

Lexington City Council Picks New Administrator on Split Vote

by Bryan Olson — Special to the Anoka County Record

Bill Petracek, city administrator of Fox Lake, Wisconsin, will soon be moving to the metro to start his new job as city administrator of Lexington. The city council made its decision during a regular council meeting Oct. 3. Petracek will replace Dot Heifort, who is retiring from the position at the end of the month.

Petracek received the three council votes necessary for approval, from Mayor Michael Pitchford and city councilors John Hughes and Betty Bailey. Councilor Jack Plasch voted for Desaree Crane, and councilor Carin Payment chose Michael Ericson. This first vote was conducted by paper ballot.

The offer of employment will be made to Petracek, but in case a contract agreement cannot be reached, the council will make an offer to second choice Michael Ericson, by a motion put forth by Councilor Hughes. The vote was unanimous.

Richard Fursman, whose firm Brimeyer-Fursman conducted the search, was asked questions of the council. Hughes asked which side he represented, the city council or the candidates. Fursman said he actually has both sides' interests in mind when he is contracted to do a search.

Petracek's salary in Fox Lake (which is near Sheboygan and Oshkosh) is currently \$63,000 and the Lexington job was advertised as having a pay range between \$70,000 and \$90,000. Heifort's current salary is over \$89,000.

How the candidates were interviewed

The previous Friday and Saturday were set aside for interviews of the candidates. Fursman had been contracted for over \$17,000 to recruit candidates for the job. He presented his selection of twelve applicants to the council the week before the interviews.

Fursman told the council that 58 applications had been received, but one of the twelve he chose dropped out, leaving each council member to select five as their top choices, and a couple more as alternates, from a pool of eleven.

The Sept. 27 interviews were more conversational, with each city council member interviewing all five candidates separately. That evening, the council took the candidates to dinner at a local restaurant.

The five candidates were Michael Ericson, former city administrator of Hugo (2000-2011) and now a consultant for the city of Maplewood, for which he had been the assistant city manager from 1998 to 2000; Desaree Crane, Assistant City Administrator of Mounds View since 2002; Kyle Morell, City Administrator of Hinckley, MN since 2010 and prior to that had the same role in Clara City, MN; Ariel Klugman, a native of Hopkins and a recent graduate of the University of Kansas with a masters degree in Public Administration. Klugman had a recent internship with the city of Edina; and, Bill Petracek, City Administrator of Fox Lake, WI, a town of 1,500 residents, since 2004. His prior city administrator job was in Lake Ozark, MO.

The interviews on Saturday, Sept. 28 were held by two groups: the city council as one group, and a selection of staff and hand-picked parties for the second group. Each group held their interviews simultaneously in two separate rooms at city hall. City councilor Carin Payment was absent from the interviews and was attending a family funeral.

The second group included the city attorneys, the fire chief, police chief, municipal liquor store manager, other city hall staff including the AFSCME union steward, and Mark Kurth, a firefighter and member of the Planning Commission who was a candidate for mayor in 2012.

Each interview took about 45 minutes and each group had a set of 14 questions, supplied by the contractor. The second group had the more interesting questions, including, "how do you go about making changes to the organization?", "what kind of communication link do you think is appropriate between elected officials and the department heads?", "what expectations would you have of department heads regarding the development and accountability of staff?", and "what role should citizens and business play to impact the city in a positive way?"

Candidates were also asked to describe incidents they thought they handled well, and those they handled badly; asked to describe their approach to decision making; asked how they each handle making unpopular decisions, and the personal procedures they use to keep themselves on task and see things to completion.

The city council's supplied questions included a five-minute amount of time set aside for an opening presentation by each candidate about a specific project they had accomplished. Some of these presentations were made with the aid of a visual slide presentation. Among the questions posed covered topics such as budgeting and strategic planning, how the candidate planned to blend into the community, experience in the realm of economic development, creating partnerships with other governmental and private entities, and the importance of customer service. One question was modified to allude to the edict of city attorney Kurt Glaser that was approved last May by three on the city council that curtailed city hall visits by the other two: Mayor Michael Pitchford and Councilman Jack Plasch. Staff had been complaining that a stressful work environment had been fermenting at city hall due to their daytime visits. The attorney's memo proposed that Pitchford and Plasch not be allowed in city hall during business hours.

While the second group's question along these lines was more to the point, "what kind of communication link do you think is appropriate between elected officials and the department heads?", the city council's question was softer, asking the candidate to describe his or her vision of what the ideal administrator-city council relationship would be.

LEXINGTON PICKS ADMINISTRATOR *continued on page 3*

County Board Travels to Oak Grove

On the morning of Tuesday, October 8, Anoka County Commissioners held their meeting in the Oak Grove City Council chambers as part of their effort to take their meetings "on the road". Commissioner Matt Look, who represents the city on the county board, provided introductory comments before welcoming Oak Grove Mayor Mark Korin, who gave welcoming comments on behalf of the city.

While the county board's agenda was brief in length, several items of national significance lead to lengthy discussions by commissioners.

The federal government budgetary situation led the board to approve a policy clarifying how county employees paid through federal dollars are to be treated when it comes to layoff notices and use time off. Commissioner Robyn West, chair of the board's Management Committee, stated that it appeared that employees in the WIC department would need to be put on mandatory leave, and that would be at no pay, but they could use FTO or comp time if they wished. The policy also provided authority to the board management committee chair and the county administrator to take any needed action to existing contracts. The resolution was unanimously approved.

A request to increase dental insurance taxes led to a lengthy discussion about the merits of the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as ObamaCare. The county's dental insurance provider informed the board that a new tax would be required due to the new health insurance law. To pay for this new tax, commissioners were forced to add \$0.48 a month to single dental coverage and \$1.21 a month to family dental coverage. The new tax will be passed along in full to the employees.

