

**ONEIDA COUNTY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 22, 2020**  
**COUNTY BOARD ROOM – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**  
**ONEIDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
**RHINELANDER, WI 54501**

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Members present: Scott Holewinski, Billy Fried, Mike Timmons, Jack Sorensen, and Ted Cushing

Members absent: None

Department staff present: Karl Jennrich, Director and Julie Petraitis, Program Assistant

Other county staff present: Mike Fugle, Assistant Corporation Counsel

Guests present: See sign in sheet.

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Call to order.

**Chair Holewinski called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.**

**Approve the agenda. Motion by Jack Sorensen, second by Ted Cushing to approve the agenda. With all members present voting “aye”, the motion carried.**

Discussion/decision concerning an exploration permit for Badger Minerals in the Town of Schoepke, Oneida County. The committee will be reviewing the application pursuant to Section 9.61 H of the Oneida County Zoning and Shoreland Protection Ordinance and approving the following:

- a. Committee directs Department Director to approve applications pursuant to Section 9.61 H, unless a referral to committee is requested by staff or committee member.
- b. Committee to approve \$5 million dollar policy limit as sufficient pursuant to Section 9.61 H (3) (d).
- c. Committee directs Department Director to establish inspection schedule pursuant to Section 9.61 H (5) (c), but not less than: an inspection on or before the first day of drilling, an inspection on the last day of drilling, an inspection on the first day a bore hole is filled, an inspection on the last day a bore hole is filled, one inspection at least thirty (30) days after the last bore hole is filled, and at least one inspection in any thirty day period.

Mr. Jennrich explained that this is a permit for exploration. The Oneida County Board of Supervisors reviewed and approved a new Metallic Mining Ordinance in 2018. As part of that, the Committee requested an avenue to require a permit if someone would like to explore for metallic minerals in Oneida County. An Exploration Permit was developed, there is a fee of \$1500.00 that

has to be paid as part of that permit application. The application includes information that was provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with their Exploration Permit and Staff reviews it. The committee is only supposed to be reviewing a limited portion of that permit.

Mr. Jennrich reminded the committee that this application is for property in the Town of Schoepke, the property in question is zoned District #10, General Use. Exploration is allowed as a permitted use in District #10, General Use.

Mr. Jennrich explained the ordinance states that if a property is zoned properly and the application meets the requirements Staff should be approving it and the committee should also be recommending approval.

Mr. Jennrich stated that approximately 52 emails were received from the public. He said he reviewed the emails and did not see any technical issues that were brought forward, specifically addressing 9.61 H, Exploration. A lot of the comments related to if and when a mine would be developed on that parcel.

Chair Holewinski stated that he received approximately 20 emails and the only one that referred to anything was from Mr. Mott regarding bore hole abandonment, which was an article he sent. Mr. Jennrich stated he submitted that article to Mr. Benzel, representative for Badger Minerals and he provided responses to it.

Mr. Jennrich read a memo he sent the committee into the record.

The committee had questions on and discussed the following:

- Financial assurances.
- Sump pit reclamation.
- The bond.
- Inspection process/schedule.
- Previous bore holes at the site.
- Penalties.
- Removing the tailings.

Mike Fugle, Assistant Corporation Counsel, addressed the committee and meeting guests stating that the ordinance does not require that committee approve each permit request. These are permitted uses. As with other permits, Karl will approve a permit unless there is a specific question or unless a committee member has a question. The committee is directing the Zoning Director to process these permits as you would other permitted uses unless there is a reason to bring it to the committee.

**Motion by Ted Cushing, second by Jack Sorensen to direct the Department Director to approve applications pursuant to Section 9.61 H, unless a referral to committee is requested by staff or committee member. Aye: Unanimous on roll call vote.**

**Motion by Jack Sorensen, second by Mike Timmons to approve \$5 million dollar policy limit as sufficient pursuant to Section 9.61 H (3) (d). Aye: Unanimous on roll call vote.**

**Motion by Billy Fried, second by Ted Cushing to establish inspection schedule pursuant to Section 9.61 H (5) (c), but not less than: an inspection on or before the first day of drilling, an inspection on the last day of drilling, an inspection on the first day a bore hole is filled, an inspection on the last day a bore hole is filled, one inspection at least thirty (30) days after the last bore hole is filled, and at least one inspection in any thirty day period. Aye: Unanimous on roll call vote.**

Public comments.

