POPE COUNTY
MINNESOTA

MEETING MINUTES
POPE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Thursday, March 27, 2025

The Board of Adjustment convened in regular session on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the Pope County Courthouse, 3rd floor Meeting Room.

Members Present: Roger Isdahl, John Messenger, Kathy Christiansen, Ted Kannegiesser, Mark Halls, and Russell Barkeim

Other Officials Present: David Green (Land & Resource Management, Director), Jessica Hill (Land & Resource Management, Deputy Director/Zoning Administrator), Ariel Hughes (Feedlot Officer), Paul Gerde (County Commissioner), and Shelley Retrum (Sr Administrative Associate).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Isdahl at 6:21 p.m.

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Review minutes of February 27, 2025 Regular Meeting of the BOA

The minutes of the Board of Adjustment meeting that was held on February 27, 2025 were submitted for approval. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Board member Barkeim and seconded by Board member Christiansen. Motion carried unanimously.

Tabled/Old Business

Director Green addresses the Board and comments *at the February 27th meeting of the Board of Adjustment, we had an application by Ben Dahl that was seeking to construct an inground pool on the lakeside of this existing dwelling. The Board approved the Variance and henceforth; staff had to create new findings. These findings are included in the staff report and identified as Exhibit B. If these findings are approved by the Board, staff will record these findings.*

Motion:

Board Chair Isdahl seeks a motion. Board member Messenger made motion to approve the findings for approved VAR-25-002 as presented in the staff report. Findings as follows:

1. **Variance request is consistent with the purposes and intent of the official controls and the comprehensive plan:**

   Finding: Yes, the request is consistent with the purposes and intent of the official controls and the comprehensive plan in that the proposed variance is the minimum necessary to alleviate the practical difficulty to allow a reasonable use of the property and provides the minimum disturbance to the protected shoreland zoning property.

2. **Use of property/structure is a reasonable use:**

   Finding: Yes, residential, inground pools are a reasonable use of the property. Residential uses are allowed within the subject Zoning District and the proposed is on par with similar, established residential uses within the area.

3. **Character of locality and detriment to neighboring properties:**

   Finding: Granting the proposed variance will not change the character of the locality or have an impact on neighboring property in that the proposed use is subgrade reducing visibility of the use both to neighbors and from the public water, is located within the established building site, and consistent with the residential uses in the area.

4. **Plight of the landowner is due to circumstances unique to the property and not self-created:**

   Finding: Yes, the need for the variance is due to unique circumstances of the property. The unique topography of the lot and the existing stormwater drainage pattern of the development which crosses through the northern portion of this property, reasonably prevent the establishment of the use elsewhere on the property.

This motion was seconded by Board member Christensen. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Motion by Board member Barkeim to adjourn the Board of Adjustment meeting with a second by Board member Messenger. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Retrum, Sr Administrative Associate
Pope County Land & Resource Management

David Green, Director
Pope County Land & Resource Management