Commissioner Look stated, "I have opposed these kinds of issues from the beginning and that this Affordable Care Act isn't necessarily affordable and this is yet one more area where it is starting to ratchet up the cost." In opposing the motion, Look further stated, "I think that this whole Affordable Health Care Act will eventually suffocate under its own weight, and I choose not to be party to any of it."

OAK GROVE *continued on page 4*

Abeler to Participate in United States Senate Candidate Forum

Carver County Republicans will be sponsoring a forum for Republican candidates for United States Senate at Chaska, MN High School on October 14. Senator Julianne Ortman, Representative Jim Abeler and Commissioner Chris Dahlberg have confirmed their participation. The McFadden Campaign has chosen not to participate. Minnesota's Republican National Committeewoman Janet Beihoffer has been selected as the moderator.

The Chaska High School Auditorium is located at 545 Pioneer Trail, Chaska, MN.

The forum is scheduled from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Registration and social hour with the candidates from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and closing social hour with the candidates from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

The forum is open to the public in an effort to increase community awareness and participation in the 2014 election. Then entrance donation is \$15 per person.

For more information, contact Frank Long at (612) 202-8789 or visit www.carvergop.org

Rep. Uglem: Tax changes

Recently we also learned about some other unintended consequences from the budget passed back in May. The majority neglected to bring Minnesota's tax code into conformity with the federal tax code. The result? Minnesotans across the state paying more in taxes because of exemptions or deductions that are no longer available in Minnesota.

Here are just a few examples:

-Teachers no longer can write off up to \$250 for purchasing classroom supplies.

-Families already burdened during a foreclosure will now owe additional new taxes to the state on the sale when the lender sells a foreclosed house for less than is owed on the mortgage.

-Adoption assistance from private employers is now taxed, taking money out of the pockets of families in the process of adopting a child.

-Tuition assistance from private employers, as well as scholarships must be reported as income and taxed by the government.

These are more unfortunate instances of taxes that hurt regular Minnesota families. I voted against the tax bill back in May because it impacted low-and-middle income families just as much as it did the wealthy, which is unacceptable when you're implementing the largest spending increase in state history. I hope to see federal conformity revisited next session so we can get rid of these misguided tax increases.



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Rep. Daudt: PolyMet mine tour

Last week I traveled with a group of legislators up to the proposed site of a future PolyMet mine near Babbitt, Minnesota. The PolyMet mine would bring hundreds of jobs to the region, and once operational it is estimated to bring \$1.4 million dollars per day to the local economy.

These are the kinds of opportunities our state must take advantage of in order to grow the economy in Northern Minnesota and beyond.

While concerns about the environmental impact must be addressed to ensure that PolyMet would comply with all current environmental laws and regulations, I believe that we can move forward with the project and allow the mine to operate while continuing to protect Minnesota's natural resources.

Reps. Tim Sanders, Nick Zerwas, Kurt Zellers, and Tony Albright joined me for the tour of the PolyMet mine site.



Rep. Hackbarth: MNsure a mess

Dayton and the Democrats' new government-run insurance program is still a mess just days before it is set to launch on Tuesday. In fact, MNsure even advises Minnesotans to not rush into joining.

The quotes from MNsure meetings the last week or so are highly concerning. One county staffer said, "The more I learn about MNsure, the less I feel I know." Another said, "If they get this thing running on Oct. 1, they should get an award."

I can only speculate the county staffer was being facetious when they said awards should be given out if MNsure is up and running Oct. 1. MNsure is all but certain to start that day, regardless of how ill-prepared it is to accept enrollment and how poorly it will perform. But forget awards, people should be reprimanded for starting this thing up before it is ready.

Many of us have been concerned about data privacy regarding both Obamacare and MNsure. Even the Minnesota Association of Health Underwriters president told legislators that insurance agents and brokers are leery. She said it "felt very much like a train going very, very fast and nobody wanted to stop and listen to us."

This security issue recently came to a head when a MNsure staffer errantly made public the personal information of 2,400 Minnesotans. The worker sent private data, including Social Security numbers, to a public email address.

Now, internal MNsure documents warn of "an abnormally high risk of a data breach" during the exchange's first six months.

Democrats have wasted around \$150 million of our tax dollars on creating bureaucracy for this project - or even worse. It is absolutely absurd media outlets are reporting one MNsure "accomplishment" included in a recent report is: "Made a MNsure playlist on the iPod for anyone who is interested."

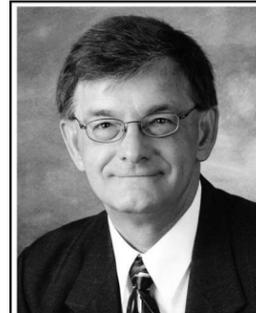
Not a dollar of that has gone toward providing actual care. It sickens me to see our tax dollars wasted like this.

The people who created this government monstrosity are not telling the whole story when they say that Minnesota has the "lowest rates in the nation." That is only true when you exclude the private market and compare MNsure prices with other states' Obamacare rates. Also, projections say MNsure prices will rise by an average of 29 percent (or even up to 42 percent) by 2016.

But what if MNsure proves to be unsustainable out of the gate? A recent KSTP report provides the gory details of a closed-door meeting where this apparently was discussed. To say it is unsettling is an understatement.

Minnesotans care about three things when it comes to health care: Accessibility to their doctor of choice, affordability and data privacy. The Democrats' new government-run insurance program is not set up to truly deliver in any of these areas.

It is baffling how the Democrats are ramming this program into start-up despite significant flaws and serious public concerns. Dayton flat-out admitted there are going to be mistakes with this program. I'm sorry, but that just doesn't cut it. This is an extremely important area to people and only time will tell how many headaches he and Democrats will cause when reality replaces their pie in the sky.



