JULIE A. BARTHELS Winnebago County Clerk 112 Otter Ave, PO Box 2806 Oshkosh, WI 54903-2806 (920) 232-3430

NOTICE OF COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMISSION,

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

BOARD OR COMMITTEE:

**see below

TIME OF MEETING:

7:30 A.M.

DATE OF MEETING:

Thursday, January 4, 2024

PLACE OF MEETING:

DAVID ALBRECHT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

112 Otter Ave, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Oshkosh, WI

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION LINK: <u>https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/planning-and-zoning/boa-meeting-links</u>

Additional instructions can be found at: https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/planning-and-zoning. For further detailed information concerning this notice, contact the Town Clerk or the Winnebago County Zoning office,

where the application is available for viewing.

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING

DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

(Deliberative meetings are open to the public for viewing only – public participation is not allowed.)

- 1. Approval of minutes from November 9, (Deliberative), November 28, (Public Hearing), December 14 (Viewing), December 20, (Public Hearing)
- 2. Amcor North America 2450 Badger Ave City of Oshkosh, Variance
- 3. JEL LLC 4532 Bellhaven Ln Town of Algoma Appeal

** This meeting is also being posted as a Committee meeting for: Facilities & Property Management

The Committee reserves the right to take up any item on the agenda at any time after the meeting commences.

^{*} All interested persons wishing to be heard at the public hearing may appear in person or via Zoom using the meeting information below. A direct link to the Zoom Meeting is available on the Winnebago County Meetings and Agenda calendar on the above indicated date.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT **DELIBERATIVE MEETING**

November 9th, 2023 7:30 A.M.

Third Floor Conference Room – David W. Albrecht Administration Building

DELIBERATIVE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

Greg Kargus, Tom Tuschl, Sue Drexler, Tom Verstegen

Daniel Lefebvre -Assistant Zoning Administrator, Caleb Edwards -Code Enforcement Officer, Karen Fredrick -Court Reporter

The meeting was called to order by Greg Kargus at 7:30 A.M.

GENERAL

MOTION made by T. Tuschl to approve the September 26th (Public Hearing) and October 12th (Deliberative) meeting minutes. Seconded by T. Verstegen. MOTION carried 3-0-1, S. Drexler Abstained.

MOTION made by T. Tuschl to approve the October 26th (Viewing) meeting minutes. Seconded by T. Verstegen. MOTION carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed findings and criteria in order to act on the variance.

<u>AMES, RICHARD & PAMELA – 3270 SHOREWOOD DR, TOWN OF</u> <u>OSHKOSH – VARIANCE</u>

The Board discussed the variance request. Discussion included the required setbacks, potential ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements, use of the proposed addition, buildable area(s), building dimensions, existing property conditions, and reasonable use of the property.

MOTION by T. Tuschl to deny the variance. Seconded by S. Drexler. S. Drexler read the findings for denial as discussed by the Board. The Board determined the variance has not met the required variance criteria based on the findings. MOTION carried 3-0-1, G. Kargus Abstained.

REVIEW AND ACTION ON 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION by T. Verstegen to approve the 2024 Board of Adjustment Meeting Schedule as proposed. Seconded by T. Tuschl. MOTION carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by S. Drexler to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by T. Verstegen. MOTION carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel R. Lefebvre Assistant Zoning Administrator

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

November 28th, 2023

5:30 P.M

First Floor Conference Room (120)- County Administration Building

PUBLIC HEARING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

Greg Kargus, Tom Tuschl, and Tom Verstegen

Mary Anne Mueller- Corporation Counsel, Cary Rowe- Zoning Administrator, Daniel Lefebvre- Assistant Zoning Administrator, Caleb Edwards- Code Enforcement Officer, and Karen Fredrick- Court Reporter.

Jane Landretti- Appellants Attorney, Ben Ganther- Appellants Contractor, Mark Neubauer- Appellants Contractor

This meeting was called to order by Greg Kargus at 5:31 P.M. Board members introduced themselves and Caleb Edwards, Code Enforcement Officer explained the appeals process.

JEL LLC- 4532 BELLHAVEN LN, TOWN OF ALGOMA- APPEAL

Applicant is appealing a decision made by Winnebago County Planning & Zoning Staff to deny a permit for a retaining wall located in the shore yard setback area.

Mark Neubauer answered questions from Jane Landretti, Mary Anne Mueller, and the Board.

Daniel Lefebvre answered questions from Jane Landretti, Mary Anne Mueller, and the Board.

Daniel Lefebvre stated Winnebago County received a letter from the WDNR and read the letter.

The board was given exhibits from Jane Landretti and Mary Anne Mueller.

Cary Rowe answered questions from Jane Landretti and Mary Anne Mueller.

The Board discussed the exhibits, project, ordinances, and retaining walls with Jane Landretti, Mary Anne Mueller, Daniel Lefebvre, and Mark Neubauer.

Mary Anne Mueller and Jane Landretti gave final arguments, request to provide legal arguments, and request deliberative date to be moved to later date.

MOTION made by Tom Tuschl to move deliberative date to January 4th, 2023. Seconded by Tom Verstegen. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Tom Verstegen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Tom Tuschl. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Caleb Edwards

Code Enforcement Officer

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT **VIEWING**

December 14th, 2023 8:00 A.M. County Administration Building

PRESENT

Tom Tuschl, Greg Kargus, Tom Verstegen, Sue Drexler

Caleb Edwards- Code Enforcement Officer

ITEMS

The Board met at 8:00 A.M. at the County Administration Building, then departed to view the following properties:

1. Amcor Flexibles North America- 2450 Badger Ave, City of Oshkosh- Variance

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 A.M

Respectfully submitted,

Caleb Edwards

Code Enforcement Officer

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

December 20th, 2023

5:30 P.M

First Floor Conference Room (120)- County Administration Building

PUBLIC HEARING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

Greg Kargus, Tom Tuschl, Sue Drexler, and Tom Verstegen

Daniel Lefebvre- Assistant Zoning Administrator, Caleb Edwards- Code Enforcement Officer.

This meeting was called to order by Greg Kargus at 5:30 P.M. Board members introduced themselves and Caleb Edwards, Code Enforcement Officer explained the appeals process.

AMCOR- 2450 BADGER AVE, CITY OF OSHKOSH- VARIANCE

Applicant is requesting a variance to construct two silos that will exceed the maximum height allowed in AIR-2 zoning.

The board discussed the application and reviewed letters from the FAA and Wittman Regional airport with county staff.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Sue Drexler to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Tom Verstegen. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Caleb Edwards

Code Enforcement Officer

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT DELIBERATIVE SESSION POST STAFF REPORT

Town and/or agency's comments:

Wittman Regional Airport does not have any concerns with the project.

The FAA has confirmed the structures do not exceed obstruction standards and would not be hazard to air navigation

CRITERIA AND ADVISORY FINDINGS

23.7-234 "Basis of decision" (required for all Ch. 23 <u>Town/County Zoning Code</u>, Ch. 26 <u>Floodplain Zoning Code</u>, and Ch. 27 <u>Shoreland Zoning Code</u> variances)

 Criteria: The requirement in question would unreasonably prevent the property owner from using the property for a permitted purpose or would render conformity with such requirement unnecessarily burdensome and such circumstances were not self-created.

Findings for approval: The proposed silos will be the same height of the existing silos on the property.

Findings for denial: The applicant already has reasonable use of the property.

2. Criteria: The subject property has unique physical characteristics or limitations that prevent the property from being developed in compliance with the requirement in questions.

Findings for approval: The proposed silos are needed for manufacturing purposes in the proposed location as much of the available area has already been developed.

Findings for denial: The property has no unique characteristics; the proposed silos could be built to the allowed maximum height.

3. Criteria: The granting of the variance will not be contrary to or harm the public interest given the general purposes of the zoning regulations and the specific purposes of the requirement in question.

Findings for approval: The increase in silo size has no adverse effect to public interest.

Findings for denial: The variance does not meet the Chapter 24 height requirements.

