

MINUTES
Blue Earth County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday May 2, 2012
7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Lyle Femrite. Planning Commission members present were Lyle Femrite, Kurt Anderson, Bill Anderson, Kip Bruender, Chuck Grams, Barry Jacques and Perry Wood. Planning and Zoning staff members George Leary and Sara Isebrand were present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kurt Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2012 Regular Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Bill Anderson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Leary indicated there was no change to the agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

PC 15-12

Ivan & Donna Borchardt, Request for a conditional use permit to convert an existing swine farrow to finish operation over to finishing only. No new construction is proposed. The proposal will increase the number of animal units from 820 to 1,080. The property is zoned Agricultural and is located in the North 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Lyra Township.

Ms. Isebrand presented the staff report.

The applicants were present and added that all mortalities from the feedlot go to another site for composting. There was no public comment.

Mr. Bill Anderson abstained from voting because of a working relationship with the applicants. Following a brief discussion by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Bruender and seconded by Mr. Wood to recommend approval of the request to the County Board with the additional condition that when the hallway barn is no longer used to house swine or manure storage the manure storage structure must be abandoned. The motion carried unanimously.

PC 16-12

Ralph Engles and Brian Engles, Request for a conditional use permit to construct one total confinement swine finishing barn capable of handling 2,000 finishing pigs or 800 animal units. The site is zoned agricultural and is located in the West 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 1, Butternut Valley Township.

Ms. Isebrand presented the staff report.

The applicants were present and had no comment. There was no public comment.

Following a brief discussion by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Bill Anderson and seconded by Mr. Jacques to recommend approval of the request to the County Board. The motion carried unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jacques gave information to the planning commission about calcium chloride for the prevention of dust on gravel roads.

Mr. Kurt Anderson brought up the subject of farm wineries which had been discussed earlier in the evening at a workshop with the County Board. Mr. Anderson indicated his belief that wineries wanting to sell beer on site should only be done as on-sale, not off-sale, except if it is a craft beer brewed on site.

6. AJOURNMENT

Mr. Grams made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Planning Commission Chair

Date

Planning Commission Secretary

Date