PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2010

PRESENT: Douglas Richmond, Harlan Baumgartner, Phil Baebler, John Healy

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Fred Teitgen

STAFF: John Bluemke, Director, Susan Runnion, Office Administrator, Mike Stapleton, Zoning Administrator, Randy Thompson, Planning Administrator, Brian Zirbes, Principal Planner, Kenneth Thiele, Zoning & Sanitary Specialist

ALSO PRESENT: Deb Wopat, Chair-Columbia County Board of Supervisors

BUSINESS MEETING
1:30 PM

1. Chair Richmond called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

2. Certification of Open Meeting Law

3. Roll Call was taken and a quorum declared present.

4. Approval of Agenda

   Motion by Mr. Baebler to approve Agenda of February 2, 2010 Planning & Zoning Committee Regular Meeting
   Seconded by Mr. Healy.
   Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

   Motion by Mr. Healy to approve Minutes of January 5, 2010 Planning & Zoning Committee Regular Meeting & Public Hearing.
   Seconded by Mr. Baumgartner.
   Motion carried unanimously.

6. Department Report

   a. Enforcement
Mr. Stapleton reviews Enforcement Report. Brief discussion takes place about cat situation in Town of Wyocena. No limitation in the Zoning Ordinance for the number of cats. Supposedly the property owner operates a rescue which constitutes different set of regulations.

b. Financial

- Out of County travel
  - February 18th, Messrs. Bluemke and Stapleton to travel to Jefferson on for Mine Reclamation
  - February 19th, Mr. Bluemke to travel to Madison for WCA conversion fee discussion.
  - February 23rd, Mr. Thompson to attend WLIA Conference in Appleton.

Motion by Mr. Baumgartner to approve Out of County travel.
  Seconded by Mr. Baebler.
  Motion carried unanimously.

- Expenditure Report

Mr. Bluemke reviews Expenditure Report.

Motion by Mr. Healy to approve Expenditure Report.
  Seconded by Mr. Baebler.
  Motion carried unanimously.

- Personnel

Brian Zirbes posted to the open GIS Specialist position in the Land Information Department and will be transferring to that Department. Brian’s last day in Planning and Zoning Department will be Friday, February 5th.

c. Working Lands/Farmland Preservation

Wisconsin County Association meeting scheduled for February 19th to discuss their support of the conversion fee delay.

Columbia County Board of Supervisor- Chair Wopat approached Fred Clark about arranging a meeting and he seemed receptive.

Vice Chair Baumgartner would like the financial details of the proposal (current versus future economics).

Motion by Vice Chair Baumgartner for Mr. Bluemke to participate in Working Lands Ad Hoc/Subcommittee.
7. Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Consistency

Mr. Thompson explains the conflict between the County Comprehensive Plan and current Zoning Ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan states that development within Agricultural and other open space areas require 35+ acres with a portion being rezoned and the remainder restricted to agricultural or open space. The Zoning Ordinance allows for development on 35+ acres without stipulation.

Chair Richmond asks if Joe Ruf has been consulted.

Mr. Bluemke states that Mr. Ruf feels there is an ongoing potential for lawsuits, but that we should follow the Ordinance.

Columbia County Board of Supervisor- Chair Wopat suggests implementation of siting standards during interim.

Chair Richmond suggests a moratorium.

Vice Chair Baumgartner feels that would be a cop out. He would prefer approach which would include siting criteria.

Columbia County Board of Supervisor- Chair Wopat would like to see DATCP to respond to this difficult question.

Most towns have siting criteria. Perhaps policy should be to consult with Town Plan Commission for siting criteria prior to property owner discussion at County level.

Mr. Bluemke suggests the preparation of a Policy Statement stating such guideline. This could be available at the March Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting.

Brief discussion occurs about creating a new zoning District which would continue Ag. This would require another District to become certified.

Columbia County Board of Supervisor- Chair Wopat asks how many towns may decline adoption of the new Ordinance.

Mr. Thompson inquires as to how long the Policy Statement will be in effect. Feels other options should be considered at this time.

Columbia County Board of Supervisor- Chair Wopat responds for the year 2010.

Vice Chair Baumgartner feels there should be exploration of options; what they will accept and what is not acceptable.
8. Because there was not a full committee and as the committee secretary was not present it was decided to hold over the evaluation of the Director until March. The Committee had a lengthy discussion about the current process used for Department Head evaluation and gave Mr. Richmond, who is on the Human Resource Committee some suggestions regarding the process.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Baebler to adjourn meeting.
Seconded by Vice Chair Baumgartner.
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Richmond, Secretary Pro Temp
Planning and Zoning Committee

Recording Secretary
Susan Runnion
Office Administrator

cc: Committee Members
Debra Wopat, County Board Chair
Robert Westby, County Board Vice Chair