Based upon the above finding Town/County Zoning Code	•		criteria of Article	7, Division 12	, Section 23.	7-234,
Staff Recommendation: Appr	oval With	Conditions				
Advisory Conditions: Town Conditions: NONE						
County Conditions: Construction must me	et all FAA	regulations.				
VOTE:		to				

JASON LINDEMANN A/K/A JEL, LLC 4532 Bellhaven Lane Oshkosh, WI 54904 Applicant,

Application No. 23-AP-01

and

WINNEBAGO COUNTY ZONING DEPARTMENT 112 Otter Avenue, 3rd Floor Oshkosh, WI 54901 Respondent.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF ITS DENIAL OF SPECIAL ZONING PERMISSION FOR A RETAINING WALL IN THE SHORELAND SETBACK AREA AT 4532 BELLHAVEN LANE IN OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 27, 2022, Ganther Construction applied to Winnebago County for a Zoning Permit on behalf of Jason Lindemann for the construction of a residential home and attached garage at 4532 Bellhaven Lane in Oshkosh WI. The request was granted and the permit was issued on August 25, 2022. (Exhibit 1). In June 2023, while inspecting an unrelated property, Winnebago County Zoning staff noticed a large retaining wall on the Lindemann property within 75 feet of the shoreland setback area of a navigable waterway. (Exhibit 2). This wall was not shown on the plans accompanying the original permit. Assistant Zoning Administrator Daniel

Lefebvre contacted Ganther Construction and notified the contractor there were two violations of state statute and the Winnebago County General Code: the retaining wall was within the 75-foot shoreland setback and there was no evidence of zoning or erosion control permits, which by code are required to be placed in a conspicuous location on the affected property. Ganther Construction was notified that the retaining wall had to be completely removed and the property seeded and matted to be returned to the original slope by August 1, 2023. Failure to do so would result in a municipal citation of \$389.50 with an additional penalty of \$200.00 per day until the wall was removed. (Exhibit 3). A meeting was held with Ganther Construction on June 21, 2023 to discuss a resolution and Ganther representatives advised they would need to contact Mr. Lindemann for direction. On July 10, 2023, Winnebago County Zoning staff was contacted by attorneys for Mr. Lindemann, acknowledging the structure was placed within the zoning setback area but adding that the County was "required" to grant special zoning permission for a structure to be placed within the zoning setback area since certain standards were met. A new site plan in support of the request for a retaining wall was attached. (Exhibit 4). On July 18, 2023, Mr. Lefebvre notified attorneys for Mr. Lindemann that a retaining wall did not fall within the exceptions referenced by the firm. (Exhibit 5). On July 24, 2023, the Lindemann firm requested an appeal of Mr. Lefebvre's July 18, 2023 decision. (Exhibit 6). On July 25, 2023, Mr. Lefebvre advised Attorney Landretti, Mr.

Lindemann's legal representative, of the process for an appeal and provided her with accompanying paperwork. (Exhibit 7). On August 25, 2023, Winnebago County received an Administrative Appeal Application of Mr. Lefebvre's decision. (Exhibit 8). On November 28, 2023, the Zoning Board of Adjustment held a public hearing on the appeal. (Exhibit 9). Mark Neubauer, a Construction Project Manager for Ganther Construction, testified on behalf of Mr. Lindemann. Mr. Neubauer's role as project manager for the Lindemann project was to hire the design consultant, purchase materials and hire the landscape contractor. Mr. Neubauer admitted the original project was planned without a retaining wall but Mr. Lindemann decided it would be "nice" to keep the area flat (Winnebago County Zoom recording of 11/28/2023 Public Hearing 26:33, Board of Adjustment 11-28-2023 (youtube.com)). He estimated the retaining wall was 80 feet in length. Mr. Lefebvre and Zoning Administrator Cary Rowe testified on behalf of the Winnebago County Zoning Department. Both Messiers. Lefebvre and Rowe testified that Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall was not an exempt structure under state statute and county code because there was one solid side. (Winnebago County Zoom recording of 11/28/2023 Public Hearing 52:26, Board of Adjustment 11-28-2023 (youtube.com)). Received and admitted into evidence was a November 27, 2023 letter from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Shoreland Specialist Dale Rezabek. (Exhibit 10). Mr. Rezabek stated that the Winnebago County's ordinance was

compliant with Wis. Stat. §59. 692 and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115. It was not more restrictive than the statewide shoreland zoning standard.

"In this current JEL, LLC Property case the department concurs with the application of the county shoreland zoning ordinance regarding retaining walls, which are not listed as exempt from the 75 foot setback from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) in NR 115. Section 59.692 (1v), Stat, states that special zoning permission is allowed for structures that meet the conditions listed under (1v)(a) thru (d). Condition (1v)(c) states that the structure has "...no sides or has open or screened sides." A retaining wall is defined in s. 59.692(1), Stat, as an accessory structure, that has a side. The county has applied the rules correctly according to Statute and their ordinance (Ch. 27, Sec. 6.1)."

(Exhibit 10).

ARGUMENT

Winnebago County is not Required to Grant Special Zoning Permission for a Structure in a Shoreland Setback Area if it Fails to Comply with the Conditions Set Forth in Wis. Stat. §59.692 (1v).

There is no question that Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall under state statute and county code does not qualify as a structure eligible for the shoreland setback area exemption.

Wis. Stat. §59.692 (1v) states:

(1v) A county shall grant special zoning permission for the construction or placement of a structure on property in a shoreland setback area if all of the following apply:

- (a) The part of the structure that is nearest to the water is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary high-water mark.
- (b) The total floor area of all of the structures in the shoreland setback area of the property will not exceed 200 square feet. In calculating this square footage, boathouses shall be excluded.
- (c) The structure that is the subject of the request for special zoning permission has no sides or has open or screened sides.
- (d) The county must approve a plan that will be implemented by the owner of the property to preserve or establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest to the water.

Wisconsin Administrative Code 115.05 (1)(b) provides in pertinent part:

- 1m. 'Exempt structures.' All of the following structures are exempt from the shoreland setback standards in subd. 1: ...
- b. Open sided and screened structures such as gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses in the shoreland setback area that satisfy the requirements in s. 59.692 (1v), Stats.

Chapter 27, Article 6.1 (1)(b) of the Winnebago County General Code mirrors state statute and administrative code.

- (1) EXEMPT STRUCTURES. (NR 115.05(1)(b)(1m) and § 59.692(1k)(a)(6). All of the following structures are exempt from the shoreland setback standards in section 6.1: ...
- (b) Open-sided and screened structures such as gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses in the shoreland setback area that satisfy the requirements in § 59.692(1v), Stats:
- (1) The part of the structure that is nearest to the water is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary-high water mark.
- (2) The floor area of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet.
- (3) The structure that is the subject of the request for special zoning permission has no sides or has open or screened sides.

(4) The county must approve a plan that will be implemented by the owner of the property to preserve or establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70% of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest to the water. The design of the vegetative buffer zone shall follow the standards for the establishment of a primary buffer, as described in section 13 of this ordinance.

Statutory interpretation "begins with the language of the statute. If the meaning of the statute is plain, we ordinarily stop the inquiry." State ex rel. Kalal v. Circuit Court for Dane County, 2004 WI 58, para. 45, 271 Wis. 2d 633, 663. Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall in the shoreland setback area does not comply with all the statutory requirements per Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v) and Chapter 27, Article 6.1(1)(b) of the Winnebago County General Code. The language in statute and code is clear and unambiguous. An exempt structure is a structure that has no sides or has open or screened sides. According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, a side is defined as "a surface forming a border or face of an object, an outer portion of something considered as facing in a particular direction." A retaining wall is a threedimensional object, having sides or faces, each of which is a 2-dimensional object. Accordingly, a retaining wall has 6 sides. The retaining wall in question has a solid side that can be viewed from the lake as well as the neighboring property so it does not qualify as either having no sides or having open sides. In addition to the direct testimony of Winnebago County's witnesses to this fact (Winnebago County Zoom recording of 11/28/2023 Public Hearing 41:13, Board of Adjustment 11-28-2023

(youtube.com)), this was acknowledged on cross examination by Mark Neubauer, the Ganther Construction Project Manager assigned to the Lindemann construction (Winnebago County Zoom recording of 11/28/2023 Public Hearing 13:29, Board of Adjustment 11-28-2023 (youtube.com)). Moreover, Attorney Landretti stated on the record "Obviously, a retaining wall has a side." (Winnebago County Zoom recording of 11/28/2023 Public Hearing 10:08, Board of Adjustment 11-28-2023 (youtube.com)).

In his argument, Mr. Lindemann references the guiding principle of the free use of private property when interpreting shoreland zoning ordinances to resolve an ambiguity in the meaning of a word or phrase. There are no ambiguities in Chapter 27, Article 6.1 (1)(b) of the Winnebago County Code. Moreover, Mr. Lindemann has failed to show that the absence of a retaining wall prevents him from enjoying any reasonable use of the property. The brief filed on Mr. Lindemann's behalf states that the retaining wall is the most appealing way to deal with a steeply sloped site and is far superior to the dramatically sloped grade that would be present if the wall had to be removed (Page 2 of Lindemann Brief). Mr. Neubauer admitted the original project was planned without a retaining wall but Mr. Lindemann decided it would be nice to keep the area flat (Winnebago County Zoom recording of 11/28/2023 Public Hearing 26:33, Board of Adjustment 11-28-2023 (youtube.com)). This retaining wall was built for aesthetics but it isn't for Mr. Lindemann to make an

aesthetic judgment concerning the shoreline. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What may be hideous to one person may be beautiful to another. One of the overriding purposes of the shoreland protection setback zone is to "preserve and restore shoreland vegetation and natural scenic beauty through:

- (a) Restricting the removal of natural shoreland cover.
- (b) Preventing shoreline encroachment by structures.
- (c) Controlling shoreland excavation and other earth moving activities.
- (d) Regulating the use and placement of boathouses and other structures."