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Sen. Benson: Property Taxes & Sand Hill Crane Natural Area

Property Taxes

On or before October 8th, the county auditor is required by statute to submit the proposed levy certified by local units of government. As we approach this date, I encourage you to contact your local government officials and request information regarding property taxes.

Legislation passed during the 2013 session contained unprecedented aid to local governments. This aid should, ideally, result in property tax relief.

The aid to local government comes in two forms: increased education spending and increased funding for local governments.

Overall, the state increased the K-12 education budget by approximately \$485 million. This includes an increase in per pupil funding of \$78 and \$80 over the next two years. Additionally, it includes new money for programs like all day kindergarten, which was not previously fully funded by the state.

The funding for local governments includes an \$80 annual increase in local government aid and an increase of \$40 million in county aid and \$10 million in township aid.

With new money from the state flowing into our local schools and communities, local officials have the opportunity to balance their budgets without asking



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hardworking taxpayers to contribute even more.

Sand Hill Crane Natural Area

When Minnesota officially became a state in 1858, the federal government dedicated specific land to be owned and managed by the state. All proceeds from these lands would go to support Minnesota's public school system. Today, the lands are under the management of the DNR. According to the law, their primary obligation regarding School Trust Lands is to maximize their long term economic return.

The Sand Hill Crane Natural Area in Anoka County is part of the School Trust Lands. Earlier this summer, the DNR presented a plan that would have satisfied their responsibility to the School Trust Lands. However, as the plan also involved clear cutting on Sand Hill Crane lands, various other groups and level of government were concerned about the proposal.

After a number of meetings and a great deal of work, a resolution was reached that allowed the DNR to fulfill their objective without clear cutting any trees.

I would like to congratulate everyone, at all levels of government, for their success in reaching this compromise. Aaron Vande Linde, School Trust Administrator for the DNR, and John VonDeLinde, Director of Anoka County Parks and Recreation, deserve particular thanks for their leadership in this effort.

The level of cooperation and dedication involved was truly impressive and Minnesota's schools, as well as neighbors and visitors to Sand Hill Crane Natural Area, will benefit from their efforts.

LEXINGTON PICKS ADMINISTRATOR *continued from page 1*

Bill Petracek was the first candidate to be questioned by the city council. He described Fox Lake as having an annual budget of \$3.2 million, which is about double that of similarly sized cities in the Twin Cities. He described in detail how he used strategic planning to soften the blow to the city of having a TIF district expiring, which would have created a deficit in the budget.

Each candidate was asked to comment on the assessments made by Fursman, who categorized those observations by strengths, possible weaknesses and “value to the team”.

Petracek said Fursman’s observations were spot-on. As strengths, Petracek was seen to be someone who will involve others, have a concerned and caring approach, and would not be easily ruffled or flustered. Listed as possible weaknesses were “avoids interpersonal aggression and irritation”; “may see the world through ‘rose-colored glasses’”; “may be seen as easily manipulated . . . too trusting . . . indecisive . . .” and, delegating too little. As to his “value to the team”, Fursman observed that Petracek “is willing to provide help and a friendly ear and has strong personal and interpersonal skills.”

Speaking to the council, Petracek said he tries to turn his weaknesses into strengths. He trusts people’s opinions but he doesn’t want “yes men.” He said he wants to hear the truth.

Petracek also told the council that he tells the truth bluntly, having experience doing that in Fox Lake. “I bring things to the council, I’m not afraid of them. I tell them the truth rather than what they want to hear.”

He expanded on these comments when the wishy-washy question about council and administrator communication came up: “I appreciate councilors coming to me, giving their opinion.”

Another question posed a scenario of an employee who needs to step up their job performance and how the city administrator should handle the employee. Petracek cited a city clerk who had been at city hall over 30 years and was very resistant to change. It didn’t help that she was related to virtually everyone on the city council and many residents of the small town. He said she was used to having a free rein and had never had a boss. Petracek said being firm but patient paid off, as this was someone he didn’t want to lose because she had a rapport with the locals. Petracek also talked about Fox Lake once needing to change the city’s billing methods for residential garbage pickup. It was decided to put the charge on the utility bill rather than have residents traipse into city hall to buy stickers to affix to their garbage bags. To add the garbage fees to utility bills, computer software had to be purchased and the clerk resisted this as well. The result was a lot of staff time was able to be reallocated. Petracek’s city employee story had quite a familiar ring to this reporter.

Another scenario asked what to do about feuding neighbors? Petracek said he has dealt with this in the past, and got lucky that one of the antagonists moved away. He also spoke of some incidents in Lake Ozark, Missouri, another town where he had been the city administrator. The incidents involved bizarre behavior on the part of a city councilor, a building inspector who had a stroke and filed a lawsuit against the city, among others. Petracek, while relating these stories often mentioned that the people involved were on medication, which led to Councilman Plasch to remark, “you sure have a lot of people on meds down there.”

On questions about serving the public, Petracek said his philosophy was to make government easy for citizens to approach and access. He said a new phone system was installed in Fox Lake that streamlined taking phone calls from residents, and that he advocates using the city web site to make information available.

Kyle Morell was the next to be interviewed by the city council as a group. Morell resides only a stone’s throw from Lexington City Hall but on the Circle Pines side of the border. He has been the city administrator of Hinckley for 3 years, where they have a municipal on and off-sale liquor operation. For his opening presentation, he gave a detailed account of how he straightened out many problems he found with the liquor operation. Among the problems that were righted were the development of a liquor store policy manual, use of the employee time clock (employees had been punching the clock too far ahead and too far after their scheduled work hours, as well as punching the time cards of fellow employees), 42 conduct items became prohibited, including sleeping on the job and stealing, and a dress code was put in place after customer complaints. Morell also discovered the tipped employees working in the bar had received double tips. Cash was taken from the night’s receipts but the tips also showed up on employees’ pay checks. The city was able to recover only a portion of the estimated loss of \$71,000; Morell said it had been going on for approximately seven years. The IRS had to be notified but the statute of limitations capped the recovery to three years. Morell said he was compelled to make this discovery known to the public and it was brought to city council meetings. Employees pay checks were docked to repay some of the lost funds.

