

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Aitkin County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the adoption of amendments to the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance and Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance. The hearing will be conducted on March 26, 2018, at 4:00pm in the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Room of the Aitkin County Courthouse. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the proposed ordinance amendments to the County Board of Commissioners for final review at a regularly scheduled board meeting on or after April 10, 2018.

A summary of the sections of the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance proposed for amendment are: Section 3 (Definitions) - add Exotic Animal, General Accepted Practices, Rural Land Use; Section 5 (Signs) – increase square footage and height of commercial signs; Section 11 (Conditional Use Permits) – add required permit application information; Section 12 (Non-conformities) – add “neglect” to destruction of a structure; Section 15 (Planned Unit Development) – increase minimum size requirement; Section 17 (Vacation/Private Home Rental) – change permit renewal time frame and add smoke detector/carbon monoxide detector requirements; propose Section 17.02 –(Cemetery standards); propose Section 17.03 – (Dog Kennel standards); propose Section 17.04 – (Rural land uses not a nuisance standards); Appendix A (Classification List) – include exotic animals, standardize Bar/Saloon/Tavern and Café/Restaurant/Supper Club classifications, standardize Resort/Cabin Rentals and Vacation/Private Home Rental classifications. In addition there are many references, section numbers and other language housekeeping items to correct.

A summary of the sections of the Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance proposed for amendment are: Section 2 (General Provisions and Definitions) – Bluff definition – eliminate “it must slope towards the water body”, add definition of vacation/private home rentals and exotic animals; Section 4 (Shoreland Classification and Land Use Districts) – eliminate subsection 4.21 and 4.22 already addressed in the land use table, 4.23 (Classification List) – define the purpose of the Classification List, change Dog Pound/Kennel to a non-permitted use in the shoreland areas, add exotic animals to classification list, change vacation/private home rentals to non-permitted use on Natural Environmental lakes; Section 5 (Zoning Standards) – change setback distances of water oriented structures from lot lines, add vegetation standards from the shore impact zone to the building setback from the lake, change private boat accesses on lakes with a public access, add annual ice ridge standards, add rip rapping shoreline standards; Section 6 (Non-conformities) – add “neglect” to destruction of a structure, change the lot width and area standards to be consistent to those required in MN State Statute, add standards for flood proofing an existing structure without a variance; Section 7 (Planned Unit Developments) – change allowed density increases on slopes from 12 to 18 percent, eliminate density increase multiplier on Natural Environmental Lakes, and reduce open space requirements for the upland area from 75% to 50%. In addition there are many references, section numbers and other language housekeeping items to correct.

The above is only a summary; a full text version is available for public review at the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning Office and the Aitkin County Auditor’s Office in the Aitkin County Courthouse during regular business hours. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendments can also be viewed in its entirety on the Aitkin County website at www.co.aitkin.mn.us. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning Office: 209 2nd St NW, Rm 100, Aitkin, MN 56431, by facsimile (218) 927-4372, or by e-mail to aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us before 4:00pm on March 23, 2018. Please include a full name and complete mailing address with all correspondences.