

SALINE COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

The Saline County Planning & Zoning Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 19, 2024 by Chairman John Barta. He stated that the Open Meeting Act applied to this meeting and the Act is posted on the East wall of the Assembly Room of the Saline County Courthouse in Wilber, Nebraska. Chairman Barta asked Lyle Weber, Planning & Zoning Administrator to call the roll: Present were Dave Hermsmeier, Gerald Brown, Ron Fink, John Barta, Troy Steuer and Keith Muller. Absent were Mark Due, Joel Weber and Mary Jo Weber. No commissioners were present at this meeting.

Approval of the Agenda for this meeting was moved by Brown and seconded by Steuer. Voting in affirmative on Approval of the Agenda were Brown, Hermsmeier, Muller, Steuer, Barta and Fink. Agenda approved 6-0.

Minutes of the August 20, 2024 meeting were moved for approval as written, without reading, with a motion by Fink and seconded by Steuer. Roll call vote in favor: Steuer, Muller, Fink, Hermsmeier, Brown and Barta. Minutes approved and submitted to be filed.

Citizens Forum Chairman Barta asked if anyone present wanted to speak at this time. No one spoke to the board at this time. Citizens Forum closed without any speakers at 7:08 p.m.

Business for action

Agenda Items listed were not for discussion with no action to be taken.

Chairman Barta asked for a review of the years actions, requesting comments to be made relative to actions taken.

This meeting was held as per requirements for quarterly meetings of the Planning & Zoning Board. The January meeting will be the reorganization meeting. Two members have reapplied for their position. Ron Fink did not reapply and his work with the board was noted and has been appreciated.

Fink suggested that the board readdress the issues of solar panel regulations. There was discussion about current and planned solar panel farms about the area and surrounding counties. The new solar farm south of Crete is in the jurisdiction of the Crete city council.

It was suggested to research Rare Earth mining, and including some provisions in the regulations.

There was discussion about the chicken farms placed in the southern part of the county. It was stated that the agreement supposedly states the company was to keep the manure under cover and disposed of in a proper manner and time frame. There is concern they are not in compliance in this area.

Lyle stated that SmithField was interested in putting a walking bridge over the road to the north, to connect to the Cold Storage facilities. It was denied by the Crete council and the denial upheld by the State.

Discussion about the request by an individual and family about burying a person in their pasture. The following was stated, "as long as a mortician will do it, the state allows it". There cannot be a charge for the space, or it becomes a cemetery and under different regulations.

A few members noticed that some pipe from the former Keystone Pipeline yards, in Jefferson County and by Dorchester, have been moved to other places.

When asked, Lyle stated that there has been no recent application or movement on the possible windfarm between Saline Center and Friend. No information has been forwarded on the wind testing either.

Barta and Lyle were contacted by a concerned patron about possible future projects as listed in the agenda under the Business for action. They were informed this was a discussion item and no action could be, or would be taken.

Commissioners Report. No commissioners present, no report given.

Adjournment Motion made by Steuer, second by Fink, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., carried on a voice vote, with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted, Keith Muller, Secretary