Morell gave examples of grant applications made, planning for new construction, etc. that led him to summarize himself as someone who is “numbers-oriented.”

As to Fursman’s observations, Morell said “you have hit me perfectly.” Fursman saw Morell’s strengths as having a high work ethic, is good with figures and honors his commitments. In the weaknesses column, comments

included that Morell may make unrealistic deadlines for himself, may find it difficult to say no at times, may be perceived as being too trusting, but also may appear to be too demanding.

Morell, not disputing these observations, said “I have been accused of being direct and demanding, and that I like to get to the root of the problem. I also don’t think being cautious is bad.” Morell was also described as a natural organizer, has high quality standards and enjoys using his intellect. Fursman added that in reference checks he made of Morell, the comments made were that he was down to business, has integrity and is direct. Morell agreed, “I don’t sugar-coat; I like to be honest and direct.”

To the question that skirted around the banning of the two council members from city hall, Morell opined that he welcomes the presence of elected officials. “They should be allowed in city hall, they have been elected.” A direct answer.

Morell also said that residents’ questions and problems should be taken care of right away, and that he wouldn’t want repeated complaints of non-action by city hall.

Ariel Klugman was the third interviewee of the council. A recent graduate of the University of Kansas, where many students are getting their public administration degrees (another popular university for this subject of study is Hamline University in St. Paul), Klugman was a jarring change of pace from the two that had preceded her at the podium.

Although a native of Hopkins, and recently an intern at neighboring Edina City Hall, Klugman seemed like a New Yorker with her rapid-fire cadence and high-toned, piercing voice that most assuredly clashed with the slow-paced Lexington City Council.

Compared to Morell and Petracek, Klugman seemed to be speaking a different language, and generally her points were hard to follow and digest. Morell refrained from using the buzzwords and government employee-speak that we hear so often today, which helped bring clarity and brevity to his interview. (In fact, the second interview group complained later in the day that Morell “was a man of few words.”)

Klugman’s buzzword arsenal included “team building”, “communicating”, “opportunities”, “strategic plan”, “conversation”, “structures”, “building partnerships”, “work as a team”, and many times referred to the city council as “you guys.”

Michael Ericson followed Klugman before the council. Variations of what Ericson said in Lexington was also conveyed to the Fridley City Council in April (see Anoka County Record, Apr. 25, 2013) when Ericson was a finalist for the city manager position there. Ericson has been a finalist in at least seven cities since he left the employment of Hugo as its city administrator in October 2011. They have been Forest Lake, Bayport, Vadnais Heights, Mendota Heights, West St. Paul, Fridley and Lexington. Ericson has been serving as an interim city administrator in Maple Plain for about three months while that city council conducts a search for a new hire.

Ericson told the Lexington council members that “Mike’s always a positive person, sees the glass as half full.” Fursman said Ericson’s references commented that he “is an upbeat guy, easy-going, positive, intelligent, a well-thought out family man.” Ericson said he coaches sports as a pastime and has “a can-do attitude and a blue collar background.”

When asked the question about the council/administrator relationship, Ericson stated he has, and would have personal chats with city councilors, asking them for input as to what they each saw as likes, dislikes and goals. Ericson advocates having a strategic goal session with the council as a whole. Ericson said he likes a collegial atmosphere and professes to be open and transparent, “I won’t hide information.” He vowed that anyone who knows him would say “he’s a straight shooter — he will tell you the truth.”

The second group of interviewers, comprised mostly of staff, heard a different answer to the related question, “what kind of communication link do you think is appropriate between elected officials and the department heads?”

Ericson said the elected officials didn’t have a right to tell the employees what they should do and that there needs to be “clear lines of authority” drawn between both sides. Staff should be respected, he mused. He also told the second group, “you are the experts — I will be your biggest supporter.”

To the second group’s question about making changes to the organization, Ericson said he would look at how services can be delivered at lower costs.

As for having to make an unpopular decision, Ericson told both groups about laying off one of three building inspectors in Hugo. The most senior employee was the one chosen. “We treated him with respect and dignity . . . gave him extra severance. He also made allegations that I had to investigate, which turned out to be untrue.”

Desaree Crane was the last to be interviewed. While Ericson spoke to the council, Crane, who is the assistant city administrator in Mounds View, told the second group that she will “work with staff and assess everything. I’m not the type who is going to change everything right away.” She also told staff, “I have high standards for accountability” and would have frequent meetings with department heads. She said due to being the assistant city administrator, she hasn’t had to mete out discipline since that is the job of the city administrator. Crane said she has had to inform the city administrator of

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disciplinary action that needed to be taken.

To the council, Crane said she asks questions, prioritizes and makes lists. She didn't agree with one of Fursman's observations that she may be too trusting. Her references made remarks that she has high moral and ethical standards, perceptive and is hard working, honest and direct, and self-motivated.

Crane described herself as a very ethical person, not confrontational, and "people tell me I am generous to a fault."

"I like open, clear communication — direct, with no fluff."

If residents go to a city councilor with a problem, Crane would like to be informed as well so she can do any work needed to resolve the issue. Crane said she wants people to be comfortable coming to city hall, and is very customer service-oriented.

After a lunch break, the two groups convened in the council chambers to discuss their findings. The second group had written comments on large sheets of newsprint for each candidate. Councilor Carin Payment, who was absent, was able to participate via speakerphone.

The second group had the most praise for Ericson, whose work experience

(which includes redevelopment and finance) impressed them. Most vocal about Ericson's attributes was the city's personnel attorney Paul Floyd. The discussion however quickly focused on Ericson's willingness to stay in the low-paying job. The salary cap that had been advertised as being as far as the council would be willing to go was \$90,000.

Ericson has the resume to ask for a much larger salary and has been a finalist in cities that were offering at least 20% to 30% more pay. The dollar amount that Ericson might have been offered was not discussed, nor was there any specifics about benefits discussed.

Councilor Betty Bailey suggested that Ericson would not be in the job very long as he would continue to look for a better job all the time he was in Lexington. Virtually everyone agreed with this hypothesis but some wanted to hire Ericson anyway because their eyes must have suddenly seen stars. Floyd and a few others said that even if he was in Lexington for only a few months or two or three years it would still be worth hiring him. Mark Kurth of the Planning Commission grunted that "he hasn't moved around that much — he was in Hugo for eleven years." Fire Chief Gary Grote said he puts more stock in a person's qualifications than the longevity question.

Bailey said "he would be bored here." She felt Petracek would stay in the job longer. Most of the talking from the council member side was by Bailey. Mayor Pitchford made the remark that he felt he was being interviewed by the candidates the day before, during the individual interview sessions.

Fursman then made some speeches to bolster the Ericson consideration. He said the "ICMA Code of Ethics" says you must stay in the job two years after the contract has been signed. (The ICMA is the national club of city managers and administrators).

Some in the staff group said they were impressed that Ericson had made inquiries and researched the city because he had a command of many facets of Lexington. They were impressed that he wanted to come to the booya. They did write down on the big newsprint sheet that "he spoke in sound bites."

The staff group also said they thought Crane would be a "disciplinarian."

Fursman and city attorney Kurt Glaser discovered that the Saturday meeting notice did not specify that the decision would be made that day, so it was put off until the Oct. 3 council meeting. A straw poll was taken however, where each council member got to vote for their top two. There were 4 for Ericson, 3 for Petracek, 2 for Morell and 1 for Crane. Klugman received no votes. - **ACR**

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Commissioner Scott Schulte stated that while he agreed with much of what Commissioner Look said, "we need to implement this whether we agree with it or not, and we need to implement it to be fair and efficient." Commissioner Schulte stated this in reference to the county's employees.

Commissioner West pointed out that dentistry isn't even a service offered in the Affordable Care Act, yet one of the Act's taxes is being placed upon dental insurance premiums.

In response to Commissioner West's comments, Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah said, "That's why we were a bit surprised that we have this additional fee that has been added to our dental insurance premiums, which will be passed along to our employees, middle-class working families. I certainly agree with the statements that were made. Unfortunately whether we like it or not, it is part of the bill sent to us by our insurance provider, and somebody has to pay the bill and in this instance, it will be our employees who will be paying the bill in order to cover the Affordable Care Act. And this is 1.08% of the total per month but in the case of the health insurance, it was 2.83% and ultimately it is costing the employees. And I think when you start to add up the cost, it is having a huge impact on middle-class working families."

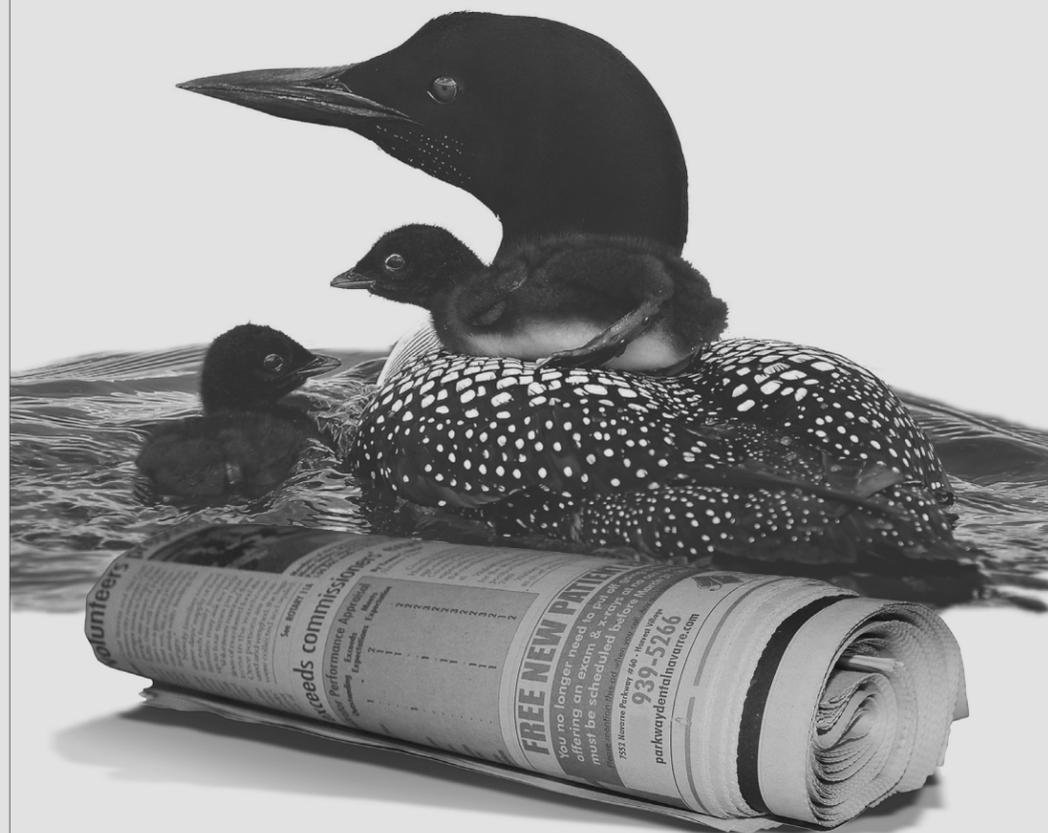
After commenting that he often times has the opposing view on the board, which drew laughter from everyone, Commissioner Jim Kordiak stated that this country has struggled to bring health care to those who can ill afford it and desperately need it. He indicated that these new taxes are essentially the consequence of now being able to offer health insurance to thousands of individuals in this country that for a wide variety of reasons could not qualify for or access health care. He concluded by saying, "For the most part, we should be pleased that we can now pull them in, help insure their health needs, and insure their best benefits in today's society."

