

**CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
September 17, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.**

The Planning Commission of Castle Rock Township held a special meeting on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. At 7:05 p.m. Paul Irrthum and Orren Lucht were the only two Planning Commission members present so the meeting was delayed until at least one more member arrived. Present were Bob Dubbels Chair, Paul Irrthum, and Orren Lucht. Also present were Mike Kiefer, Jane Bistodeau, Ken Quade, Trilva Melbo, Tony Bilderback, Doug Kruger, Julie Scherbenske, Jon Juenke, Deb Juenke, Mary Ann Enggren, Doug Frodl, Carl Denkinger, Jane DeGreef, Nick LaFontaine, Scott Anderson, Deb Anderson, Charleen Kiser, DeLoy Kiser, Charlie Molitor, Nancy Schmidt, Larry Schmidt, LeRoy Benham, Dick Ozment, Kay Cahill, Gene Cahill, Sherri Warner, Tim Warner, David Olson, Connie Townsend, Lynn Brady, Gary Pipho, Mark Henry, Mike Toohey, Eric Ruud, Jan Oistad and Michelle Leonard.

Chair Bob Dubbels called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The purpose of the meeting is for reviewing a conditional use permit request for Jon Juenke, 21701 Blaine Avenue, Farmington, MN 55024. The conditional use permit is for an agricultural compost structure for dead animals at XXXXX Blaine Avenue, Hampton, MN 55031, one quarter mile south of Highway 50 on the east side of Blaine Avenue.

Paul Irrthum made a motion and Orren Lucht seconded to have Jane Bistodeau office assistant take the minutes. Motion carried 3 ayes.

Jon Juenke addressed the Commission and the residents and said he was proposing to build a 16' x 30' 3-stall building for his own personal use for disposing of animals. Jon explained that he contracts rendering services by Central States Bi-Products out of Redwood Falls, MN and that the service is poor and there are no other rendering services available in the area. Jon Juenke handed out booklets from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on Composting Animal Mortalities and he stated there was a question and answer section on page 8 and a picture of the building he was proposing on page 15. The building will be 16' x 30', on an 8" concrete slab, with 8' concrete walls, three sided with the open end facing east. Jon introduced Carl Denkinger from the Minnesota Department of Animal Health to help answer questions. Chair Bob Dubbels requested that all questions from the residents be directed to the Commission and that the Chair would be calling on the people to ask their questions.

Question: Why does the direction of the open end of the proposed building matter?

Answer: It really doesn't matter, if possible it should face south for the winter sun, but it's not imperative. The compost process just needs to be done right and the Board of Animal Health do police them.

Question: Why this location, too many residences? There must be a smell because it is decomposing animals.

Answer: There will be no smell at all; piles must be kept at 130 degrees.

Question: Will the concrete leak?

Answer: No, it's an impervious surface.

Question: What's the end product?

Answer: It looks like Copenhagen, use in fields as fertilizer.

Question: What number of animals die per year and will be used in composter?

Answer: approximately 40-60 die per year. Permitted 850 units or 2100 animals. 5600 pigs through barn per year, no cattle. The Board of Animal Health polices for bio-hazard.

Question: How often would the compost be checked?

Answer: annually

Question: How far away is the closest neighbor?

Answer: Warner is approximately 300' and will be the closest neighbor.

Question: Why not build it next to hog farm?

Answer: Always brought animals to dead box behind shop and convenient.

Question: How do you check temperature?

Answer: A long thermometer.

Question: Where is the nearest composter?

Answer: Cannon Falls

Question: How long till process is complete?

Answer: 90 days

Question: Why so is the building so large if only for personal use? How do we know that it is only being used by you and what happens if you let others use it?

Answer: Guidelines of the conditional use permit will be set down and if they are not followed the conditional use permit will be revoked.

Question: What other agents are used for heating?

Answer: Water, manure, pine wood chips. (nitrogen needed to heat up)

Question: It is stated in the literature that the dead animals must be transported in a covered, leakproof container. What container do you use?

Answer: They are transported in the skid loader bucket or back of pickup.

Statement: I worked for Jon Juenke and he is a good farmer and runs an immaculate farm.

Statement: Jon is a very organized person and runs a good business. Composting is a much better choice than burying the animals.

Question: How does the compost process work?

Answer: Every 30 days the piles need to be turned or when an animal is added.

Question: Do records need to be kept?

Answer: The producer is required to keep records of the process, however the MN Board does not check the records.

Question: Give a worst case scenario.

Answer: Freeborn County had an odor problem. The MN Board of Animal Health instructed Freeborn County on how to fix the problem and they didn't follow through and the problem continued. The compost operation had to be closed down and the compost buried.

Question: In literature it says to consider prevailing winds when considering location, why not put it next to the hog farm?

Answer: As stated before, it's my personal preference. New trees have been planted and an irrigation system installed and I don't want it there.

Question: Will you apply for a conditional use permit in Empire if not approved in Castle Rock Township?

Answer: No.

Question: Can you transport the animals yourself to the rendering plant because you said the service is so poor?

Answer: No

Question: How long to get to the 2nd heat cycle?

Answer: 30 days

Question: What affect will it have on land values in area?

Answer: No information available, doesn't know how it will affect the value of the land.

Question: Does compost building need to be 150' from hog barn?

Answer: It is not necessary, but recommended for viral problems.

Statement: I live near the hog farm and only 4-5 times a year is the smell bad.

Question: Is there a possibility of ground water contamination?

Answer: If not done right.

Question: Can the Board go check out another composter before making decision?

The Minnesota Department of Animal Health does not help with the start up or over see the start up of the composting process.

Bob Dubbels read a letter from Roger and Elaine Wikstrom to Castle Rock Township because they were unable to attend the meeting.

Bob Dubbels read a letter from Bruce Lamp to Lynn Brady regarding compost site because he was unable to attend the meeting.

Paul Irrthum mentioned that because of lack of livestock in Castle Rock Township why would the livestock compost be in Castle Rock Township and not in Empire Township by the farm? Michael Kiefer stated that in the literature from the Minnesota Department of Animal Health stated that a covered, leak-proof container be used to transport the animals and Carl said Jon could bring the animals down the road in a skid loader bucket. Michael Kiefer read out loud, page 41 of the Castle Rock Township ordinance book about Nuisance control.

Bob Dubbels read out loud, "Right to Farm" from the Castle Rock Township ordinance book.

Paul Irrthum made a motion and Bob Dubbels seconded to recess this meeting and reconvene with all five commission members at 7:00 p.m. on September 24, 2007. Motion carried 3 ayes.

Meeting recessed at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Bistodeau acting secretary