

**Vernon County Zoning Committee Minutes  
UW Extension Meeting Room, Erlandson Building**

**March 13, 2018**

Members present were Eric Evenstad, Frank Easterday, Dave Eggen, David Williams and Mary Rae. Others in attendance: Susan Burkhamer, Zoning Administrator.

Evenstad called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Burkhamer affirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.

There was no public Comment.

Dave Eggen moved to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Mary Rae. Evenstad asked for discussion, amendments, corrections and hearing none a vote was taken to approve the minutes with all in favor.

Burkhamer presented the Work-Income-Expense report for November. There were 20 work days in the month with 7 field days and 10 stops. One sanitary permit was issued as well as one reconnect permit. Two soil evaluations were filed. Revenue for the month was 25% of expenses and 23% year to date.

Mary Rae moved to approve the voucher in the amount of \$456.09, second by Dave Williams with all in favor.

In the Administrators Report Burkhamer noted that the Spring WCCA Conference is next week and both she and Angela Reed would be attending with no plan to attend the fall conference in Superior WI. Burkhamer said that FEMA no longer offers local training and Angela was accepted into the FEMA training program in Maryland at the end of May. This is all expenses paid by FEMA with the exception of a meal ticket. Burkhamer noted that while Angela Reed was willing to participate in training and participate in the floodplain program, she had expressed no interest in moving to the administrator position upon Burkhamer's retirement. Easterday noted the amount of open positions in the county and the potential difficulty in filling them. Discussion went on regarding wage offerings compared to surrounding counties.

Burkhamer presented a breakdown of pumping and inspections returned from in and out-of-county businesses in response to an issue that was raised at the last meeting. A general discussion of the maintenance program followed. A more in depth study was discussed addressing the population in the county, number of households and how the maintenance pumping program was working overall. Easterday questioned how the Amish were accepting the maintenance program and the threat of citation. Burkhamer responded that she was attempting to treat all populations the same. A lengthy discussion followed on the various aspects of the maintenance program and religious waiver. Burkhamer responded that there was some legislation coming up with a POWTS code update in the near future, but in the meantime the request of everyone, including the Amish, was to comply with the identification of residential properties (including cabins) that could be subject to septic, outhouse, no-plumbing, etc. so that the information would be available to the state upon request. Until the law is clarified, this effort involved a lot of education. It was questioned and noted that the various communities around the county do have different tenants that they abide by, some allowing flush toilets and others adhering to the use of a privy.

Questions were posed as to the importance of attendance at the upcoming DNR/FEMA Kickapoo Watershed re-study. Evenstad voiced concern over the appearance of a quorum of supervisors being in attendance or even the zoning committee causing the need for posting a public meeting. Burkhamer said she would check with Corporation Counsel regarding disclaimer language to include in a meeting posting. The supervisors were expected to have the role of audience and would not be in attendance to make decisions in their normal legislative roles. Burkhamer thought the meeting could be very informative regarding how the creation of floodplain is processed, what change in the Kickapoo watershed we might expect and give the supervisors a chance to pose questions to the state and federal agencies giving the presentation.

Burkhamer noted that she had been contacted by Coulee Cap regarding the availability of housing block grant money in the format of a no interest, no payment mortgage that would be forgiven over five years if the applicant still resided in the residence.

Floodplain issue updates mailed with the meeting packets were discussed. Burkhamer reported that of the FEMA areas of interest initially presented, FEMA had withdrawn some sites, 13 were resolved, 28 files were submitted for resolution and 132 possible violations remaining to be investigated. Burkhamer said that a Corrective Plan of Action needed to be compiled for FEMA to address how the violations would be handled. This plan is due by May 31 and will be presented to the committee for review prior to mailing.

Although there is a high number of audited files, Burkhamer felt that FEMA would be satisfied with the progress the office has made since 2012. All of the audit files are being reviewed and gleaned as appropriate. The remaining files will be dealt with on a case by case basis, mostly requiring after-the-fact Land Use Permits.

There was no public comment at second opportunity.

The next meeting was set for 8:30 on June 12, 2018.

Mary Rae moved to adjourn, second by Frank Easterday with all in favor.

Minutes recorded by Susan Burkhamer.

Minutes approved 6/12/2018 Motion by Eggen, Second by Rae