Chapter 27, Article 1.3(4) of the Winnebago County General Code.

Aesthetics is irrelevant to this matter. What is relevant is that Mr. Lindemann built a retaining wall without obtaining the required permits, sought to remedy the situation by obtaining special zoning permission and was denied special zoning permission by the Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Department because Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall fails to comply with the conditions set forth in Wis. Stat. §59.692 (1v).

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Zoning Board of Adjustment should affirm Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Department's 7/18/23 denial of special zoning permission for a retaining wall at 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh, WI.

Dated: December 21, 2023.

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel for Winnebago County Attorney for Respondent, Winnebago County Zoning Department

State Bar No: 1068088 112 Otter Avenue, 3rd Floor

Oshkosh, WI 54901

mmueller@winnebagocountywi.gov

920-236-4753



IT IS UNLAWFUL TO COMMENCE WORK BEFORE THIS PERMIT IS

COUNTY PLACED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON THE PREMISES WINNEBAGO



ZONING PERM

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

CONDITIONS

HAS BEEN ISSUED TO:

JEL LLC

Exhibit 1

FOR THE FOLLOWING WORK:

CONSTRUCTION OF A HOUSE AND ATTACHED GARAGE

PROPERTY LOCATED AT:

4532 BELLHAVEN LN OSHKOSH, WI 54904

R. 16 E. LOT: 1 BLK: SEC. 07 T. 18 N.

PLAT: CSM-7621

TOWN OF ALGOMA

PARCEL ID: 002-00100301

ZONING OFFICER:

LEFEBVRE, DANIEL

SANITARY PERMIT: MUNICIPAL SEWER

DATE ISSUED: 08/25/2022 **PERMIT NO: 213439**

REQUIRES REVIEW / FEE / APPROVAL. NO FEE FOR LOCATION CHANGES ONLY FOR 6 MO'S FROM ORIGINAL DATE.

NOTE: PERMIT EXPIRES ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF ISSUE UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL WORK HAS STARTED. REVISION

Complete & sign only this side of application Review fee: \$165.00

ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION WINNEBAGO COUNTY

920-232-3344

112 Otter Ave, 3rd Floor Oshkosh, WI 54901

	150-25-034
(\$70% - if this property uses not nevel in address assigned by DBR office, submitted and property Americanisms.	Proposed start date: August 2022 Estimated Cost: \$ 2,250,000.00
Address of affected property: 4532 Bellhaven Lane	Type of Construction: New Addition Alteration
Postal City: Oshkosh Zip 54904	□ Other:
Property Owner of Record: JEL LLC	Existing Use: Vacant Single Family Dwelling
Applicant/Builder: Mark Neubauer, Ganther Construction Architecture	☐ Other:
(We can fill in the information below if you're not sure) Plat name/CSM: CSM # 7621 Block Lot # 1	Existing Structures: \(\begin{align*} \begin{align*} align
Contact information below is for: O Owner O Applicant/Builder	Describe your building/project (structure type, size, material, etc.):
Contact Name: Mark Neubauer, Ganther Construction Architecture	5,073 S.F. Residential Home, and a 1,073 S.F. Attached Garage
Mailing Address: 4825 County Road "A"	
City: Oshkosh Zip 54901	Arris right and order the right is welling visiting right appoint additional could right result black of the
Contact Phone: (920) 426-4774 Cell Phone: (920) 376-0227	is there a walk-out basement?: O Yes ONo 1st Floor 2nd Floor Garage Other
E-mail Address: mneubauer@ganther.com	
Would like to receive my narmit hu.	Sq. Ft: 1,740 2,256 1,073 1,077
	Peak Height: 34'-8" Mid-Peak Height:
Annierant mannet and a second a	State of Control

Applicant must read and sign:

- 1. In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 59.691, the information provided herein is to give you notice regarding potential wetlands. You are responsible for complying with state and federal laws concerning construction near or on wetlands, lakes, and streams. Wetlands that are not associated with open waters can be difficult to identify. Failure to comply may result in removal or modification of construction that violates the law or other penalties or costs. For more information, visit the Department of Natural Resources Wetland Identification web page http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv or contact your local DNR office.
 - As the applicant, I hereby acknowledge notice of this wetland information.
- 3. As the application I hereby grant permission for County Zoning Staff to enter the property for inspection purposes.
- As the applicant I hereby acknowledge that this permit is null & void if issued in error or if any facts are misrepresented

hul
Marie
my
Signature:

7/37 /2622

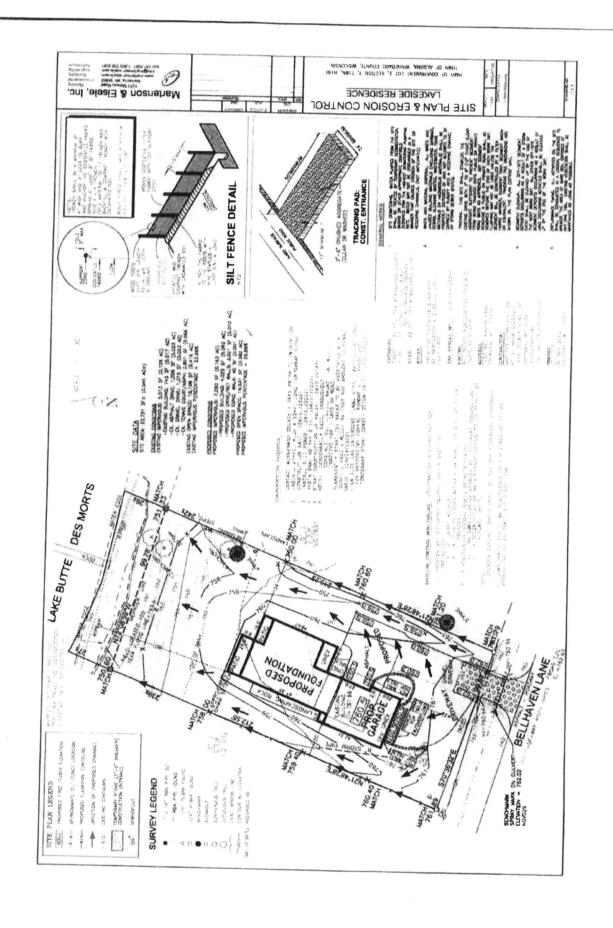
Date:

Submit application to our office with the ORIGINAL INK signature along with a complete site plan and the fee by mail or in person. DO NOT E-MAIL

PERMIT FOR SEWER CONNECTION ALGOMA SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 1, TOWN OF ALGOMA WINNEBAGO COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Nº 2807

				PERMIT NO.
JEL, L (Owner)	LC		has made application to connect	
Parcel No. 60	-0010-03-01	Street 4532 Bcl	Ilhaven Ln Subdivision Lat 1 a	f CSM-7621 054A
The permit to co			ordance with the Sewer Use Ordinance and of	
Insurance Ex Bond Expires	De Grout In pires 2/15/	2023	Approved:	
Water Calcui	ations: Ree'd 8	3/2022	Hara Honzales	_
Please allow 24	hour notice for Inspe	octions.	Algema Sanitary District No. 1	
	AP	PLICANT COPY - WHIT	E INSPECTORS COPY - PINK	
	ADI	I ICATION FOR	OFWED COMME	
JEL LLC	Mri			ugust 23, 2022
Name (Owner)		Malling Address	06 Ohkech WI 5 4403 hereby make	es application to connect
to the sanitary se	wer system of the Al	goma Sanitary District N	io. 1.	
(
Parcel No. voz-	9010-63-01 St	reet 4532 Bellh	Subdivision Lot 1 of	CSM-7621, O. 54 A.
Building Descri	ential Pipe Mercial Size	Lateral laterial PVC	Contribution in Aid of Construction Road Deposit (if applicable) See Permit Fee TOTAL CHARGE	The special control of the second second second second
Class C	s C Gravity	re	Check #: 2080 Date: Received From: JFL, LLC	8/23/2022
SANITARY DIST	RICT NO 1 AND	OTHER BEALLS	PERTY OWNER OR CONTRACTOR S Y WITH THE SEWER USE ORDINAN EMENTS. NO CONNECTION TO THI R CONNECTION" IS ISSUED BY THE	CE OF THE ALGOMA
Applicant Signature		anes	Print Name Mark Neut	10 4.2
Company Name (if applicable)	Ganther Con	structur	Phone Number 920 - 37(The second secon



4832 BELLHAVEN LANL, TOWN OF ALGORAL W

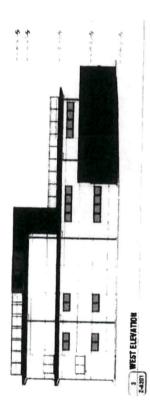
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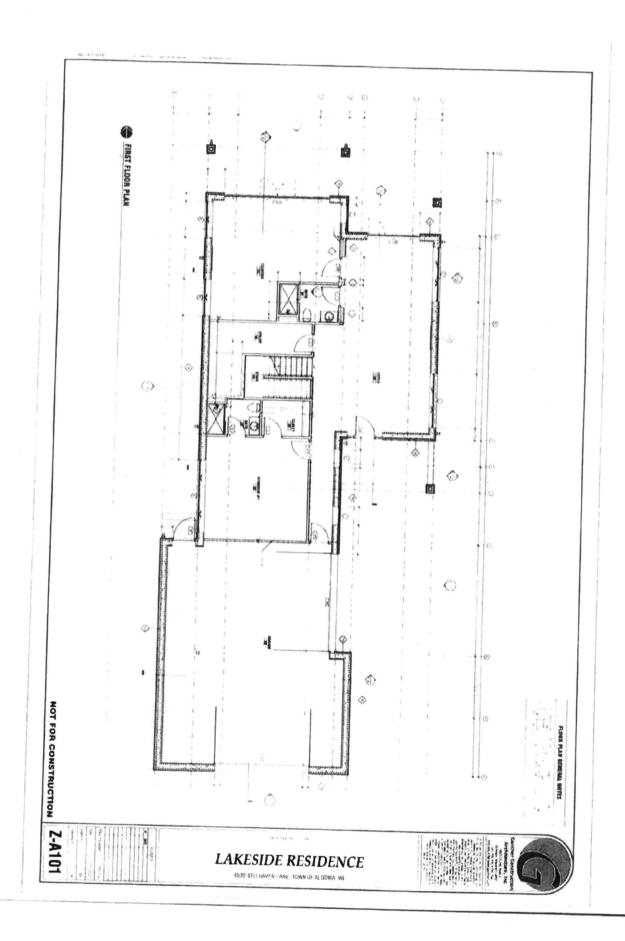
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION Z-A201











STAFF REVIEW ONLY

Zoning and Overlays:

Coning and Overlays:	
Current Zoning & SL Urb WL Nh Pot. WL (12) FP Urb AIR Nh SWDD No	Received By: PPR 18 July 1921
Special Standards Section: 23.8-256 Access Controlled?	9 1
Site Plan? Plan of Operation? NA Landscaping/Buffer Yards? Sanitary Facilities:	Notes/Conditions: Highly Developed Swirthwards
ilary Dietrica. Manage	
0	166 - 1073 = 9435F
N/A No.: 565214 Date Issued: 8/4/2022	
Setbacks:	
Street 30 42' Rear Shore 75' >80' Side 24' Side 10' 324' Other	
Accessory	
Side Side Other	
Issued by: Shuist Permit #: 2/3439 Census #: 10]	

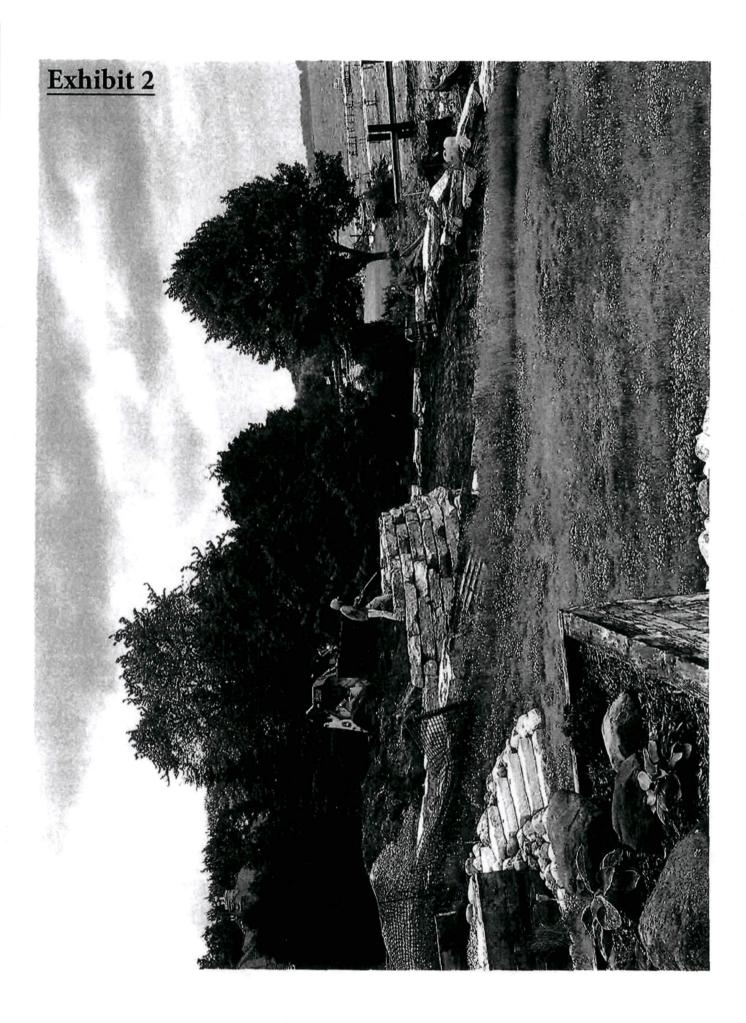


Exhibit 3

Lefebvre, Daniel

From:

Lefebvre, Daniel

Sent:

Thursday, June 15, 2023 2:18 PM

To:

Mark Neubauer

Cc:

Rowe, Cary; Rappl, Lydia; Edwards, Caleb; Goldthwaite, Matthew

Subject:

Notice of Violation

Importance:

High

Good Afternoon Mark,

Upon our phone conversation and site visit, the property located at 4532 Belhaven Lane is in violation of placing a retaining wall (structure) within the 75ft shore yard setback. Furthermore, we did not see the zoning or erosion control permits placed in a conspicuous place. please take the following steps to remedy the violation(s):

1. Both the erosion control and zoning permits shall be placed in a conspicuous location on the affected property.

The retaining wall must be completely removed and seeded/matted (returned to the original slope) by August 1st 2023. Failure to do so will result in a municipal citation amounting \$389.50 with an additional penalty of \$200.00 a day until the violation is removed (each day constitutes a separate offense).

Applicable ordinances:

Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code Chapter 27 - Article 15(27) Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code Chapter 27- Article 6.1 Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code Chapter 27- Article 14.12

Please pass this along to the property owners as well.

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Lefebyre

Assistant Zoning Administrator
Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Dept.
112 Otter Ave. P.O. Box 2808
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920)-232-3344
dlefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov



Exhibit 4



Jana R. Land reni 222 West Washington Avenut, State 900 PO Box 1784 Madison, WI 53701-1784

JL andrett@slaffordlaw com
(608) 210.6302

July 10, 2023

BY EMAIL: DLefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov

Daniel R. Lefebvre Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Department Assistant Zoning Administrator 112 Otter Ave. P.O. Box 2808 Oshkosh, WI 54901

4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh, Wisconsin Winnebago County Shoreland Special Zoning Permission Request

Dear Mr. Lefebvre:

Our firm represents Jason Lindemann, who is the owner of the above-referenced property. Please find the attached site plan in support of our special zoning permission request for a retaining wall pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v). That statute requires a county to grant special zoning permission for a structure to be placed within the zoning setback area as long as certain standards are met.

The retaining wall is a structure placed within a shoreland setback area. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(e). As indicated on the attached site plan, the retaining wall meets the statutory requirements for special zoning permission because:

- (1) It is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary high water mark, including where it is nearest the water, and
- (2) The floor area of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet; and
- (3) The retaining wall is not enclosed and has open sides; and
- (4) The owner is submitting a plan to establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest the water, in compliance with the vegetation standards set forth in Wis. Admin. Code NR 115.05(1)(c)2.a. through e. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v).

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202 West Washington Section PO. Box 1/84 Madison, Wisconsin 55201 1284

nJR 256,0226 858 (55 4752 Fax. 608.259.2633 www.staffordlaw.com Milwaukee Office

1200 No th Kinyfali Rend 414,982,2550 Milway cee Wiscornia 51226-3232

588.655,4752 Fac 414 982,2889 sava stationalist con-

PO Box 1784 Midison, Wisconsin

KSK 655 4752 Fax 608 259 2600 www.staffordlaw.com Sunc 430 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226-3282

888.655 4702 Fax 414 982 2889 www.staffordlaw.com

Page 2

Thank you for work on this project and we look forward to hearing from you once this special zoning permission has been granted. Please don't hesitate to contact me in the meantime.

