

# New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858  
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## New Haven Township Reconvened Town Board Meeting Minutes Public Hearing - May 20, 2025

The public hearing meeting to discuss the rezoning request of Owen Allen reconvened on May 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the township hall. Supervisors Ann Faye-Gust, David Andrist and Dale Thomforde were present as well as Clerk Bonnie Kosmicki and Chris Hawkins representing the Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission.

Ethan Kaske, Zoning Administrator, Township Cooperative Planning Association, provided a recap of Mr. Allen's request. The property is a 4.75-acre parcel that is currently zoned A2 agriculture. Mr. Allen is seeking to have it rezoned to highway commercial. TCPA Staff have reviewed New Haven Zoning ordinance, and Olmsted County criteria for land use plan. The request met all required all criteria. There was no comment back from Olmsted County. The property borders Pine Island and Oronoco. Both cities were contacted regarding the zoning request. Comments were received from Pine Island city administrator; there was no objection to the rezoning request. There were no comments received from the Oronoco city administrator.

The zoning application and related paperwork was reviewed by board members. Chris Hawkins summarized the findings of the Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission; Hawkins personally visited the property. It was determined that the property is not conducive to A2 agriculture. The soil is rocky and not likely to ever be residential. The Advisory Commission opined that highway commercial is the highest and best use for this land.

Owen Allen was present and thanked those involved for assisting with the request and working through the process. His plan for the property is to utilize the space to build, store, and display the tractor attachments he distributes for Shaver Manufacturing. He would like to improve the property esthetically as well. He would eventually like to build a shed on the property.

Chair Fahy-Gust asked three times if there was anyone that would like to speak in favor of the rezoning request. There was no one in attendance that responded. Chair Fahy-Gust asked three times if there was anyone that would like to speak against the rezoning request. There was no one in attendance that responded.

Thomforde made a motion to close the public hearing, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Discussion was held between the board members. This property has never historically been farmed as it is mainly a rock pile. Fahy asked if the property has ever been owned by American Waterworks. Allen confirmed he purchased the property directly from Haney's.

Thomforde made a motion to recommend approval to the county to rezone the parcel from A2 agricultural to highway commercial, Andrist seconded request. Motion carried 3-0. Ethan will clarify with Olmsted County regarding if there is a need for a resolution.

Thomforde made a motion to adjourn, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Approved by the Board

Signed:

Signed:

*/Signed copy on file/*

Ann Fahy-Gust, Chair  
New Haven Town Board

Bonnie Kosmicki  
Township Clerk

Date:

Date: