

**Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, January 21, 2016
Royal Wilcox Community Center**

Vice Chair Jeske Noordergraaf called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair
Jeske Noordergraaf, Vice Chair
Gerald Bjork
Eric Leivian
Joel Peterson (Absent)

Treasurer: Karen Anderson
Clerk: Wendy S. Kowalke

Others Present:

James McCarthy	Beckie Zweig	C. Zwiieg
Lynn Wolleat	Stephen Merten	Jim Seiberlich, Sno-Barons
Jill Seiberlich, Sno-Barons	Bob Kollmer, Sno-Barons	John J. Werner
Russ Ernst	Perry Linberg	Jacquelyn Zita
Dennis J. Lift Sno-Barons	Jeff Oesterich	Brian Geisbauer
Tony Klanderud	Paula Callies, Attorney-Sno-Barons	Michelle Gorsegner , Sno-Barons
Ben Geisbauer	Marilyn Bobick-Johnson	Molly Irish
Brad Bjorklund		

Approve Agenda: Motion by Gerald Bjork, second by Eric Leivian to accept the January 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Gerald Bjork, second by Eric Leivian to approve the December 2015 minutes. Motion Carried.

Clerk Update: Received e-mail from Paul Steward today that he cannot fill out the Mn/DOT form for the Kost Dam Bridge Project to turn into Joe Triplett. Clerk Kowalke will forward form to Thatcher to have filled out and return back to Sunrise Township Clerk.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Karen Anderson went over January 2016 Treasury report. Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Eric Leivian to accept the Treasurer's report as presented with claims list 4683 through 4711 along with the following additional expenditures:

Research Appraisal (10 file storage totes @ \$8.00 each)80.00

Commissioner Rick Greene Update: Absent

Sno-Barons CUP Amendment: Paula Callies, Attorney for Sno-Barons. This is the 50th anniversary for Hay Days. There are 2 portions of the Amended CUP: 1. Application for rural retail tourism and 2. Commercial Recreation. Attorney Callies said the amendment consolidates some of the original

CUP recommendations. Establishes hours for hay days and other events. Attorney Callies said proposed hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. One major change is for Hay Days to take place over the course of 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) not including set-up and tear-down. Sno-Barons are requesting up to 20 other days of events; no more than 3 consecutive days. Activates under county ordinances and rural retail tourism. Parking for events other than Hay Days would be on-site.

Some events discussed: boy scouts, car shows, drones, ATV, arctic cat / ski-doo training, weddings. Nothing of the scale of Hay Days. Sno-Barons wants to hold the events within the site. ATV, motorcycles – limiting motorized racing. Additional restrictions are placed on by the county specific to the Sno-Barons. Sunrise does not want Sno-Baron to have a blank check for events. Artic Cat, Yamaha, Ski-doo, Polaris. ATV racing, sno-cross racing for snowmobiles. Sno-Barons has been approached for mile test runs. Michelle Gorsegner said Sno-Barons is in the motor sports business. Other events mentioned were scrapbooking and rotary. Sno-barons is not constructing a facility for motocross sports. There are several buildings which are heated (big buildings, club house is 75 x 50 which is in use in the winter).

Sno-Barons Attorney Callies said Sno-Barons is not asking for a blank check. Sunrise Township is wanting Chisago County Attorney to look over the proposed amended CUP. Sno-Barons Attorney said that Sunrise Town Board has had information since the December 2015 meeting. Sunrise Township said that they have not been in on negotiations with the Chisago County. The next County hearing is Thursday, February 4, 2016. Attorney Callies said that Chisago County said that Sno-Barons followed all their recommendations.

Sunrise is asking if the Sno-Barons is willing to limit the number of motorized vehicles.

John Werner: Anytime an applicant asks me to believe for 20 more days, he becomes apprehensive and anxious.

Jim McCarthy: Mr. McCarthy said he is well aware of this event. Mr. McCarthy said he has one point which this would expand to multiple events. Mr. McCarthy said he remembers Michelle Gorsegner of Sno-Barons saying that they would never want to expand Sno-Barons and she would not want this in her neighborhood. Hold them to their word. The vet clinic has had to shut down because of the event in the past.

Jacquelyn Zita: Ms. Zita runs a retreat center. When Sno-Barons is holding Hay Days she informs the public not to come to the retreat center. How many live in our neighborhood, where is the money going, and how much does she make? Michelle Gorsegner said there was three other events in 2015 on the same weekend of Hay Days. Michelle Gorsegner is not going to tell how much they make. Michelle Gorsegner said they can write up a list of what they give back to community. Michelle Gorsegner said they have 2 members that live next to the sight.

They have done nothing for the community of Sunrise Township. Stay in hotel, eat here, drink at Sunrise pub.

Jeff Osterich: Has seen community rise and fall. Mr. Osterich said he was opposed to Hay Days 7 years ago. Willing to listen, try to make this work. What he is anxious about, driving to North Branch and the yards get junked up. This is a gateway to the scenic river. People love the land and solitude.

