POPE COUNTY
MINNESOTA

MEETING MINUTES
POPE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Thursday, April 23rd, 2026

The Board of Adjustment (BOA) convened in regular session on Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 at the Pope County Courthouse, 3rd floor Meeting Room.

Members Present: Roger Isdahl (Chairman), John Messenger, Ted Kannegiesser, Mark Halls, Haylee Wildman and Russell Barkeim.

Other Officials Present: David Green (Director), Leigh Nelson (Senior Administrative Associate), Paul Gerde (County Commissioner) and Paul Wildman (County Commissioner).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Isdahl at 6:00 p.m.

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda as prepared was made by Member Barkeim and seconded by Member Messenger. Motion carried unanimously.

Review minutes of March 26th, 2026 Regular Meeting of the BOA

The minutes of the BOA meeting that was held on March 26th, 2026 were submitted for approval. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Member Kannegiesser and seconded by Member H. Wildman. Motion carried unanimously.

General Business

Director Green addressed those in attendance, providing a brief overview of the Board of Adjustment's role as a quasi-judicial body that hears applications for variances to the Pope County Land Use Controls Ordinance. He also described standards by which an applicant for a variance is to be judged, known as the Practical Difficulty Test. He also noted that we need to make sure that our (BOA) decisions are defensible.

Tabled/Old Business

None.

New Business

Variance Request #VAR-26-007, **Steven Amiot,** PID #09-0627-600

The applicant is proposing to reconstruct and expand an existing residential structure located at less than the standard structure setback from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) of Lake Amelia. The structure does not meet the required setback, and because it is located within the

shore impact zone (50 feet) it does not qualify for setback averaging. As far as is known, the original cabin was constructed prior to 1972. This is a legally nonconforming structure.

Expansions of non-conformities, which are regulated by state statute and local ordinance, are not permittable without first securing a variance.

Chair Isdahl read the full background from the Staff Report.

Director Green explained that the Applicant, Steve Amiot, was not able to be present at the meeting, as he was traveling. Director Green described the application, and that this is a small parcel on Lake Amelia, was built sometime in the 1950's. The applicant is proposing to rebuild and expand an existing residential structure that is already located at less than the standard setback to the OHWL. The structure doesn't qualify for setback averaging because it is located within the shore impact zone. The parcel is already over on impervious surface, and includes an additional unpermitted structure and a hot tub. Based on the narrative and the building plans, there is no practical difficulty established, and the Staff recommends a motion to deny the variance request as presented. The DNR also agrees with the staff's recommendations to deny the variance as presented.

Director Green added that he has talked with the applicant and his construction material representative, and he recommends tabling the issue until the landowner can attend the meeting, and possibly provide modified building plans.

Chair Isdahl asked if the Board had any questions. There were no additional comments or questions. It was agreed to present Site Team comments and open the floor to a public hearing when the Applicant was present.

Motion:

Chair Isdahl seeks a motion. Member Kannegiesser made motion to table action on this variance request until the next regularly scheduled meeting. This motion was seconded by Member Barkeim. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

No other business.

Adjournment

Motion by Member Messenger to adjourn the Board of Adjustment meeting with a second by Member Halls. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh A. Nelson/Senior Administrative Associate
Pope County Land and Resource Management

David Green/Director
Pope County Land and Resource Management