should only take a few minutes to complete.

The year-long master planning process to develop a plan for the county parks, trails, and recreation system began in December 2022, and it will be completed in the next few months. The plan will guide future investments and initiatives over the next 10-20 years. Input from Stearns County residents, visitors, and business owners is needed to help the county plan for the future. The last plan was developed in 1989 and included recommendations for the development of the Lake Wobegon Trail and Quarry Park.

Draft Plan Recommendations:

The draft park system plan recommendations are categorized according to nine elements





PHASE 2: TALKING POINTS

Stearns County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

Project Purpose and Role of the County Parks System

Stearns County is in the final stages of a year-long master planning process to develop a plan for the parks, trails, and recreation system. The plan will guide future investments and initiatives over the next 10-20 years. Input from Stearns County residents, visitors, and business owners is needed to help the county plan for the future. The last plan was developed in 1989 and included recommendations for the development of the Lake Wobegon Trail and Quarry Park.

Stearns County's existing system of parks, trails, and open space provides nature-oriented recreation for local and regional users and includes 19 unique park and trail recreation facilities, ranging from boat landings to regional and local trails, to significant regional parks. The county maintains and operates the following outdoor recreation facilities:

- 2 Signature Recreation Facilities (Quarry Park and Nature Preserve, Lake Wobegon Trail)
- 2 Linear Parks/Greenways/Trails (Beaver Island Trail, Dairyland Trail/Soo Line Rail Corridor)
- 7 Special Features (Upper Spunk Lake County Park, Fairhaven Mill Park, Lake Sylvia Wayside, St. Martin Canoe Access, Heims Mill Canoe Access, Miller Landing, and Clearwater River Canoe Access)
- 8 County Parks/Open Spaces (Warner Lake County Park, Mississippi River County Park, Oak Township Park, Lake Koronis Regional Park, Kraemer Lake Park, Rockville Park, Spring Hill County Park, Two Rivers Lake Park site)

Visit the Stearns County Parks page for more information about the existing system:

<https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/238/Parks>

Project Timeline and Tasks Completed to Date

This project kicked off with county staff and the Steering Committee in December of 2022, and it is scheduled to be completed by January 2024.

Phases of the project are generally outlined below:

- Parks and Trails System Inventory and Conditions Evaluation (January-July 2023)
- Needs Assessment, including Public Input (January-November 2023)
- System Recommendations (July-December 2023)
- Development of Implementation Plan and System Plan (September 2023-January 2024)

Top Responses & Highlights from the Phase 1 Survey



What Have We Heard from Residents?

Over 1,200 people responded to the Stearns County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan Phase 1 survey earlier this year. In addition to the online survey, which was open from January to August 2023, the first phase of engagement included gathering input on the existing parks and trails system through various stakeholder meetings (cities, townships, natural resource groups, recreation organizations, and more) and several pop-up meetings held at existing events (Summertime by George, Stearns County Fair, Moonlight Ski and Hike events, and more).

The results of the public survey that closed in August were reviewed by the master plan steering committee, the Stearns County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the County Board. Recommendations for future investments in the park system have been drafted. These recommendations include goals for trail development, new facilities, and expansion of activities in the parks. Highlights from the Phase 1 Input can be seen in the graphic on the left.



Why Is Your Input Important?

Park planners and the Steering Committee will review the input that is received during the second phase of input and modify the recommendations based on what we hear from you. The priorities will be based on

what people in the county want to see in the parks, trails, and recreation system.

How Can You Provide Input?

Phase 2 Public Survey

A second short survey is open now where you can provide feedback on how you think the county should prioritize investments in parks, trails, and recreation.

Link to survey here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StearnsCoParks_Fall2023

This **Phase 2 survey** is meant to gather feedback on priorities for future investments and investment strategies for Stearns County. **This survey will be open through the end of November 2023, and it should only take a few minutes to complete.**

Project website

A project website provides general information about the Stearns County parks and trails system, the master planning process, maps, and images. The site will also have links to input opportunities.

Link to website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b5b3ac70250b418e944a5dfd0ce5e085>

Stearns County Mission & Values

Previously developed County and Parks Department Mission and Values statements will influence the development of plan recommendations.

Parks Mission Statement:

To provide natural resource-oriented parks and outdoor recreation opportunities that enhance the quality of life of Stearns County residents through physical fitness, community building and economic vitality.

*Parks Motto: **Enhancing quality of life, while preserving our natural treasures***

Stearns County Mission Statement and Values

Provide exceptional public services to assure a safe, healthy, vibrant county for all.

Professional: We are ethical, reliable, accountable for our actions, and strive for continuous improvement.

Approachable: We are eager to serve, friendly, helpful, and treat everyone with respect and dignity.

Responsive: We serve our clients and customers with a keen awareness of their needs.

Collaborative: We serve the public best with teamwork and community partnerships.

Fair & Equitable: We strive to eliminate disparities and provide impartial assistance to our employees and the people we serve.