

The Hampton Township Planning Commission

Public Hearing Minutes

March 14, 2016 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Jeremy Irrthum
Casondra Schaffer
David Peine
Larry Runyan

Leo Nicolai
Doug Wille
Molly Weber

This meeting was called to order by Jeremy Irrthum at 7:00pm. Tonight we are having a Public Hearing to review the construction, use and maintenance of a distribution substation and related equipment for Dakota Electric Association.

The agenda we will use to conduct the meeting is:

1. Introduction
2. Ground Rules
3. Applicant Presentation
4. Public Testimony
5. Rebuttal Testimony where Dakota Electric will have a chance to answer some questions or the Planning Commission will answer some questions
6. Closing

Part of the ground rules will be during the public testimony people can stand up, ask their questions, state your name and address and we will limit them to 5 minutes.

The board members were asked if there were any conflict of interests that would play into tonight's discussion and there were none.

Craig Knudsen with Dakota Electric, Line Use Manager was present to discuss his presentation. He said the project we have to propose this evening was a Distribution Substation. He passed out documents for people to refer to. They have a 2.5 acre parcel that is 330 feet by 330 feet. The proposal is to build a Distribution Substation. Dakota Electric feeds energy to the homes and farms and businesses. They take their energy from transmission lines. They have an existing transmission line on this property which is nice because they don't want to build more transmission if they don't have to. It is very costly and time-consuming therefore this location suits quite well. The purpose for building the substation at this time is for liability and for redundancy to feed into our system so we have enough energy to provide for everybody and to do it on a consistent basis. The type they have will tie into existing transmission and bring it through the substation, then exit the substation. They are building half of the facility at this time but are looking for approval for the full thing. They don't feel they need the full thing right now. By making one tap right now they can provide the energy they really need to have at this point. If in the future it warrants to put in another transformer and switchgear system they will do that but they don't think it is necessary to make that kind of investment now. They probably have about \$2,000,000.00 going into this as it is so they don't want to go above and beyond. They have the plans drawn up and have gone through the state standards. They are trying the best they can not to disrupt existing homes and properties. They are trying to facilitate that as much as possible. They have an existing overhead line that runs down Donnelly. They will use that alignment and put in an underground line going to the south as well. You really won't see a lot of difference as far as the overhead lines go. The transmission is going to remain the same. They will just tie into it and not have to extend it at all. The other pages are a side view.

They will have an antenna so the dispatch can operate remotely & won't have to send someone out there every time to do some switching. They have been researching this for the last year and are ready to move forward with it.

Applicant presentation was closed.

Public testimony was opened with a question from Leo Nicolai. "Is that line the east/west line?" Craig said that it was. Doug Wille asked what the maximum height was. Craig stated there was going to be an antenna on there. They are applying for 110 feet but will probably not go that high. They just wanted to reach for the maximum approval at this point. It also provides for lightning protection. Anything 200 and above has to be lit so they should be fine with the 110 feet.

Dave Peine asked if they were applying for both and only putting half in. Craig said they are applying for both since they may need to build the rest some day.

Craig was advised that Dakota Electric should come back in the future if they decide to add the second half since we don't have anything in the Ordinance book about these sort of structures but we do have something about Tele Communication Tower, Cell Phone Towers. In those cases we do have people come back to the Planning Commission and Town Board to have it checked out and reviewed again. Craig said if they decided to add the second piece it would be parallel to what they are doing now.

Public Testimony and rebuttal were concluded.

Public Hearing was closed.

Casondra made a motion to the Board that we allow Dakota Electric to put up the substation on Donnelly Avenue, Randolph, MN (PID#17-03200-50-020 owned by Blake and Christine Otte and should they have to add onto it in years to come that they come back before the Board and let them know what is happening. Larry Runyan seconded it. Motion unanimously approved.

Jeremy stated that the Planning Commission only makes recommendations and the Board makes the final decision. Craig will return tomorrow to come before the board.

Dakota Electric kept it at 2.5 acres so it does not create a substandard lot.

Larry Runyan made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Dave Peine seconded it. Motion passed.