Brian Geisbauer: Nearby neighbor. This imposes on him with his experience with Hay Days. Mr. Geisbauer said it took him 22 minutes to cross HWY 95. Dirt bikes waking him up at 2:30 in the morning. Carry-over – people are partying. This should be protected. Mr. Geisbauer doesn't believe that Sno-Barons are giving the full details. If it is only choir, boyscouts – let them do it.

Tony Klanderud: Mr. Klanderud believes they want a blank check. People are hung up on motorsports issue. What about concerts and we become the “new” Somerset. Last thought – what about emergency services.

Ben Geisbauer: I believe that I am the youngest in the room by far. Mr. Geisbauer is worried about that you start off with smaller events. You said it took 50 years to get where you are. This could be another Hay Days in 20 years. Restrictions from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. – don't want to hear noises. Would like to limit some of these events. Traffic is a huge issue. It is either a stay home weekend or go out of town weekend.

Stephen Merten: Not a member of the Sno-Barons. Mr. Merten said the Township should appreciate what they do for the community. You are representing the whole Township – not just people who live next to Hay Days. They bring in added revenue. Part of the 13 county metro area. It's progress.

Russ Ernst: Stopped in North Branch to by a tire at Fisk Tire. Had a nice talk with Fisk Tire. More business could spread out the tax base.

Marylinn Bobick-Johnson: Here to support neighbors. Here to learn more about what is going on. What are the next steps from here?

Molly Irish: Lives in Almelund a mile or so from the site. Opposed at first. They pay agricultural taxes. They have not paid law enforcement bills. Promised up and down that this was only one event. Ms. Irish believes the site looks like a big trash heap. Believes this is turning into more than the bill of goods they sold us. More stuff left out there. Ms. Irish believes that they do not follow their CUP.

Brad Bjorklund: Live in Amador Township for 12 years. Believes in quiet and enjoyment. The Hay Days site is an active site all of the warm months of the year. Place back in agricultural land which cannot be done. Mr. Bjorklund said there is no effective screening on the property. Junky and getting worse. Mr. Bjorklund believes they want to do fireworks. No homes being built by the event. Public urination.

Rebuttal: Michelle Gorsegrer: Sno-Barons pays for all police, security, and emergency services. Sno-Barons is in compliance with conditions: is not true that they are not in compliance – Sno-Barons has been in compliance with the CUP. There is a local farmer harvesting for the hay and another farmer for maple syrup on the trees. Sno-barons does not control the neighbors. In 2014 Sno-barons had to pay a fine due to going over their time restraints. Camping on the site is a state permit which they are in compliance with. 150 members that work the property and can be out there.

Conditional Use Permit: Jeske Noordergraaf feels that this is really giving Sno-Barons a blank check because it is not specific. Supervisor Noordergraaf feels that this is not the best interest of Sunrise Township. Supervisor Eric Leivan is not opposed to adding extra day for Hay Days – Sno-Barons is

not being specific in the details regarding motorized events. Supervisor Eric Leivian felt blindsided and the level of detail is not in the amended CUP. *Supervisor Leivian is concerned how an events the Sno-Barons can hold simultaneously on their property, and how the language in the CUP says 20 days not number of events.* The Sno-Barons said they did not think about that. This illustrated the ambiguity of their request. Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson has moved out twice because of urban sprawl.

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Eric Leivian to deny the Sno-Barons amended CUP because Sunrise Township does not have the specific details regarding proposed events. Supervisor Leivian is o.k. with the extra day for the Hay Days Event. Disussion: Attorney Callies would like to suggest to separate out the 2 portions of the permit. Allow rural retail tourism and discuss options to the commercial recreation portion. Supervisor Leivian is o.k. with the rural retail tourism. Motion denied by Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson, Jeske Noordergraaf and Eric Leivian for the Amended CUP as presented. Gerald Bjork in favor of CUP. Motion of Denial carried.

Township Election Judge Recommendations: Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Gerald Bjork to accept the Sunrise Township Judge Recommendations for the March 8, 2016 election. Motion carried

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Trained Members: Gerald Bjork as trained member. Clerk Kowalke to check how to get trained.

Wilcox Road Sign: Lead Maintenance Lynn Wolleat to put up Wilcox Road sign.

Chisago County Planning Resource Group Advocate: Greg Strom, Tom Chaklos, Gerald Bjork and Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson will be attending the initial meeting.

Citizens Forum: NONE

Retro-reflectivity Grant: Jeske Noordergraaf said that Chisago County Engineer, Joe Triplett, is going to fill out the form. Engineer Triplett is going to apply and keep the townships informed.

Internet Tower: February agenda.

CR 70 Amador / Sunrise Maintenance: Place on February Agenda.

Public Works Truck: February agenda to open bids.

Maintenance Update: Brush mowing tractor is about 10 years old (1995 model) would like to take to Green’s to have it looked over and serviced. Radiator has a leak in it. Lynn Wolleat to look for different brush mower.

Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Motion carried.

Clerk Wendy Kowalke

Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson, Chair