In response Commissioner Sivarajah stated, "If you look at the State of Minnesota, actually we have a smaller percentage of uninsured individuals than most places in the country and I don't know if

Minnesota

Read all about it: Minnesota is home to 12,000 loons and some migratory birds as well!

Psych! Minnesota is indisputably Loon Central with more than 12,000 of the birds calling the state home. Black and white and red all over (or at least in its eyes), the loon shares that description with **Minnesota's newspapers!** In fact, more than 3 million Minnesotans regularly read newspapers in the course of a week.



If you're a newspaper reader, you're not crazy at all! And if you're an advertiser, remember that **Minnesota's newspapers** may be the sanest place to spend your money.



MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION



Sources: * Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota Newspaper Association

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this is going to necessarily improve that situation by any means." She pointed out that younger workers are now facing higher costs through the government health care exchanges versus what they could have gotten on private markets and that many may just choose to pay the penalty and not have insurance.

The board approved the motion on a 5-2 vote with Commissioners Look and Braastad voting NO.

In other board action, the board approved an additional Property Room Technician for the Sheriff's Office, an agreement with the Metropolitan Council for a three year pilot program for a Highway 65 express bus route along with a park and ride lot, and gave final approval of up to \$1 million for the Northtown Library remodel and Department of Education Grant Application for Public Library Accessibility and Improvement.

The board also entered into a three-year Timber Management Lease with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 58 acres of timber rights on State School Trust Lands within the Sandhill Crane Natural Area in East Bethel. The county will be paying the state \$5,000 a year to compensate them for lost school trust fund revenue, but in turn the land will not be clear cut of oak trees and the county will monitor and maintain the land to address any future oak wilt issues. This resolves what had been a contentious issue in the City of East Bethel. - ACR

Opening comments from Commissioner Matt Look: "Oak grove is a community that has balanced need and managed wants and they are a very unique community. They celebrate individual space in a rural setting and it is always interesting to come here and engage with the people."

Opening Comments from Oak Grove Mayor Mark Korin:

"Welcome to the City of Oak Grove, my name is Mark Korin and I am the mayor of this city. On behalf of the city council and the citizens, I really enjoy levels of government that come out and understand who we are, where we are, and what we are all about."

"We are about a 36 square mile city there is about 8500 people in this city, 2800 homes, at our peak in 2007, we were doing about 100 homes new build a year and now we are down to roughly 40 homes new a year. Our lowest point during this recession was 3 new homes."

"We have cut our taxes over the past five years, restructured the city staff, and being very frugal with this new city staff, we have roughly 7 people on board, and our budgets are right around \$2.1 -\$2.3 million. At a high peak it was closer to \$3.5 million.

This year we are looking at another reduction in our taxes for the 2014 budgetary season."

"We have two county parks. We appreciate our relationship with Sheriff Stewart and patrol services from Anoka County. Like Commissioner Look said, we see a lot of work with the roads. We believe in essential services. Roads are our main thing out here to get to and from our homes."

"We are a bedroom community with a little bit of industrial, little bit of commercial, but basically it is a nice place to live. I appreciate the excitement and willingness to come out and visit us and I look forward to our ongoing relationship."

Opening Comments from Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah:

"Thank you mayor and I appreciate the mayor as well as the staff here for the warm welcome and hospitality. We really appreciate it and it was nice to be able to come out this morning."

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR

ANOKA COUNTY
Anoka County Govt. Center
2100 3rd Ave.
Anoka MN 55303-5024
Ph.: 763-323-5700
www.co.anoka.mn.us
Mon. Oct 14
Transportation Committee, 9am
Room 772, Government Center
Tue. Oct 15
Human Services Committee, 8:30am
Room 710 Government Center
Information Tech Committee, 10:30am
Room 772, Government Center
Finance & Cap Imp Cmte, 1pm
Room 772, Government Center
Intergovt & Comm Rel Cmte, 3pm
Room 772, Government Center
Thr. Oct 17
Community Corrections Board, noon
Room 710, Government Center
Public Safety Committee, 3pm
Public Safety Center, Andover
Mon. Oct 21
Library Board, 5:30pm
Support Services Building, Blaine
Thr. Oct 24
Management Committee, 8:30am
Room 772, Government Center
County Board, 9:30am
Room 705, Government Center
Tue. Oct 30
Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council, 2pm
Blaine Police Department
FRIDLEY
Fridley City Hall
6431 University Ave NE
Fridley, MN 55432
Ph: 763-571-3450
www.ci.fridley.mn.us
Mon. Oct 14
City Council Workshop, 6:30pm
City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
City Hall
Wed. Oct. 16
Planning Commission, 7pm
City Hall
Mon. Oct 21
Council Budget Work Session, 5pm
City Hall
Mon. Oct 28
City Council, 7pm
City Hall