Sincerely,

STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP

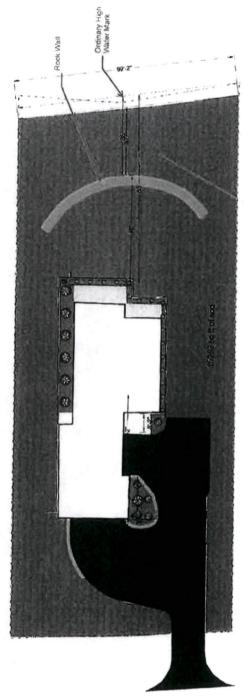
Jane R. Landretti

JRL:pcl

cc: (Via Email): Mark Neubauer, Ganther Construction, mneubauer@ganther.com
Ben Ganther, Ganther Construction, bganther.com

Enclosures: Site Plan with Vegetative Buffer Zone Plan.

L:\DOCS\035934\000001\CORR\3YI304602,DOCX 0710231507



Pursuant to We. Stat § 56 692(1v), the vegetative buffer zone plan covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is enterest that water, in compliance with the vegetation standards set forth in We. Admin Code NR. 15.05(1)(c)2 a through e. The owner intends or sefrain from the retrock of these sand setuces with 35 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark except to perform routine maintenance of the vegetation or to manage except or invasive species, altrangator vegetation or vegetation that must be removed to control disease, or vegetation contenting an imminent safety hazard. Any vegetation nemoved will be replaced by repaining in the same area as soon as practicable.

Zillges Materials Inc.

Ganther Construction Lakeside Residence

1"=20" Scale

1200 North Max fair Road Suite 430 Milwaukee, Wise man 53,226-5282

608.256.0226 888.655.4752 Fax.608.259.2600 www.staffordlaw.com

222 West Washington Avenue P.O. Box 1784 Madistro, Wisconsin

537011781

414.982.2850 888.655.4752 Fav.414.982.2889 www.statfordlaw.com

Exhibit 5

From:

Lefebyre, Daniel

To:

lane Landretti

Cc: Subject: Hark fteobases: Ben Ganther (Boanther (Poanther Com): Rowe, Carr; Rapol, Ludia; Edwards, Caleb [External] - RE: Special Zoning Permission Request re 4532 Belfhaven Lane, Oshkosh

Date:

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:30:44 AM

Attachments:

Good morning Jane,

Per the Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code -Chapter 27 6.1(1)(b), a retaining wall does not qualify as an open sided or screen structure. The Chapter 27 allowance, as stated in the ordinance, is for gazebos, decks, patios, and screenhouses. Winnebago County will not grant special zoning permission for the structure(s) in violation. Please follow the steps below to achieve compliance:

1. The retaining wall must be completely removed and seeded/matted (returned to the original slope) by August 1, 2023 (original deadline sent on 6/15/2023). Failure to do so will result in a municipal citation amounting \$389.50 with an additional penalty of \$200.00 a day until the violation is removed (each day constitutes a separate offense).

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Lefebvre

Assistant Zoning Administrator Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Dept. 112 Otter Ave. P.O. Box 2808 Oshkosh, WI 54901 (920)-232-3344 dlefebyre@winnebagocountywi.gov



From: Jane Landretti < jlandretti@staffordlaw.com>

Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:14 PM

To: Lefebvre, Daniel <DLefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov>

Cc: Mark Neubauer <mneubauer@ganther.com>; Ben Ganther (bganther@ganther.com)

dganther@ganther.com>

Subject: Special Zoning Permission Request re 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh

Dear Mr. Lefebvre:

Please find the attached request for Special Zoning Permission and accompanying Site Plan for the above-referenced address. Our firm represents Jason Lindemann and makes this request pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 59.692(1v).

L:VD 0724

> and the maningion continue PO Box 1784 Madison, Wisconsin

53701 1784

888 655 4752 Fax 608 259 2600 www.staffordlaw.com Suite 430 Milwanker Wisconsin 53226-3282

888 655 4752 Fax 414,982 2889 www.staffordlaw.com Of course, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Regards,

Jane

STAFFORD ROSENBAUM

Handretti@staffordlaw.com | 608.210.6302 | cell 608.516.1927

Coloheding 140 Feneral of Excellence

P.O. Box 1784 | Modison, Wisconsin 53701 1784 <u>www.stoffordiaw.com | Linkedin</u> <u>Wisconsin member firm of AFFA International,</u> the premiere global network of independent law firms.

This is a transmission from the law firm of Stafford Rosenbaum LLP and may contain information which is privileged, confidential, and protected by the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges. If you are not the addressee, note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please destroy it and notify me immediately at the telephone number included above.

Exhibit 6



Jane R. Landretti

222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 900 P.O. Box 1784 Madison, W1 53701-1784 JLandretti@staffordlaw.com (608) 210-6302

July 24, 2023

Via electronic and U.S. mail delivery

Ms. Julie Barthels
Winnebago County Clerk
112 Otter Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901
JABarthels@winnebagocountywi.gov

Re: 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Administrative Appeal of Special Zoning Permission Request

Dear Ms. Barthels:

Our firm represents Jason Lindemann, who is the owner of the above-referenced property. I am writing to appeal the July 18, 2023, decision ("Denial") by Assistant Zoning Administrator Daniel R. Lefebvre, denying Mr. Lindemann's special zoning permission request for a retaining wall.

On July 10, 2023, we requested a special zoning permission for a retaining wall pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v). The County denied that request, stating that "a retaining wall does not qualify as an open sided or screen structure. The Winnebago County Chapter 27 allowance, as stated in the ordinance, is for gazebos, decks, patios, and screenhouses." July 18, 2023, Denial.

The County erred with its Denial. A "county shall grant special zoning permission for the construction or placement of a structure on property in a shoreland setback area if" it satisfies conditions specified in statute. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v). The term "structure" under this section means "a principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, stairway, walkway, patio, deck, retaining wall, porch, or fire pit. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(e) (emphasis added). Winnebago County must grant special zoning permission for a structure, including a retaining wall, to be placed in a shoreland setback area if it complies with the conditions set forth in Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v).

L:\DOC\$\035934\000001\APPEAL\3YR701003.DOCX 0724231607

Madison Office

222 West Washington Avenue P.O. Box 1784 Madison, Wisconsin 53701 1784 608 256,0226 888,655 4752 Fax 608 259 2600 www.staffordlaw.com Milwaukee Office

1200 North Maylan Road Sinte 430 Milwankee Wisconsin 53226-3282 414 982.2850 888 655.4752 Firx 414 982 2889 www.staffordlaw.com As we indicated on our attached site plan, Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall meets the statutory requirements for a special zoning permission because:

- It is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary high water mark, including where it is nearest the water; and
- (2) The floor area of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet; and
- (3) The structure is not enclosed and has open sides; and
- (4) Mr. Lindemann's plan included a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest the water, in compliance with the vegetation standards set forth in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(c)2. a. through e.

The Denial does not dispute that the retaining wall meets any of the applicable statutory criteria. The Denial asserts that the County Ordinance exempts "structures" such as gazebos, decks, patios, and screenhouses, from setback requirements, but not retaining walls. Winnebago County Ordinances, Chapter 27, § 6.1(1). This is in contrast to the statute's express provision that a "structure" includes a retaining wall and must be granted special zoning permission if it meets the applicable criteria. *Id*.

A county shoreland zoning ordinance may not regulate a matter more restrictively than a matter that is regulated by a statutory shoreland zoning standard. Wis. Stat. 59.692(1d)(a). While a local government may enact ordinances in the same field and on the same subject covered by state legislation, it may only do so "where such ordinances do not conflict with ... state legislation." Fox v. Racine, 225 Wis. 542, 546, 275 N.W. 513 (1937). Therefore, where "the state has entered the field of regulation, municipalities may not make regulation inconsistent therewith" because "a municipality cannot lawfully forbid what the legislature has expressly licensed, authorized or required, or authorize what the legislature has expressly forbidden." Fox, 225 Wis. at 545, 275 N.W. 513. Here, the legislature has expressly determined that retaining walls are exempt from setback requirements in the shoreland zoning area so long as they satisfy certain criteria. By eliminating "retaining walls" from the list of exempted structures, the County's shoreland zoning ordinance is more restrictive than state law. The ordinance cannot be more restrictive than state statutes. Therefore, the County erred by applying impermissible requirements for the Denial.

Alternatively, the Denial was improper because the County misinterpreted its own ordinance. As an initial matter, when interpreting ordinances, the Board of Adjustment "shall resolve an ambiguity in the meaning of a word or phrase in a zoning ordinance or shoreland zoning ordinance in favor of the free use of private property." Wis. Stat. § 895.463. With this guiding

July 24, 2023 Page 3

principle in mind, the County Ordinances include retaining walls as structures exempt from setback requirements in the shoreland area.

