

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
May 11th, 2021

The Brown County Planning & Zoning Commission held a regularly scheduled public meeting at Brown County Law Enforcement Center Training Room on May 11th 2021 at 9:00 am . Planning Commission members present: Brian Braun, Dennis Potter, John Roloff, and Commissioner Tony Berg. Also present: Laine Sletta, Zoning Administrator; Robert Santaella. Assistant Zoning Administrator; Sam Hansen Administrator; and Charles Hanson, County Attorney. Members of the public included: Dean Sellner, Greg Roiger, Emily Wegener, Pat Schroepfer, Mike Hoffmann, Kevin Barnhardt, Brian Schwartz, Patrick Hoffmann, Pat Hoffmann, Aaron Hoffmann, Misty Deleo, Kenny Hauser, Charlie & Carol Guggisberg, Heather Hoffmann, and Gerald Schroepfer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Braun at 9:00 am.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Potter to approve the minutes of the April 15th 2021.

The motion passed unanimously 4 -0.

The first item of business was a Conditional Use Permit APP-C-0130

Application filed by Brian Schwartz of Schwartz Family LLC on property owned by Patrick A & Janice M Hoffmann described as Govt Lot 5 of Section 7, Township 109 North, Range 31 West, Sigel Township, Brown County, Minnesota. Application is for a conditional use permit to allow up to a maximum of 999 Animal Units of swine through construction of a swine finishing operation, all located in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District.

Discussion: Sletta provided background on the application. Braun asked who was present to represent the applicant, Kevin Barnhardt stated he was present as part of the representation for the applicant. Braun asked if the 3,330 pigs was the maximum, Barnhardt stated that it is. Brian Schwartz noted that they were approached by and are working with the Hoffmann's on this barn, stated that this is a good opportunity for a young farmer to come back to the farm. Pat Schroepfer stated he submitted a letter for the record against the barn, cited the impact of the manure and smell, high amount of families in the area, and the impact to property values. Schroepfer also noted the truck traffic is a concern for the road. Emily Wegener noted the manure is all injected and the barn is a tunnel vented barn, OFFset states the barn should be 98% annoyance free. Kenny Hauser stated he has concerns with the road. Greg Roiger stated he has concerns with the township roads. Misty Deleo stated the roads are bad, noted that she has no A/C and will no longer be able to open her windows if the barn is built without smelling the barn. There was considerable discussion from other members of the public present about the quality of the township roads. Berg stated it seems that road concerns are the big issue and it sounds like the roads are already an issue, berg asked what the normal expected traffic is, Schwartz stated 1-2 feed trucks per week. Potter stated the smell concern is mostly an overreaction, the township is responsible for the road and should be taking care of them. Braun stated the concerns for the road are legitimate, smell is going to be there, hog barns are in the A-1 area.

Finding of fact was completed.

A motion was made by Potter and seconded by Rolloff to recommend approval with conditions in the packet to the County Board.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0

The second item of business was a Conditional Use Permit Application APP-C-0131

Application filed by Rich Walters on property owned by Ruth Mack described as East 44 acres of the E ½ of the Southwest ¼ fo Section 12, Township 110 North, Range 31 West, Milford Township, Brown County, Minnesota. Application is to renew an existing Conditional Use Permit to continue to allow the use of gravel extraction & processing operation to include crushing & screening , all located in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District.

Discussion: Sletta provided background on the application. Santaella stated this mine has very little gravel remaining, the site is mostly used for crushing and mixing material. Sletta noted the access road is through Rothmeier Addition. Santaella noted the site has good screening from trees and elevation difference from city limits.

Finding of Fact was completed.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Rolloff to recommend approval with conditions in the packet to the County Board

The motion passed unanimously 4-0

There being no further business, a motion was made by Potter and seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Santaella, Assistant Zoning Administrator