

## **Florence Township Long-Range Planning Commission Minutes – 9/12/05**

**Members present:** Ron Seymour, Vern Genzlinger, Rick Janka, Robert Johnson, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, Brian Schreiber. Excused absence: Jan Bruce. Also in attendance was Joan Marshman representing the Township Board of Supervisors.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ron at 7:05 pm with a quorum present. The agenda for the meeting was presented with no added items. The minutes of the 8/8/05 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Vern, seconded by Rick.

**Old Business:** SE MN Wastewater Initiative – Ron informed the PC that Nick Haig is no longer with the Initiative and not sure what assistance will be available for the PC or Twp. residents. The following comments were suggestions on how Florence Twp. could develop it's own project:

- have a sub-group of the PC work with the residents
- include both Old Town and Frontenac Station
- ask Public Health for a list of septic systems – who is up to date since '93 when the requirements changed
- ID the old systems that are most likely out of date and are failing or close to failing
- of the old systems, help evaluate if they are still functional – if not, provide options on how to update and what assistance is available (grants, low interest loans, etc.)
- survey residents to get some idea of what the situation really is
- invite residents that have similar septic situations and invite them to an info meeting to help them with their type of septic problems
- have residents form a sub-division for their own regulation
- Cannon River Watershed may have some help available
- plan for an info meeting in January – (not sure if this was to be the start of the project or after the above suggestions have been started?)

Bluff land protection – what is the present status of the set back requirements – on the County level and for Florence Twp? There needs to be some final action taken to have the set back requirements established and then enforced. Also discussed was the position of the Hiawatha Valley Partnership and what connection they have with promoting Bluff land protection – need to check with Jane Lorentzen as she was the designated liaison person with the Twp PC.

Issue of County Zoning Staff – With the resignation of Nancy Spooner-Mueller from the County Zoning Office, how does the County plan to staff that office and how will it affect the assistance offered to twp? Need to check with Jim Bryant and have him join us at our next monthly meeting.

Proposed Sign Ordinance – A public hearing is scheduled for suggested input of the sign ordinance as it is now written. The hearing will be part of the regular monthly Township Board meeting which will be Monday, September 26 at 7 pm at the Town Hall. The comments and suggestions will then be reviewed at the next PC meeting.

**New Business:** Clay Ruggles, Twp Board Supervisor, presented a letter to the PC with a concern about the proposed alignment change of County Road 2 with the addition of a turn lane to Highway 61. Supervisor Ruggles considers the alignment change as unnecessary, will make it more difficult to cross Highway 61, and will be cost prohibitive. He asked the PC to discuss the issue and present the views of the PC at the next Twp. Board meeting, September 26.

With no further business items to discuss, motion to adjourn by Rick, seconded by Bob. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schreiber  
Recording Secretary