- Written comments related to the agenda items may be submitted electronically to: [zoning@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:zoning@co.oneida.wi.us) no later than 3:00 p.m. April 21, 2020.
- FAX comments related to the agenda items may be submitted to 715-369-6268 no later than 3:00 p.m. April 21, 2020.
- By telephone: 715-369-7822 Access Code: 115890#
- In person.

Mr. Jennrich stated that he received public comment from Tracy Benzel on behalf of Badger Minerals in response to questions from the Planning and Development Committee questions.

Reverend Kenneth Michaelis in opposition to sulfide mining issues.

Tom Lager in opposition to sulfide mining.

Lasch Zast in opposition to sulfide mining.

2 from Tricia Zunker in opposition to sulfide mining.

Rebecca Derenne in opposition to sulfide mining.

Joan Freitas regarding in opposition to sulfide mining.

Dennis and Andrea Piontek in opposition to sulfide mining.

Sally Draze talking about PFAS.

Augsue Beres regarding not mining by the Wolfe River.

Brian Outhouse no exploration mining.

Sharon Burie opposed to sulfide mining.

Carol Johnson in opposition to sulfide mining.

Karen Prange in opposition to sulfide mining.

Ed Draze in opposition to sulfide mining.

Ron Burie in opposition to sulfide mining.

Mary Chevalier against mining.

Janice Kanyusik against mining.

Bernie Hubbard against sulfide mining.

Brian Heikenen in opposition to sulfide mining.

Mary Hansen in opposition to sulfide mining.

Richard Dragiewicz in opposition of sulfide mining.

Gregory Hitch in opposition to sulfide mining.

Lea Jane Burie in opposition to exploration.

Tracy Benzel supplying information.

Stephanie Burrell in opposition.

Tom Boerner regarding Badger Mineral, LLC and back taxes.

Dan Butkus opposed to exploration.

Nathan Podany opposed to exploration.

Andy Killoren opposed to exploration and sulfide mining.  
Travis Stuck and River Stuck opposed to exploration.  
Dawn Duschel on behalf of Pelican Lake Property Owner's Association in opposition to exploration.  
Pelican Lake Property Owner's Association opposed to exploration.  
Tracy Benzel supplying technical information.  
Tracy Benzel supplying technical information.  
Mike Romportl/Bob Mott regarding Browns Road.  
Tracy Benzel supplying technical comments.  
Laurie Zen Netzow opposed to exploration.  
Jason and Gayla Kicherer opposed to mining.  
Beth Boyd don't want contaminated ground water.  
Patrick Peters opposed to mining.  
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association in opposition.  
Nancy and Ronald Blood in opposition.  
Bill Livingston in opposition to exploration.  
Jay Joppa, Northwoods Trout Unlimited in opposition to sulfide mining.  
Tom Boerner regarding Badger Minerals' background.  
Terry Cummings in opposition to sulfide mining.  
Michelle Buettner in opposition to mining.  
Mike Mlinar in opposition.  
Al Gedicks, Wisconsin Resources Protection Counsel, in opposition to exploration.  
Julie Rose and John Rose in opposition to sulfide mining.  
Jean Roach in opposition.  
Scott Anderson in opposition to sulfide mining.  
Chuck Cohen in opposition to sulfide mining.  
Casper Buettner in opposition.  
Andrew Marwede in opposition.  
Ron James in opposition.

Public Comment by public on the phone:

Tricia Zunker read her comments into the record.  
Jean Roach voiced her displeasure in the way the meeting was carried on.  
Tina Van Zile, representative of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, spoke in opposition to exploration and mining.  
Tim Hoeft asked if the results from the exploration will be available to the public.  
Stephanie Burrell also voiced her displeasure in the way the meeting was held and in opposition to exploration and mining.

Public Comment in the audience:

Jane Shraymeyer spoke regarding Badger Minerals and their affiliates and what they do.  
Karl Fate spoke about the literature from Badger Minerals and the ore bodies at the site in question. He talked about the application and the conditions of it and the site.  
Eric Rampala spoke about information not getting to the public and the difference between an insurance policy and a bond.

Future agenda items. **As discussed.**

Adjourn.

**3:35 p.m. There being no further matters to lawfully come before the committee, Chair Holewinski adjourned the meeting.**

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Chair, Scott Holewinski

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Planning & Zoning Director, Karl Jennrich