HAM LAKE
Ham Lake City Hall
15544 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph: 763-434-9555
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us
Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM
Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON
Mon. Oct. 14
Planning Commission, 6 pm
Wed. Oct. 16
Park & Tree Commission, 6 pm
Monday, Oct. 21
City Council, 6 pm
Monday, Oct. 28
Planning Commission, 6 pm
LINWOOD TWP
Linwood Town Hall
22817 Typo Creek Dr. NE
Linwood, MN 55079
Ph: 651-462-2812
linwoodtownship.org
Tues. Oct. 15
Planning Comm., 7 pm
Mon. Oct. 21
Cemetery Cmte., 6 pm
Mon. Oct. 28
Park & Rec. Cmte., 6 pm
OAK GROVE
Oak Grove City Hall
19900 Nightingale St. NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011
Ph: 763-404-7000
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us
2nd and last Monday of month
City Council, 7 pm (EDA follows council mtg on last Monday)
3rd Wednesday
Parks Comm., 6 pm
3rd Thursday
Planning Comm., 7 pm
RAMSEY
7550 Sunwood Dr. NW
Ramsey, MN 55303
Ph: 763-427-1410
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us
Tue. Oct. 15
Public Works Committee, 6 pm
Mon. Oct. 21
Charter Commission, 6:30pm
Tue. Oct. 22
City Council, 7pm
HRA, 9pm

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1318 McKay Dr NE #300
Ham Lake, MN 55304
Ph.: (763) 434-2030
anokaswcd.org
Mon. Oct. 21
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm
CENTENNIAL ISD #12
4707 North Rd
Circle Pines, MN 55014
Ph.: (763) 792-6000
isd12.org
Mon. Oct. 21
School Bd, Centennial Elementary Media Center, 6:30 pm
FRIDLEY ISD #14
6000 W Moore Lake Dr
Fridley, MN 55432
Ph.: (763) 502-5000
fridley.k12.mn.us
Tue. Oct. 22
School Bd "work session," 5:30 pm, Public Comment, 7 pm, Business Mtg 7:30 pm, Fridley City Hall
SPRING LAKE PARK ISD #16
1415 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Ph.: (763) 786-5570
springlakeparkschools.org
Tue. Nov. 12
School Bd, 6 pm
QCTV Cable Commission
Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka
Not announced
North Metro TV Cable Commission
Ham Lake, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Lino Lakes, Lexington, Centerville, Circle Pines
Tue. Nov. 5
Operations Committee, 10:30 am
12520 Polk St. NE, Blaine
Wed. Nov. 6
Executive Committee, 6 pm
12520 Polk St. NE, Blaine
Wed. Nov 20
Full Commission, 6pm
1301 - 81st Ave, NE, Spring Lake Park

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Meetings listed on this page are subject to change - always call ahead to verify

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE
OCTOBER
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31
NOVEMBER
1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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**CITY OF OAK GROVE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 13-06**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 109-98 - GB, GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT BY ALLOWING RETAIL SHOPPING USES AS A PERMITTED USE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK GROVE HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 109 Zoning of the Oak Grove City Code regarding Zoning Districts shall be amended by allowing Retail Shopping uses as a Permitted Use in the General Business District as follows:

Section 109-98. GB, General Business District

(b) *Permitted Uses*

(23) Retail Shopping Uses

SECTION 2. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective from and after its passage and publication.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Oak Grove this 30th day of September 2013.

/s/ Mark R. Korin, Mayor /s/ Sheryl F. Fiskewold, City Clerk
(Published Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE WORKER POSITION**

Full-time street/park maintenance worker position. Must have high school diploma or GED plus two year experience in the operation and maintenance of light and heavy equipment, blacktop repair, turf maintenance, or mechanics. Valid Minnesota Class A CDL license with tanker endorsement. For an application contact Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Avenue NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304, call (763) 434-9555, or visit our website at www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us. Application deadline is noon on Friday, October 25, 2013
(Published Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 13-12**

An Ordinance relating to transitional areas in the CD-1 and CD-2 Zoning Districts; permitting certain conditional uses therein.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Ham Lake, Anoka County, Minnesota, as follows:

There is hereby added to the Ham Lake City Code an Article 9-500, to read as follows:

9-500 Transition Zones in CD-1 and CD-2 Districts

9-510 Preamble It is recognized that there are numerous large (and/or adjacent smaller) under-utilized commercial or commercial-eligible parcels in the Trunk Highway 65 Corridor that have not obtained their highest and best commercial usages. Some of these parcels were formerly occupied by businesses, some are currently occupied by businesses, some are vacant, and some are or were in agricultural use. Such parcels, if required to strictly observe the requirements of CD-1 and CD-2 zoning, will remain vacant and/or under-utilized indefinitely. It is the purpose of this Article 9-500 to identify such parcels and permit a more liberal usage of Conditional Use Permit activity thereon, to promote increased commerce, tax base and employment.

9-520 Transition Zones The following lands are hereby designated Transition Zones. This is not a separate zoning category, but shall embrace lands that are or will be zoned CD-1 or CD-2, and provide for Conditional Use Permits within these zones that differ from the Conditional Use Permit provisions found elsewhere in the City Code. Any of the following parcels that are also in the CPOD Overlay Districts created by Article 9-400 of this Code shall be exempt from the provision of Article 9-400 if a development plan is proposed under the auspices of this Article 9-500.

North Area
PIN 05-32-23-11-0001
PIN 05-32-23-12-0001
PIN 05-32-23-13-0001
PIN 05-32-23-14-0001

Central Area
PIN 29-32-23-34-0002
PIN 29-32-23-34-0005
PIN 29-32-23-34-0006
PIN 29-32-23-43-0017

South Area
PIN 32-32-23-42-0002
PIN 32-32-23-42-0003
PIN 32-32-23-42-0004
PIN 32-32-23-42-0005
PIN 32-32-23-41-0006
PIN 32-32-23-41-0007
PIN 32-32-23-41-0012
PIN 32-32-23-43-0016
PIN 32-32-23-43-0017
PIN 32-32-23-43-0018

PIN 32-32-23-43-0019
Aberdeen Street ROW North of 134th Avenue NE

9-530 Conditional Use Permits Conditional Use Permits may be issued in the Transition Zones for any mercantile venture that meets the following criteria:

A. Complete Parcel Usage. The proposed usage must involve an active commercial use for all and not less than all of the parcels in the North Area, the Central Areal or the South Area.

