

**VILLAGE OF NORTH PRAIRIE
PUBLIC HEARING AND VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President G. Nickerson at 7:07 p.m. in the Village Community Room to comply with the physical distancing policy. Roll call was taken with the following members present:

President G. Nickerson

Trustees: F. Rewasiewicz, D. Stellpflug, D. Hall and K. Singh.

Clerk: R. Bagley

Absent: Trustees J. H. Taylor and A. Pellegrino

Others Present: Police Chief S. Tamez, Fire Chief P. Buchholtz and Mike Jozwik (aka: Mushroom Mike).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by D. Hall, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to approve the March 12, 2020 Village Board Public Hearing and meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing to consider an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 70 "Zoning" of the Municipal Code of the Village of North Prairie regarding the Lot Size and Minimum Average Width for property located in the A-T Zoning (Agricultural Transitional District), as well as Purpose and Intent of the A-T District.

President G. Nickerson explained that the proposed Ordinance allows the continuation of agricultural operations on contiguous site areas of not less than 20 acres that result from farm consolidation, as recommended by the Plan Commission.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to open the Public Hearing to citizens at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried.

Trustee D. Hall mentioned that she received an email from Village resident Frances Taylor, 318 N Main St., with a list of questions and concerns regarding this ordinance amendment. Ms. Taylor believes that a reduction in acres from 35 to 20 and reduction in average minimum width from 600' to 400' just so the petitioner can build a farm building to grow mushrooms is inconsistent with surrounding communities that maintain 35 acre minimums and would potentially allow more concentrated agricultural operations within Village limits.

- Has the petitioner been approved for a Conditional Use permit? No, as a CU permit is not required for what the petitioner is requesting.
- How many years of experience does the petitioner have in growing mushrooms? 15 years.
- Can mushrooms be grown in farm buildings located on other parcels in other municipalities? Yes, as mushrooms are considered agricultural farming.
- What extenuating circumstances exist which would require the Village to amend or change the zoning ordinance to benefit only one petitioner? The amendment will benefit all parcels which fall into this situation which is approximately 4-5 parcels.
- What are the current soil classifications and will those change the amount of taxation? The Board does not know the soil classifications, but the assessment (value for taxation) will only change if improvements are constructed on the property.
- What future plans does the petitioner have for this property? Nothing will change in 2020, but would like to construct a pole barn for mushrooms and other crops and eventually build a residence. The petitioner would like to keep the rural atmosphere and keep much of the property agricultural.

Village President G. Nickerson received correspondence from Christopher Schafer, 114 Heather Drive, who mentioned that he would prefer to continue the use of the property in agriculture.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by D. Hall, to close the Public Hearing from comments from the citizens. Motion carried.

President G. Nickerson opened the Public Hearing to Board members at 7:20 p.m.

Trustee K. Singh asked if the zoning would be changing for one person. G. Nickerson mentioned that the Village does not have many large parcels and currently the A-T Zoning District does not have any building limits. This new proposal provides for review by the Plan Commission for all A-T parcels.

F. Rewasiewicz is in favor of the project as it will increase the tax base for the Village.

D. Hall suggested having the Public Hearing postponed to allow the absent trustees to participate when all physical distancing restrictions are lifted. The consensus is that all questions have been answered.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to close the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by D. Hall, seconded by D. Stellpflug, to adopt Ordinance No. 02-2020 to amend Chapter 70 "Zoning" of the Municipal Code, Section 4.4(G) Lot Area and Width in the Agricultural Transition (A-T) zoning district and site plan review requirements within the A-T district as proposed by the Village Planner, and as recommended by the Plan Commission. This Ordinance has not been reviewed by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance No. 02-2020 was not reviewed by the Village Attorney, thus no legal opinion on this Ordinance has been provided.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT REPORT: No report.

Reaffirm or remove the Declaration of Emergency for the Village-

Motion by F. Rewasiewicz, seconded by D. Stellpflug, to reaffirm the Declaration of Emergency for the Village of North Prairie as established by Village President G. Nickerson on March 19, 2020.

Discussion: Trustee D. Hall asked about an expiration date for the Declaration of Emergency. The Board will determine the termination date.

Motion carried. Opposed: D. Hall.

PUBLIC SAFETY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Fire Dept. Mergers/Consolidations/Options: There was no discussion regarding the potential merger with the Eagle Fire Department due to no Joint Fire Study group meeting being held.

FINANCE AND FEE COMMITTEE: F. Rewasiewicz mentioned the Committee met prior to this meeting.

Monthly Bills and Payroll-

Motion by F. Rewasiewicz, seconded by D. Hall, to approve end of the month checks 15059-15061 for, TIAA Commercial, WE Energies, and Sun Life paid at the end of March for \$3,344.33, April payroll checks from 15062-15115 for a total of \$47,826.29, Accounts Payables for March and April checks 15116-15169 for a total of \$56,305.03, as recommended by the Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Building Inspector, Fire, Police and Department of Public Works reports were filed for the record.

Motion by D. Hall, seconded by K. Singh, to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhoda Bagley, Village Clerk/Treasurer