

**LYNDEN TOWNSHIP, STEARNS COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Meeting with Stearns Co 3rd District Commissioner Jeff Bertram to review procedures
and review DRAFT Resolution 2023-06 LRIP 200 Str
November 20, 2023**

Those present at the Lynden Township Hall are Supervisors Tom Plaggerman, Dennis Niemi, Scott O’Konek, Clerk Jenny Schmidt, and Stearns Co 3rd District Commissioner Jeff Bertram. Plaggerman called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Agenda: 1) Review procedures that take place between Lynden Township and Stearns Co. 2) Review DRAFT Resolution 2023-06.

Plaggerman and the Lynden staff introduced themselves to Commissioner Bertram. Discussions followed including meeting attendance, communications and resources.

Commissioner Bertram explains that as a representative he strives to avoid conflict, reviews the situation and the applicant, but also looks at the person it may affect after them. He also encourages township representation at all public hearings even though it is not required. He suggests we talk about our comprehensive plan at our annual meeting to engage residents and to keep people informed. For Minor and Major Plan reviews, he has implemented the Sights Sounds and Smells of farming pre-existing of the plat checklist as a form of engagement and avoiding conflict. Bertram and Clerk exchanged emails so that he can provide his column publications to us.

O’Konek states things were discovered with the latest few rezoning requests. While the township did submit their recommendation with findings explaining their decision those explanations were not provided by the county to the public attending their public hearing. O’Konek recommends this happen at each hearing at the county level since we have no idea which case is going to be contested or not. Plaggerman noted that Stearns County is the Board that makes the decision on a zoning change request, Lynden Town Board offers an opinion, therefore we do not hold a public hearing on the matter. The matter is one of the items on the agenda at our regular monthly meeting. At the Stearns County Planning Commission Hearing on October 26, 2023, it was noted multiple times by the Commissioners that a representative from Lynden Township was not present. In the 4 years Plaggerman has been a Supervisor in Lynden Township, Stearns County, nor the applicant has requested the Township send representation to the Public Hearing. The County requires a completed Township recommendation form to accompany the application. Plaggerman suggested if we were aware that it was going to be contested, we would have made an effort to send a representative. Also the Board will try to give more insight into future recommendations. Bertram noted our request.

Resolution 2023-06 was reviewed upon the receipt of a updated CIP from Hakanson Anderson Engineering for the 200th Str E project. Niemi made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-06, LRIP for 200th Str E, seconded by Plaggerman, motion passed. Niemi will include this Resolution with the application.

There was no public input for this special meeting. Plaggerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by O’Konek, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt, Clerk

Thomas Plaggerman, Chair