Chairman Willingham called the meeting of the Rusk County Zoning/Land Information Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Rusk County Community Library. Members present were David Willingham, Robert Stout, Mark Schmitt, Arian Knops and Phil Schneider. Staff present: CeCe Tesky and Yvonne Johnson.

Chairman Willingham explained the process of the public hearing. CeCe Tesky, Zoning Administrator gave a presentation regarding the history and purpose of zoning and shoreland regulations. Tesky then reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinances. Tesky was asked several questions regarding what areas of the county would be affected by the changes. Tesky explained that the camper regulations would apply to shoreland as well as comprehensive zoned areas. There was another question about campers being on the property for a short period of time for a family gathering. Tesky explained the permitting would not apply to campers on a property for a couple of days. The one camper limit wouldn’t apply to existing permitted campers until the property changes ownership.

Chairman Willingham opened the public hearing at 6:38 P.M. Willingham opened the floor for comments.

Tom Kemper stated he is in favor of the limits on campers. He feels that allowing one camper is reasonable and supports the proposed change. There can be issues with property values if a home is built and the two surrounding lots each place three campers on them. This will lower the property value for the homeowner.

Jason Rafko stated his property was messy when he purchased it and it has been cleaned up. He has had comments that the land looks better. He feels that campers add money to our economy.

Brenda Lane understands the homeowner issues with campers. She feels the amount of land should be considered. She has family with campers on her property.

Willingham explained that the code allows a maximum of two homes on a property, and doesn’t have clear language regarding the number of campers. The State of Wisconsin considers anything over three campers as a campground, and that is why the county has been allowing the three campers to this point.

Bob Nelson asked if there is a limit on the amount of time the camper can be placed on the lot. Tesky responded that if the camper is located in the floodplain, there is a 180 day limit. If not, the permitted camper can remain forever.

Ted Hakala states he lives on Plummer Road and supports the 1 camper rules. He has experienced problems with three campers. Allowing 3 units on multiple lots creates a campground. He is opposed to the setback averaging. Hakala feels the setback averaging is a bad idea and is counterproductive and doesn’t make sense.
Bob Devoe said he agrees with a lot of the new rules. He would like to see something to address the fluctuation of the water levels on Fireside Lake. The lake can change greatly in a couple of days. Devoe would like to see the County work with the DNR on this issue.

Bob Grunseth asked what is being done with the wastewater on the year round campers. Tesky read the proposed language. Grunseth stated he is in favor of the 1 camper rule change.

Dick Moore spoke and stated he has a cabin on Lake Flambeau. He is in favor of the 75’ setback and the buffer zones. He said there could be different applications of the camper rules. Hunters may be on the property for short time during hunting season. Tesky said the rule change would not affect campers on the property for a short period of time.

Bob Nelson spoke and stated he is in support of the 1 camper rule change. He would rather see homes being built than campers going on the lots.

Jacob Ebner submitted a letter which was read by Tesky that was in support of the rule change to one camper.

Chairman Willingham asked if there was anyone else who would like to speak. There being no further testimony, Willingham closed the public hearing at 7:06 P.M.

Chairman Willingham adjourned the zoning meeting at 7:06 P.M.

Yvonne Johnson
Assistant Zoning Administrator