

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a meeting of the Planning Commission in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota, was called to order by Chairman John Harlander at 6:30 o'clock in the evening on Monday, July 2, 2012 in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue for the said City.

Other Planning Commission members present for the meeting were: Will Seiler, Joseph Wedel, and Todd Horton. Board member Joseph Gilk was absent. Councilor John Greer, Planning Commission Liaison, was present for the meeting.

Chairman John Harlander called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of May 30th and hearing none declared them to be approved.

Ken Stalboerger, General Manager, Centra Sota Cooperative formerly known as New Vision Alliance, was present for the meeting.

Pursuant to due notice, at 6:30 PM, Chairman John Harlander called the public hearing into session on a request by Centra Sota Cooperative, 1121 Co. Rd. 10, for a Conditional Use Permit (Section 80.08) to increase the maximum height of thirty-five (35) feet to ninety-eight (98) feet for the construction of a 75' diameter 268,000 bushel grain bin in a C2 Zone. Mr. Schneider noted that a proper notice was published in the Albany Enterprise on June 20th and no written comments were received. Mr. Stalboerger appeared before the Commission to inform the Commission that the purpose of the new grain bin is to increase the amount of corn storage on site for their customers. Mr. Stalboerger noted that corn is a very critical component of their business. Mr. Stalboerger also noted that the new grain elevator owned by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Company recently built in St. Joseph Township will transport several million bushels of grain (corn and soybeans) out of central Minnesota to the Pacific Northwest for export to Asian markets posing great challenges to area mills in keeping enough grain on storage for their producers. Mr. Greer questioned what the long term goals are for the mill. Mr. Stalboerger noted that a grain dryer is being considered in 2013, but the natural gas main on the north side of their property is undersized and discussions with CenterPoint Energy will continue. Chairman John Harlander closed the public hearing at 6:40 PM. After due discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Wedel and seconded by Todd Horton to recommend to the Council that the request by Centra Sota Cooperative, 1121 Co. Rd. 10, for a Conditional Use Permit (Section 80.08) to increase the maximum height of thirty-five (35) feet to ninety-eight (98) feet for the construction of a 75' diameter 268,000 bushel grain bin in a C2 Zone be approved. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Chairman John Harlander adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.