B. Land Use. All Conditional Uses now allowed in the CD-1 or CD-2 districts shall be Conditional Uses in the Transition Zones. All existing Conditional Uses, whether or not now permitted as Conditional Uses in the CD-1 or CD-2 districts shall be allowed Conditional Uses in the Transition Zones.

C. Procedures. All procedural requirements for issuance of a Conditional Use Permit as found elsewhere in this Codes shall be observed, including Public Hearing.

D. Site Plan and Narrative. All proposed developments in the Transition Zones must submit a written narrative and a site plan describing their proposal in detail and drawn to a scale of 1" = 50 feet, showing the footprints of all buildings, the location of all drives and parking areas, the location of all outdoor storage or other usage, and the location of all greenspace, ponding or landscape area.

E. Agency Approvals. All proposed developments in the Transition Zones must meet or be capable of meeting the requirements of all governmental or quasi-governmental entities having jurisdiction over the activity.

9-540 Development Agreements and Approval Discretion. All Conditional Use Permits in the Transition Zones shall be implemented via development agreements with the City, which may include, without limitation, the following requirements:

A. Screening. The agreement may impose such screening requirements as are deemed appropriate;

B. Access Closures. The agreement may require access closures to adjoining or nearby trunk highways, City or County roads.

C. Easements. The agreement may require the dedication of such road, drainage, utility or other easements as are deemed appropriate.

D. Access Improvements. The agreement may require that the developer install or pay for access improvements to the development, including, without limitation, the signalization of accesses from public roads.

E. Hours. The agreement may impose operational restrictions in hours, if deemed appropriate.

F. Noise Control. The agreement may require the installation of noise abatement structures or practices if deemed appropriate.

G. Environmental Features. The agreement may require the implementation of environmental best practices or infrastructure as deemed appropriate, including practices relating to the preservation or replanting of vegetation.

H. Temporary Permits. The agreement may require an expiration date for the permit.

I. Security. The agreement may require that the Developer post security acceptable to the City to guarantee performance of the Developer's obligations under the agreement.

J. Phasing. The agreement may provide for the phasing of implementation of the complete development plan over a given number of years.

K. Municipal Costs. The agreement may provide for developer reimbursement of some or all of City costs and expenses in reviewing the proposal.

L. Studies. The agreement may require the developer to furnish such engineering, soils, traffic, environmental, hydrologic, noise or other technical or scientific studies as are deemed appropriate.

M. Platting. The agreement may require platting of the land, or may impose on the Developer the obligation to meet any of the requirements for platted commercial land as found in Article 10 of the City Code.

9-550 Intervening Partial Development. The three geographic areas described as North Zone, Central Zone and South Zone were identified because they contain significant quantities of contiguous land area that are well suited to a uniform usage. In the event that a conventional land development proposal is approved by the City for a land use involving a permitted or conditional use and a permanent structure or structures on any of the individual parcels within either the North Zone, the Central Zone or the South Zone, then as of the date that a Certificate of Occupancy is issued for any such development, the Transition Zone status for the remainder of the North Zone, Central Zone or South Zone, as the case may be, shall be terminated.

Presented to the Ham Lake City Council on September 16, 2013 and adopted by a unanimous vote this 7th day of October, 2013.

/s/ Michael G. Van Kirk, Mayor /s/ Denise Webster, City Clerk
(Published Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333**

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive

rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:
Strawberry Butt
2. Principal Place of Business:
465 96th Ln. N.E., Blaine MN 55434

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:
Kristen Opsal, 465 96th Ln. N.E., Blaine MN 55434

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

ment I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: September 10, 2013 #69626720002
/s/ Kristen Opsal, Owner
(Published Sep. 26 & Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**CITY OF OAK GROVE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Oak Grove City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013 at or around 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 19900 Nightingale St NW, to accept public comment regarding certification of delinquent sewer usage/water usage, street light utilities and the utility availability fee on the payable 2014 tax rolls. All delinquent balances shall be charged an interest rate of ten percent (10%) to be certified to the county for collection with the payable 2014 property taxes.

All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard on the matter, or to submit written materials prior to the meeting.

Sheryl F. Fiskewold
City Clerk
(Published Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Anoka County Board met on September 24, 2013. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions/ordinances were adopted: #2013-111 Domestic Violence Awareness, #2013-112-115 Highway Projects, #2013-116 Economic Assistance Payments, #2013-117 Veterans Services Grant, and #2013-118 Accepting Charitable Campaign Gifts. A public hearing was held regarding changes to the Capital Improvements Program. A full copy of the agenda, minutes, accounts, and claims greater than \$2000 may be found on the Anoka County Web site: www.anokacounty.us
(Published Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333**

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Karp13 Photography
2. Principal Place of Business:
9182 Coral Sea St NE, Blaine, MN 55449

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:
Nick Karpen, karp13@gmail.com

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: June 21, 2013 #678505400022
/s/ Nick Karpen, Owner
(Published Oct. 10 & Oct. 24, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333**

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

Staging By Hope
2. Principal Place of Business:
3649 146th Avenue N.E., Ham Lake MN 55304

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:
Hope Goddard, 3649 146th Avenue N.E., Ham Lake MN 55304

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: September 10, 2013 #69828050002
/s/ Hope E. Goddard, Owner
(Published Sep. 26 & Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)



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