

September 17, 2009
Tax Petition/Ordinance Meeting

Present: Mary Ann Sironen, Danny Tanner, Dave Mount, Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff
Also present: Clerk Ann K. Cox, Attorney Tim Strom, George Sundstrom

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Two issues to be discussed at this meeting: #1 Tax Petition and #2. Ordinance changes.

Petition: Dave Mount invited all Supervisors to read the Petition in its entirety. Dave's thought is the bullets in the background information could be talking points. Dave would like to introduce the petition at the fall barbecue sometime during the program.

Dan Tanner: Tim, I would imagine you talk to attorneys around the state. Why would the state change their mind because of a petition?

Wendy Meierhoff: the assessors received notification from the State asking if this property should be taxed. We should go back to the County Board and ask them to rethink the recommendation to tax the property.

- Ask the legislators to reword the law to include "Charter" to the all inclusive word schools.
- The Assessor's office takes their whole tax copy to the County Board before it goes to the State.
- There are a number of parties who will be influenced by this petition.
- We don't have to use the petition if it appears to be inflammatory to the County and State.

Tim Strom: The Center for Rural Policy has a magazine which includes all sorts of interesting things for rural communities. In an article, it was pointed out that the State thinks landowners are receiving a double tax benefit, as a land owner we receive Charter School lease aid in the form of rent. We have to be careful, it is better to pay the taxes then to have the school lose their lease aid.

Stephen Dahl: There was a suggestion made to pass a resolution down the line saying we would receive nominal rent once our building is done. At this time we prefer to disregard that suggestion. My argument is, the rent isn't nominal; we need every penny to achieve our goals.

A suggestion was made to delete the fifth paragraph in the Background informational page. Dave Mount suggested we add a line saying "it is not clear what nominal rent is", "and apparently the Department of Revenue believes this is more than nominal rent". The petition was intended to be a factual statement.

Dave Mount made a motion to accept the petition as drafted Stephen Dahl seconded. Motion passed.

- The Petition will be at the next Homesteaders meeting, the Fall Barbecue and Fire departments Harvest dinner.

George Sundstrom made a suggestion to turn the bullet points into a resolution. George also presented a resolution to the Town Board for their review. To avoid the chance it appears the Town Board is working for a charter school the wording will be changed from North Shore Community School to Community Center. George's resolution is very similar to what we have. We can wait to turn the background information into a formal resolution at our next Town Board meeting.

We owe Peg Sweeney the right to have an informational heads up. Mary Ann Sironen will contact Ms Sweeney.

Our course of action is:

- Use Community Center activities not Charter school activities as our focal points of discussion.
- We are going to have Tim continue checking into the legal issues.
- Draft a resolution
- Make copies of the petition for circulation
- Talk to Peg Sweeney

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Zoning Ordinance

Nothing of major substance has changed since the Board received their draft copies at the last Town Board Meeting. We have added a Resolution to accept the summary for publication.

Changes to Document 091009 revision 3. Dave Mount reviewed all of the changes made following the Town Board Meeting.

Additional Changes:

- under #7 Planning Director instead of Administrator. *Director is fine – no change*
- Item 7, #2 where it says: “the Planning Commission, in conjunction with the Planning Director, shall review any comprehensive, land use. *Delete the comma after comprehensive.*
- Letter b. on the back page should be small letter c. *Change letter b to “c”.*

Attachment 1 to Document 091009 revision 3.

- Page 1 Section A, #2: An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless the ~~Planning Commission~~ Town Board makes written findings, and certifies that, ~~by reason of the facts stated in the certificate~~ a stay would cause imminent peril to life or property.
 - Remove Planning Commission
 - Add Town Board
 - Remove “by reason of the facts stated in the certificate”.
- Page 2, Section 3, #3. An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless the ~~Planning Commission~~ Town Board makes written findings and certifies that, ~~by reason of the facts stated in the certificate~~, a stay would cause imminent peril to life or property.
 - Remove Planning Commission
 - Add Town Board
 - Add “makes written findings and”
 - Remove “by reason of the facts stated in the certificate,”

Fee table 16.1

- Page 1: Administrative Actions: Strike Environmental assessment worksheet (EAW)
- Page 1: Conditional Uses: Strike Conditional Use, multiple
- Page 2: Variance: Strike Multiple Variance
- Page 2: Zoning Amendments: Strike Zoning Text Amendment
- Page 2: Typo Heading: Zoning Amendments: Strike extra “m”

Dave Mount made a motion to adopt resolution 091709, Dan Tanner seconded, Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Summary

- Change: A second copy is available at the office of the ~~North Shore Community School (5926 Ryan Road)~~ St. Louis County Law Library in the City of Duluth.
 - Add a second copy is available at the St. Louis County Law Library in the City of Duluth.

Wendy Meierhoff made a motion to approve the amended summary, Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.