The County exempts "Open-sided and screened structures such as gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses in the shoreland" area from setback requirements. Winnebago County Ordinances, Chapter 27, § 6.1(1). The County interpreted that provision to only exempt "gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses." However, that restrictive interpretation is not consistent with the actual ordinance. The term "such as" means "to introduce an example or series of examples." https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/such%20as. A list of examples is a non-exhaustive list. Indeed, courts find that using the similar phrase "include" "denominates a nonexclusive list." *Voters with Facts v. City of Eau Claire*, 2018 WI 63, ¶64, 382 Wis. 2d 1, 913 N.W.2d 131. Consequently, the list of examples for exempted open-sided structures is non-exhaustive.

Further, even the County's own ordinances adopt the state definition of "structure" to mean "a principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, walkway, patio, deck, **retaining wall**, porch or firepit." Winnebago County Ordinances, Chapter 27, § 15.0(27). Thus, reading this together with the exempt structure ordinance, County ordinances would exempt an open sided retaining wall that complies with the statutory conditions. This is especially true since any ambiguity in the ordinance must be interpreted in favor of the free use of property. Thus, County ordinances must include retaining walls as an exempt structure from setback requirements in the shoreland area, and the Denial was incorrect.

By filing this appeal, the timelines in the Denial are stayed pursuant to Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code 23.4-255, and Wis. Stat. § 59.694(5). Accordingly, we do not intend to remove the retaining wall, return the area to its previous elevation, nor to seed and mat it by August 1, 2023 as indicated in the Denial.

We look forward to the opportunity to appear before the Winnebago County Board of Adjustment regarding this appeal. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Very Truly Yours,

STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP

Jane R. Landretti

JRL:pcl

Attachments: Request for Special Zoning Approval and Vegetative Restoration plan, 7.10.2023

Denial, 7.18.2023

Exhibit 7

m: Lefebvre, Daniel < DLefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov>

ent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:04 PM

fo: Jane Landretti < jlandretti@staffordlaw.com>

Cc: Rowe, Cary <<u>CRowe@winnebagocountywi.gov</u>>; Rappl, Lydia <LRappl@winnebagocountywi.gov>; Edwards, Caleb

<CEdwards@winnebagocountywi.gov>; Heise, Peggy <PHeise@winnebagocountywi.gov>; Rosenau, Julie

<JRosenau@winnebagocountywi.gov>

Subject: [External] - RE: Special Zoning Permission Request re 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Good Afternoon Jane,

The Winnebago County Clerk received your letter dated 7/24/2023 and forwarded the document to us. The proper channel to set an appeal before the Winnebago County Board of Adjustment is to have the owner, or owner's agent, of 4532 Bellhaven Ln. submit a zoning permit application (attached) to the Winnebago County Planning & Zoning Department for review. Upon review we will give our official approval or denial with findings which may be appealed to the Winnebago County Board of Adjustment. Please submit all required information stated in the zoning permit application, as well as a doubled fee as this is an after-the-fact permit (\$390.00 total permit fee).

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Lefebvre

Assistant Zoning Administrator
Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Dept.
112 Otter Ave. P.O. Box 2808
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920)-232-3344
dlefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov



From: Lefebvre, Daniel

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:31 AM

To: Jane Landretti < ilandretti@staffordlaw.com>

Cc: Mark Neubauer <<u>mneubauer@ganther.com</u>>; Ben Ganther (<u>bganther@ganther.com</u>) <<u>bganther@ganther.com</u>>; Rowe, Cary <<u>CRowe@winnebagocountywi.gov</u>>; Rappl, Lydia <<u>LRappl@winnebagocountywi.gov</u>>; Edwards, Caleb

<CEdwards@winnebagocountywi.gov>

Subject: RE: Special Zoning Permission Request re 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh

Good morning Jane,

Per the Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code -Chapter 27 6.1(1)(b), a retaining wall does not qualify as an open sided or screen structure. The Chapter 27 allowance, as stated in the ordinance, is for gazebos, decks, patios, and screenhouses. Winnebago County will not grant special zoning permission for the structure(s) in violation. Please follow the steps below to achieve compliance:

1. The retaining wall must be completely removed and seeded/matted (returned to the original slope) by August 1, 2023 (original deadline sent on 6/15/2023). Failure to do so will result in a municipal citation amounting \$389.50

Exhibit 8



Winnebago County Zoning Department P.O. Box 2808 112 Otter Ave, 3rd Floor Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808 (920) 232-3344 (920) 232-3347 (fax)



Receipt # 31963
Application #: 23- AP- 01

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL APPLICATION

(Plea	ease print or type. Please use black ink for duplicating purposes.) Paya	Fee; \$765.00 ble to: Winnebago County
Α.		bie to. Williams of the total o
	A-1 NAME: JEL LLC	
	Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3006	and the state of t
	Osh Kosh, W1 54903	,
	Phone: 920-808-0064 E-mail: jlindeman	n@cpalct.com
effe	Permission is hereby granted for appropriate County Staff to enter upon the property for the emoval of hearing notices and conducting inspections prior to hearing. Said permission if ffect until the conclusion of the Public Hearing and is binding upon all heirs and assigns.	s to remain in
Pro	Property Owner's Signature Date 8	21 /2023
I HE	HEREBY APPOINT THE FOLLOWING AS MY AGENT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS APPLICATION:	
	A-2 AGENT (NAME): Jane Landrett;	W Ballon & College Col
	Mailing Address: Stafferd Rosenbaum LLP, 222 West)	Wash Suite 900
	Madison, WI 53701	
	Phone: 608.210.6302 E-mail: ilandretti @	stafford law.com
Ag	Agent's Signature: 5/23/2023	
3.	PROPERTY INFORMATION:	
	B-1 Tax Koy/Parcel #: 002 - 0010 - 03 - 01	27 Thirting - 7 44 49 major - 9000mg
	B-2 Location of affected property: 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Town of Alg	oma, W1 54904
:.	APPEAL REQUEST:	
	C-1 Ordinance & Section Affected: The County implemental its Shor	cland Zoning
	code 27.6.1(1Xb) inconsitently with Wis Stat & 5	
	C-2 Describe the reason(s) why you believe the decision is not appropriate. Be as specific as possible	
	Please see attachment.	
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		The state of the State and State of the Stat
		and an executive and a second

Exhibit 9

Date Mailed:

JULIE A. BARTHELS Winnebago County Clerk 112 Otter Ave, PO Box 2806 Oshkosh, WI 54903-2806 (920) 232-3430

NOTICE OF COMMISSION, BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMISSION,

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

BOARD OR COMMITTEE:

** see below

TIME OF MEETING:

5:30 P.M.

DATE OF MEETING:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

PLACE OF MEETING:

DAVID ALBRECHT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

112 Otter Ave Room 120, Oshkosh WI

In Person or Virtual *

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION LINK: https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/planning-and-zoning/boa-meeting-links Additional instructions can be found at: https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/planning-and-zoning. For further detailed information concerning this notice, contact the Town Clerk or the Winnebago County Zoning office, where the application is available for viewing.

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

1. JEL LLC - 4532 Bellhaven Ln - Town of Algoma - Appeal

Office of the County Clerk. Phone Number: (920) 232-3430.

^{*} All interested persons wishing to be heard at the public hearing may appear in person or via Zoom using the meeting information below. A direct link to the Zoom Meeting is available on the Winnebago County Meetings and Agenda calendar on the above indicated date.

^{**} This meeting is also being posted as a Committee meeting for: Facilities & Property Management

Exhibit 10

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
625 E. County Road Y, Sulte 700
Oshkosh Wi 54901-9731

Tony Evers, Governor Adam Payne, Secretary Telephone 608-266-2621 Toll Free 1-888-936-7463 TTY Access via relay - 711



November 27, 2023

Winnebago County Board of Adjustment Winnebago County Courthouse Lounge Room (Rm 60) 415 Jackson Street Oshkosh, WI

Subject: JEL, LLC Property Decision Appeal in the Town of Algoma, Winnebago County

Dear Board Members.

The Department of Natural Resources (department) has received the notice for a public hearing concerning the appeal of a decision made by Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Staff denying a permit for a retaining wall located within the 75 foot shoreland setback area of a navigable waterway. The property is located at 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Town of Algoma, Tax Parcel Number 002-0010-03-01.

Winnebago County has a compliant ordinance according to s. 59.692, Stat, and ch. NR 115, Wisconsin Administrative Code. In this current JEL, LLC Property case the department concurs with the application of the county shoreland zoning ordinance regarding retaining walls, which are not listed as exempt from the 75 foot setback from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) in NR 115. Section 59.692 (1v), Stat, states that special zoning permission is allowed for structures that meet the conditions listed under (1v)(a) thru (d). Condition (1v)(c) states that the structure has "...no sides or has open or screened sides." A retaining wall is defined in s. 59.692(1), Stat, as an accessory structure, that has a side. The county has applied the rules correctly according to Statute and their ordinance (Ch. 27, Sec. 6.1).

The department therefore supports the permit denial decision and the determination and interpretation of ordinance Chapter 27 Section 6.1 and 6.1(1)(b) made by the county zoning office. Please note that these comments are in regard to shoreland zoning only.

