

SCAMBLER TOWNSHIP PLANNING & ZONING PUBLIC HEARING-APPROVED

SCAMBLER TOWNSHIP PLANNING AND ZONING ORDINANCE 2020.02 PROPOSED CHANGE

THURSDAY, September 12, 2019 6:30PM

David Ritchie called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

David explained the purpose of the public hearing and requested that comments be limited to two minutes to enable all who want to comment on the ordinance change be allowed to speak. The Board also requested that commentators state whether they were a Scambler Township resident or nonresident. With that, Chairman David Ritchie opened the floor for comments.

In excess of 30 comments were given at the public hearing. A summary of comments follows:

1. Resident – why is Scambler Township spending money on planning and zoning when Otter Tail County already has a zoning ordinance and staff to administer it?
2. Former and current Scambler Township Planning and Zoning Committee members clarified the 2.5 acre proposed change, concern about maintaining current Ag Preservation District, were under the opinion that the proposed ordinance change is too vague, the need to have a more comprehensive plan, and the procedure used by the Scambler Town Board for the proposed change (did not go through the Scambler Planning and Zoning Committee)
3. Is there a conflict of interest with Town Board members involved in the proposed change?
4. Dunn township resident with land in Scambler township questioned when the current planning and zoning ordinance was implemented-Dennis Carlblom stated that the ordinance went into effect in 2004 with changes in June, 2019-resident questioned whether the township had changed in the last 15 years and if it was time to update the ordinance because there is currently no residential district in the Scambler Township Planning and Zoning Ordinance
5. Resident- currently owns 11 acres in the township and would like to split their land into 3 parcels for residences but is not allowed to with the current ordinance
6. 3 residents and 2 nonresidents commented that they would like to see the current ordinance remain in effect to keep Scambler Township a rural community
7. Resident – preserve the Ag Preservation District and require sheds to be built in commercial zones districts
8. Resident – current plan too restrictive
9. Non Resident – township is growing and the current plan does not meet the demands of the changes
10. Resident – would putting the proposed ordinance change on a ballot and letting the residents of the township decide be the correct way to resolve the ordinance change issue?
11. Discussion on a township vote with the consensus that the Town Board officials are elected to make decisions and need to decide the proposed ordinance change issue
12. Resident – if the Town Board puts the proposed change on a township ballot, the wording of the change should use Otter Tail County Ordinance wording
13. Nonresident – concern that lowering the acres currently required to build a second storage shed would result in too many storage sheds being built

14. Nonresident – Otter Tail County has to approve any development of land before Scambler Township can approve
15. Resident – the township is changing and younger people are wanting to move in to enjoy rural community living
16. Board Supervisor Dennis Carlblom asked for a show of hands vote of the people at the public hearing who were for or opposed to the ordinance change to 2.5 acres – the vote was approximately 50% for and 50% against

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:55 pm by Board Chairman David Ritchie.

Minutes submitted by Sandra Tinglestad, Scambler Township Clerk