

## Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



Requested Meeting Date: August 23, 2022

Title of Item: Amish Community Cemetery Plat

✓ REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:		Direction Requested		
CONSENT AGENDA	✓ Approve/Deny Motion		Discussion Item		
INFORMATION ONLY	Adopt Resolution (attach dr	aft) Hold Public Hearing* e copy of hearing notice that was published			
Submitted by: Andrew Carlstrom		Department: Planning & Zoning			
Presenter (Name and Title): Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director			Estimated Time Needed: 5 minutes		
Summary of Issue:					
On July 18, 2022 the Aitkin County Planning Commission approved the conditional use permit for the approximate one quarter acre Amish Community Cemetery, which is a private cemetery and falls under MN Statutes Chapter 307. In accordance with Section 5.02(D) and Section 6.0 of the Aitkin County Subdivision Ordinance, the requirements for preliminary and final plat have been met. The Final Plat conforms to the preliminary plat approved by the Planning Commission and has incorporated all required changes. Requesting Board of Commissioners approval in order to allow applicant to move ahead with project and the development of the Amish Community Cemetery in Aitkin County.  Please see attached memorandum and Lakeside Township Opinion letter.					
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:  Motion to approve the Amish Cemetery Plat with conditions or motion to deny the Amish Cemetery Plat					
Recommended Action/Motion:  Motion to approve the Amish Community Cemetery Plat					
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this What is the total cost, with tax and Is this budgeted?  Yes	-	lain:	Vo		

## Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning 307 Second Street NW

Room 219 Aitkin, MN 56431

Phone: 218-927-7342 Fax: 218-927-4372



## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE:

August 23, 2022

TO:

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM:

Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director

RE:

**Amish Community Cemetery** 

Enclosed is the final plat of the Amish Community Cemetery. The Conditional Use Permit and preliminary plat was approved by the Aitkin County Planning Commission on July 18, 2022. In accordance with Aitkin County Subdivision Ordinance Section 6.0, the County Board is responsible for final approval. Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 306 (Public Cemeteries) and Chapter 307 (Private Cemeteries) govern cemeteries in Minnesota.

Lakeside Township has provided a letter, referenced MN Statute 306.243, and is requesting the County Board assume responsibility in the event the cemetery becomes abandoned or defaults in the future.

In MN Statutes 307.08 Subd.13 defines "abandoned cemetery" as: "a cemetery where the cemetery association has disbanded or the cemetery is neglected and contains marked graves older than 50 years". It also states the County Board as the "appropriate authority" in the case of abandoned cemeteries under section 306.243 of MN Statute 306. In discussions with the County Attorney, he had no recommendations as to County Board action, feeling that committing to one course of action or to the other, would be restricting county officials fifty years or more into the future.

I am recommending approval of the Amish Community Cemetery Plat.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 218-927-7342 or by email at andrew.carlstrom@co.aitkin.mn.us.

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AMISH COMMUNITY CEM		I hereby sertify that this plet has been checked:  County Surveyor, Adkin County	not and approved this day of, 2022	
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	The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this day of, 2022, by Denicl and Amanda Herrbherger, hasburd and wife,			
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**TO: Aitkin County Commissioners** 

From: Lakeside Township Supervisors

Date: August 11, 2022

RE: Application #2022-009064

Conditional Use Permit for Private Cemetery

At the July 18<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting this application was approved and passed to move on the Board of Commissioners with the request for a letter from the township regarding their concerns.

At the Lakeside Township monthly meeting on August 11, 2022 it was discussed and information was brought to the board from the MAT attorney, Graham Berg-Moberg.

The township consider the following information

**Provided:** "target of Minn. Stat. § 306.243 which provides that "[a] county board may appropriate the general revenue funds it determines necessary for the improvement and maintenance of the cemetery if there is in the county, whether or not within the corporate limits of a town or statutory city, either of the following: (1) a cemetery that has been abandoned or neglected and the association having had charge of the cemetery has disbanded or fails to act;"

It is our opinion, that our township would like to cover ourself by make this approval conditional on the county agreeing to exercise it's authority to take care of the cemetery in the event that it becomes abandoned or in default and that the township has no liability.

Thank You!

Lakeside Township Supervisors

Stan Miller

Robert Skogman
Dennise Sonnee

me 8-11-22