Sincerely,

Dale Rezabek, PG Shoreland Specialist

cc:

File



JASON LINDEMANN A/K/A JEL, LLC 4532 Bellhaven Lane Oshkosh, WI 54904

Applicant,

Application No. 23-AP-01 Code Ref. § 23.7-251

and

WINNEBAGO COUNTY ZONING DEPARTMENT By: Daniel R. Lefebvre, Assistant Zoning Administrator 112 Otter Avenue, 3rd Floor Oshkosh, WI 54901

Respondent.

APPLICANT'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL ZONING PERMISSION FOR A RETAINING WALL IN THE SHORELAND SETBACK AREA AT 4532 BELLHAVEN LANE

The Applicant, Jason Lindemann ("Applicant" or "Lindemann"), by his attorneys, Stafford Rosenbaum, LLP, submits this brief in support of his Administrative Appeal, pursuant to § 23.7-251 of the Winnebago County "Town/County Zoning Codes," to review a July 18, 2023, decision of the Winnebago County Planning & Zoning Staff to deny special zoning permission for a retaining wall located in the shoreland setback area. A copy of that application and site plan is included as Exhibit A and the County decision is included as Exhibit B.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Lindemann sought approval of a retaining wall in the shoreland area. His retaining wall complies with all statutory requirements for a retaining wall. It is constructed of natural stone. This is the most appealing way to deal with a steeply sloped site and is far superior to the dramatically sloped grade that would be present if the wall had to be removed. Without the wall, a steep sloped grade would have more erosion than the constructed wall, as storm water would run down the grade instead of soaking into the ground as it does now. Compared to sloped ground, the wall helps prevent and control runoff into the lake.

The retaining wall has a front and no sides that block the view of the shoreland area from any angle. The natural stone materials in the wall also present a more visually appealing view from the water than would a steep grade. Besides its compliance with statute, the retaining wall enhances the site environmentally and visually.

Nonetheless, when he applied for a special zoning permit, the County erroneously denied Mr. Lindemann a special zoning permit for a retaining wall, claiming that a retaining wall was not an exempt structure under County ordinances. The County's decision contradicts both mandatory statutory requirements and County ordinances.

State statutes mandate that if an applicant for a retaining wall in the shoreland area satisfies certain criteria, then the County must approve the special zoning permit. The County ignored this legislative mandate. The County may not be more restrictive than state statute, and that is what it has done here.

Moreover, the County misapplied its own ordinances. County ordinances expressly include retaining walls as structures exempt from typical shoreland zoning requirements. Since Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall complied with all state and County requirements, the County had no discretion to deny the permit. Therefore, Mr. Lindemann requests that the Board of Adjustment reverse the decision of the County and issue Mr. Lindemann a special zoning permit for a retaining wall.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Because this case asks whether a special zoning permission must be granted, the County Board of Adjustment should review the decision de novo, using its own judgment rather than the staff judgement in the underlying decision. See Osterhues v. Board of Adjustment for Washburn County (2005) 698 N.W.2d 701, 282 Wis.2d 228. Applicability of a zoning ordinance is a question of law, and no special agency expertise is necessary to resolve this question. Sauk County v. Trager (App. 1983) 334 N.W.2d 272, 113 Wis.2d 48, affirmed 346 N.W.2d 756, 118 Wis.2d 204.

FACTS

On July 10, 2023, Mr. Lindemann requested special zoning permission for a retaining wall pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v). Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall site plan established that:

A special zoning permission falls within the definition of "conditional use" in Wis, Stat. § 59.69(5e)(a)1.

- (1) It will be located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary high water mark, including where it is nearest the water (*See* site plan, Exhibit A); and
- (2) The floor area of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet (*See* site plan, Exhibit A); and
- (3) The retaining wall is not enclosed and has only an open side² (*See s*ite plan, Exhibit A); and
- (4) Included a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest the water, in compliance with the vegetation standards set forth in Wis. Admin. Code § NR 115.05(1)(c)2. a. through e (See site plan, Exhibit A).

The County denied Mr. Lindemann's request, stating that "a retaining wall does not qualify as an open sided or screen structure. The Winnebago County Chapter 27 allowance, as stated in the ordinance, is for gazebos, decks, patios, and screenhouses." July 18, 2023, Denial. ³

ARGUMENT

I. The County Lacks Discretion to Deny Special Zoning Permission.

² Despite the County's attempts to make this seem confusing, a front-facing retaining wall built below grade obviously has only open sides, if it has sides at all. It is completely different than the kind of above-grade structures with closed sides that block shoreland views, which the ordinance is intended to prevent.

³ During the public hearing, the Assistant County Zoning Administrator admitted that his decision "paraphrased" the ordinance. In fact, his "paraphrase" precisely mischaracterized the ordinance as necessary to support his interpretation.

The Wisconsin Legislature created the only requirements necessary for constructing a retaining wall in a shoreland setback area. The County does not have discretion to circumvent those requirements.

Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v) mandates that a

county shall grant special zoning permission for the construction or placement of a structure on property in a shoreland setback area if

- (a) The part of the structure that is nearest to the water is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary high-water mark.
- (b) The total floor area of all of the structures in the shoreland setback area of the property will not exceed 200 square feet. In calculating this square footage, boathouses shall be excluded.
- (c) The structure that is the subject of the request for special zoning permission has no sides or has open or screened sides.
- (d) The county must approve a plan that will be implemented by the owner of the property to preserve or establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest to the water.

The County Decision categorically denies any retaining wall from qualifying as a structure eligible for the exemption. This blatantly misapplies the statute. The term "structure" under this section means "a principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, stairway, walkway, patio, deck, **retaining wall**, porch, or fire pit. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(e) (emphasis added).⁴ Accordingly, Winnebago County must grant special zoning permission for a structure, including a retaining wall, to be placed in a shoreland setback area if it complies with the conditions set forth in Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v).⁵

⁴ During the public hearing, the Assistant County Zoning Administrator testified that he would not consider a retaining wall to ever be a structure eligible for a shoreland zoning setback exemption. That testimony shows a blatant disregard of the operative statute, which expressly includes a retaining wall in its definition of structure for which an exemption is available.

⁵ During the public hearing, the County produced a letter to the BOA from a Wisconsin DNR technical staff member. Despite that this technical DNR staff member is not an attorney, he wrote to the BOA with what appeared to be his "legal opinion" supporting the County's decision. He did so by misquoting and changing the meaning of the statute he purported to interpret.

Mr. Lindemann's retaining wall unquestionably satisfies these statutory requirements. His retaining wall is at least 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark. Exhibit A. The total floor area of structures within the shoreland setback area is less than 200 square feet. *Id.* The retaining wall, by its very status as a single wall, is not an enclosed structure and is open. It has no sides that block any views from the water or from neighboring properties. Mr. Lindemann's vegetative buffer also satisfies the 70 percent requirement. *Id.*

Because the retaining wall meets the statutory requirements for special zoning permission, the County lacks authority to deny it.

Further, the County does not have authority to adopt requirements stricter than state law. A county shoreland zoning ordinance adopted under Wis. Stat. § 59.692 "may not regulate a matter more restrictively than the matter is regulated by a [state] shoreland zoning standard." Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1d)(a). Thus, County ordinances cannot be more restrictive than Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v).

While a local government may enact ordinances in the same field and on the same subject covered by state legislation, it may only do so "where such ordinances do not conflict with ... state legislation." *Fox v. Racine*, 225 Wis. 542, 546, 275 N.W. 513 (1937). Therefore, where "the state has entered the field of regulation, municipalities may not make regulation inconsistent therewith" because "a municipality cannot lawfully

That letter relied on a blatant misquotation of the statutory definition of structure to suggest a retaining wall is not a structure because it has a side. The letter wrote "[a] retaining wall is defined in s. 59.692(1), Stat, as an accessory structure, that has a side" [sic]. This is peculiar; the DNR staffer's purported statutory definition is quite unlike the actual statutory definition. See Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(e).

forbid what the legislature has expressly licensed, authorized or required, or authorize what the legislature has expressly forbidden." *Fox*, 225 Wis. at 545, 275 N.W. 513.

Here, the legislature has expressly determined that retaining walls are exempt from setback requirements in the shoreland zoning area so long as they satisfy certain criteria. ⁶ Therefore, the County erred when it denied Mr. Lindemann a permit. His retaining wall complied with all statutory requirements and the County had no discretion but to approve it. Therefore, the BOA must reverse the County denial and issue Mr. Lindemann a special zoning permit for his retaining wall in accordance with his site plan.

II. Even If the County Had Authority to Adopt an Ordinance Denying the Structure, the Winnebago County Ordinances Fail to Accomplish That.

Alternatively, even if the County had authority to adopt an ordinance more restrictive than state law (it does not), the Denial was improper because the County inappropriately applied its own ordinance.

