

# Florence Township Long-Range Planning Commission

## Minutes – 8/13/07

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Jan Bruce. Members present were: Jan Bruce, Vern Genzlinger, Eric Stensrud, Ben Boege, Lowell Noreen, Rick Janka, Joe Ellingson, and Brian Schreiber. Member not present was Kristen Eide-Tollefson. A quorum was present. Joan Marshman, representing the Township Board was also in attendance.

Minutes of the 7/09/07 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Lowell and seconded by Ben.

**Unfinished Business:** The Regulatory Assessment for Florence Township – The July 25, 2007 draft copy written by 1000 Friends of Minnesota and the Community Growth Institute was briefly discussed. Members were given copies at an earlier date and asked to review the document. Any suggestions or comments should be given to either Kristen, Jan or Brian. The next meeting to continue discussing the regulatory issues has been scheduled for September 17.

Noise Ordinance – The noise issue in Old Frontenac was viewed as an isolated issue and even though it has created problems, the Commission felt it would be difficult to create an ordinance that could be regulated. Noise can occur at any time of day and from many sources. The Red Wing and Lake City Ordinances are within the city's jurisdiction and they have the resources to control and enforce. Motion made by Rick and seconded by Lowell that the Planning Commission will take no action on the request and forward that motion to the Township Board. Motion approved.

Highway 61 Lane Change Project – Two business residents expressed concerns about the proposed changes to highway 61 and how it could affect their business – The Honda Shop said they do need access to their building from the highway for trucks to load and unload. If there is going to be a curb, could it be a rolled curb so that trucks can drive over it. Berlin Auto Service wants to make sure they have enough room between the highway and one of the garage doors – they would need a 14 foot turn lane and would also prefer a rolled curb to drive over.

Other topics that were discussed included a bicycle path as part of the plan, how to control the speed limit, how much room is available between highway and rail road right-of-way, and what other options will MNDOT still consider. A sub-committee was formed to go over all the issues and concerns and to prepare a report for the Township Board. Members on the committee are: Vern, as chair, Kristen, Joe, Jan, Bill Flies, Steve Lawrence and Joan. A meeting date has been set for Monday, August 20 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

**New Business:** Wireless Communication Tower – A request from Verizon was made at the Township Board meeting on July 23 to erect a cell phone tower in section 8 of Florence Township. The location would be southeast of the Burlington Northern Railroad tower. The request created several issues as it related to the impact on the township. The Township Board referred the request to the Planning Commission to further study the issues.

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The Planning Commission after a discussion with Buell Consulting, Inc. (representing Verizon) asked for a completion of the Township Infrastructure Development Application. Buell said it was not applicable to their request and would not complete the information that would be subject to the development site.

The Planning Commission then advised Buell that they would draft a request of information needed and have it available for the Township Board at their August meeting.

With no other business items to be discussed, motion to adjourn by Vern and seconded by Jan. Motion accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schreiber  
Recording Secretary