

TOWN OF FARMINGTON PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, August 17, 2010
7:30 p.m.

The Chairman, Mike Raabe, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington Town Hall. Other members present were Roxie Storandt, Joan Dolbier, Steve Kirchner, and Paul Lash.

Roxie read the minutes from the July 20, 2010 meeting. Joan made a motion to accept the minutes, and Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Howard Tracy presented a request to the Plan Commission to rezone the property at N8326 State Road 108 to Residential A. This rezoning needs to be accomplished in order to sell this property, as a family member of the original farm will no longer own it, and in order for it to be sold it needs to be rezoned to Residential A to be in compliance with zoning in La Crosse County. Mike made a motion to recommend to the Farmington Town Board approval of rezoning this property to Residential A, and Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Amanda Wuensch and Nick Franke were present at the meeting in regards to rezoning of land to Residential A. They would like to buy 23.9 acres that is now in Exclusive Ag and rezone 3 acres to Residential A in order to build a home and leave the rest in Exclusive Ag with in all likelihood a farmer renting the remaining acreage. Since they were not on the agenda, no formal action could be taken.

The Town Board Chairman, Mike Hesse, then presented information about the proposed Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project to build a 340,000-volt line from North La Crosse to Madison. Mike had been at a meeting with Charles Gonzales, who is the local relations representative. The American Transmission Company owns, operates, builds, and maintains a high-voltage electric transmission system in areas of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and Illinois. The ATC has plans for a high-voltage transmission line in western Wisconsin that would address electric system reliability issues locally and in the Midwest. An area from the La Crosse area to northern Dane County is being considered as a possible corridor for the approximately 150-mile, 345-kilovolt line. The southern end point of the line will be the North Madison Substation in the Town of Vienna, continuing to the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton. The northern end point of the line in the La Crosse area has not yet been determined.

The ATC studies show that the Badger Coulee Transmission Line Project would benefit Wisconsin and the Midwest in the following ways: (1) improve electric system reliability locally and regionally, (2) deliver economic benefits for Wisconsin utilities and electric consumer, and (3) expand infrastructure to support public policy for greater use of renewable energy. He also indicated that Wisconsin law requires co-location with existing facilities and infrastructure where it is feasible including primary opportunities, which are utility corridors such as existing transmission and other electric lines and pipelines; secondary opportunities, which are transportation corridors such as state and federal highways and railroads; and (3) tertiary opportunities such as recreational trails or (4) establishing new corridors using section lines and/or property boundaries when feasible.

Roxie asked Mike the reason for this project. He stated two of the reasons were to enable to receive energy from Canada and wind energy from the plains.

There will be several open house public meetings to identify potential routes. Phase 1 meetings are in regard to the study area. There are several meetings in the area scheduled. These meetings are from 1 to 7 p.m. and are come and go meetings. You can come, ask questions, make comments, and leave. The meetings in the immediate area and their dates are as follows:

Monday, 09/27/10 –Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska, WI
Tuesday, 09/28/10–Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church, Westby, WI
Wednesday, 09/29/10–Kalahari Resort Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells,
WI
Monday, 10/04/10–Hillsboro Fireman’s Community Center, Hillsboro, WI
Tuesday, 10/05/10 –Cranberry County Lodge, Tomah, WI
Thursday, 10/07/10–Grace Bible Church, Portage, WI

There are also two meetings closer to the Madison area.

Thursday, 09/30/10 – Sauk Prairie Community Center, Sauk City, WI
Wednesday, 10/06/10–Madison Marriott West Convention Center, Middleton,
WI

Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Storandt
Secretary, Plan Commission