As an initial matter, when interpreting ordinances, the Board of Adjustment "shall resolve an ambiguity in the meaning of a word or phrase in a zoning ordinance or shoreland zoning ordinance in favor of the free use of private property." Wis. Stat. §

⁶ The County and Mr. Lindemann's counsel agreed during the public hearing that a retaining wall is a structure under Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(e). It was therefore peculiar that the County later introduced an exhibit from a DNR staff member misquoting the statute to suggest a retaining wall is not a structure because it has a side. A retaining wall is explicitly listed under the statutory definition of "structure".

895.463. With this guiding principle in mind, the County Ordinances include retaining walls as structures exempt from setback requirements in the shoreland area.

The County exempts "[o]pen-sided and screened structures such as gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses in the shoreland" area from setback requirements. Winnebago County Ordinances, Chapter 27, § 6.1(1)(b). [Emphasis added.] The County interpreted that provision to only exempt "gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses." However, that restrictive interpretation is inconsistent with the actual ordinance. The term "such as" means "to introduce an example or series of examples." https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/such%20as. A list of examples is a non-exhaustive list. Indeed, courts find that "use of 'include' denominates a nonexclusive list." Voters with Facts v. City of Eau Claire, 2018 WI 63, ¶64, 382 Wis. 2d 1, 913 N.W.2d 131. Consequently, the list of examples for exempted open-sided structures is non-exhaustive. If the County had intended to only exempt "gazebos, decks, patios and screen houses" it would not have included the phrase "such as." It would simply have exempted those structures and not included the broader phrase "open sided and screened structures." However, since the ordinance included the phrase "such as," the only reasonable interpretation is that those are merely examples of structures that could be exempted from shoreland setback requirements, but do not include the sole exemptions.⁷

⁷ During the public hearing, County counsel and staff admonished the BOA with cautionary "slippery slope" warnings that if the BOA allows this retaining wall, it will have to allow other retaining walls. There could not be a clearer signal that the County counsel and staff disregard that statutory standards must govern such decisions.

Those statutory standards require a factual analysis of an individual structure. This stands in stark contrast to County staff and counsel's statements that retaining walls should be categorically denied.

Further, even the County's own ordinances adopt the state definition of "structure" to mean "a principal structure or any accessory structure including a garage, shed, boathouse, sidewalk, walkway, patio, deck, **retaining wall**, porch or firepit." Winnebago County Ordinances, Chapter 27, § 15.0(27). Thus, reading this definition together with the exempt structure ordinance, County ordinances would exempt an open sided retaining wall that complies with the statutory conditions. This is especially true since any ambiguity in the ordinance must be interpreted in favor of the free use of property. Thus, County ordinances must include retaining walls as an exempt structure from setback requirements in the shoreland area, and the Denial was incorrect.

CONCLUSION

This issue is straightforward. The retaining wall is a structure authorized by the statute to be placed in a shoreland setback area. The County may not be more restrictive than the statute. And if there is any ambiguity in the statute, it must be resolved in favor of the free use of property. For the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Board overturn the County Zoning & Planning's July 18, 2023, denial and award a special zoning permit for a retaining wall at 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Dated: December 5, 2023.

STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP

By <u>Electronically signed by</u> Jane R. Landretti State Bar Number 1073314 Attorneys for Applicant JEL, LLC

222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 900 Post Office Box 1784
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1784
Email: jlandretti@staffordlaw.com
608.256.0226

EXHIBIT A



Jane R. Landretti

222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 900 P.O. Box 1784 Madison, WI 53701-1784 JLandretti@staffordlaw.com (608) 210-6302

July 10, 2023

BY EMAIL: DLefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov

Daniel R. Lefebvre Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Department Assistant Zoning Administrator 112 Otter Ave. P.O. Box 2808 Oshkosh, WI 54901

Re:

4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Winnebago County Shoreland Special Zoning Permission Request

Dear Mr. Lefebyre:

Our firm represents Jason Lindemann, who is the owner of the above-referenced property. Please find the attached site plan in support of our special zoning permission request for a retaining wall pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v). That statute requires a county to grant special zoning permission for a structure to be placed within the zoning setback area as long as certain standards are met.

The retaining wall is a structure placed within a shoreland setback area. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1)(e). As indicated on the attached site plan, the retaining wall meets the statutory requirements for special zoning permission because:

- (1) It is located at least 35 feet landward from the ordinary high water mark, including where it is nearest the water; and
- (2) The floor area of all the structures in the shoreland setback area will not exceed 200 square feet; and
- (3) The retaining wall is not enclosed and has open sides; and
- (4) The owner is submitting a plan to establish a vegetative buffer zone that covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest the water, in compliance with the vegetation standards set forth in Wis. Admin. Code NR 115.05(1)(c)2.a. through e. Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v).

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Madison Office

Milwaukee Office

Page 2

Thank you for work on this project and we look forward to hearing from you once this special zoning permission has been granted. Please don't hesitate to contact me in the meantime.

Sincerely,

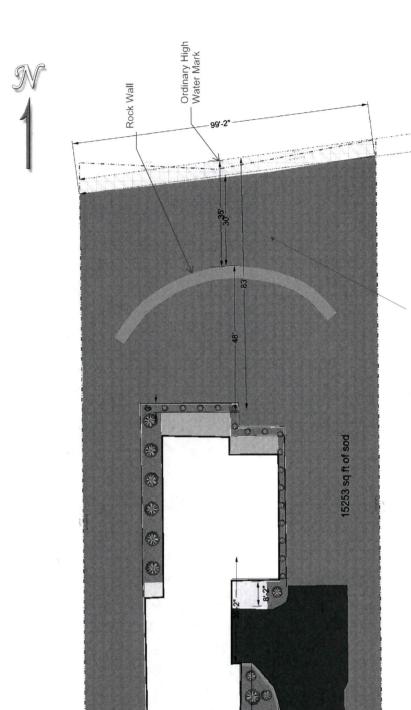
STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP

Jane R. Landretti

JRL:pcl

cc: (Via Email): Mark Neubauer, Ganther Construction, mneubauer@ganther.com
Ben Ganther, Ganther Construction, bganther@ganther.com

Enclosures: Site Plan with Vegetative Buffer Zone Plan.



Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.692(1v), this vegetative buffer zone plan covers at least 70 percent of the half of the shoreland setback area that is nearest the water, in compliance with the vegetation standards set forth in Wis. Admin. Code NR 115.05(1)(c)2.a. through e. The owner intends to refrain from the removal of trees and shrubs within 35 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark except to perform routine maintenance of the vegetation, or to manage excitic or invasive species, damaged vegetation, or vegetation that must be removed to control disease, or vegetation creating an imminent safety hazard. Any vegetation removed will be replaced by replanting in the same area as soon as practicable.

Rip Rap

Zillges Materials Inc.

Ganther Construction Lakeside Residence

Scale 1"=20'

EXHIBIT B

From:

Lefebvre, Daniel

To:

Jane Landretti

Cc:

Mark Neubauer; Ben Ganther (bganther@ganther.com); Rowe, Cary; Rappl, Lydia; Edwards, Caleb

Subject:

[External] - RE: Special Zoning Permission Request re 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh

Date:

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:30:44 AM

Attachments:

image001.png

Good morning Jane,

Per the Winnebago County Shoreland Zoning Code -Chapter 27 6.1(1)(b), a retaining wall does not qualify as an open sided or screen structure. The Chapter 27 allowance, as stated in the ordinance, is for gazebos, decks, patios, and screenhouses. Winnebago County will not grant special zoning permission for the structure(s) in violation. Please follow the steps below to achieve compliance:

1. The retaining wall must be completely removed and seeded/matted (returned to the original slope) by **August 1, 2023** (original deadline sent on 6/15/2023). Failure to do so will result in a municipal citation amounting \$389.50 with an additional penalty of \$200.00 a day until the violation is removed (each day constitutes a separate offense).

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Lefebvre

Assistant Zoning Administrator Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Dept. 112 Otter Ave. P.O. Box 2808 Oshkosh, WI 54901 (920)-232-3344 dlefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov



From: Jane Landretti < jlandretti@staffordlaw.com>

Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:14 PM

To: Lefebvre, Daniel < DLefebvre@winnebagocountywi.gov>

Cc: Mark Neubauer <mneubauer@ganther.com>; Ben Ganther (bganther@ganther.com)

<bganther@ganther.com>

Subject: Special Zoning Permission Request re 4532 Bellhaven Lane, Oshkosh

Dear Mr. Lefebvre:

Please find the attached request for Special Zoning Permission and accompanying Site Plan for the above-referenced address. Our firm represents Jason Lindemann and makes this request pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 59.692(1v).

Of course, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Regards, Jane

> STAFFORD ROSENBAUM

Jane Landretti

Celebrating 140 Years

Excellence

<u>JLandretti@staffordlaw.com</u> | 608.210.6302 | cell 608.516.1927 222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 900 P.O. Box 1784 | Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1784

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