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Field Twp.



#### Variance Request

 To allow a parcel that is 2.65 acres and 115 feet of shoreline width as buildable for residential development. The parcel is zoned FAM-2 which requires 17 acres and 600 feet of lot width.

















#### Property view from Ralph Road looking west



# Staff Facts & Findings



### **Official Controls**

- 1. Zoning Ordinance 62 Article III, Section 3.2, states the minimum lot size for a parcel zoned FAM-2 is 17 acres and 600 feet of lot width. The existing parcel is 2.65 acres and 115 feet of lot width.
- 2. Goal LU-3 of the St. Louis County Comprehensive Land Use Plan is to improve the integrity of the county's planning-related regulation by minimizing and improving management of nonconformities.
- 3. Objective LU-3.1 of the St. Louis County Comprehensive Land Use Plan is to base variance decisions on uniform approval criterion to ensure all applicants are treated equitably, that community health and safety is protected, and that the overall character of a given area is preserved.
- Objective LU-3.3 of the St. Louis County Comprehensive Plan is to acknowledge why nonconformities are a concern and that variances should be for exceptional circumstances as noted in Minnesota Statute 394.22 Subd. 10.



### Practical Difficulty

- 1. The parcel was created as part of a land transfer for the City of Cook airport.
- 2. Unless the parcel can be combined with an adjacent parcel, no alternatives exist for the parcel to be considered a lot suitable for development.



### **Essential Character of the Locality**

1. The area consists of large parcels of land. There is one residential dwelling within 500 feet and the City of Cook Airport is located across Ralph Road.



### **Other Factors**

- 1. The property contains floodplain which may limit buildable area on the parcel.
- The county requested a septic suitability report be submitted to determine if the property could support residential development and meet ordinance requirements for parcels created after February 22,1979, per Ordinance 61, Article IV, Section 4.4. The applicant chose to move forward without providing the information.
- 3. The property is within Zone C of the Cook Municipal Airport which allows for residential development.



#### BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF A VARIANCE

- 1. Is the variance request in harmony with the general purpose and intent of official controls?
- 2. Has a practical difficulty been demonstrated in complying with the official controls?
- 3. Will the variance alter the essential character of the locality?
- 4. What, if any, other factors should be taken into consideration on this case?



### CONDITIONS

Conditions that may mitigate the variance to permit a 2.65 acre parcel with 115 feet of lot width as buildable.

The following condition(s) shall apply:

- 1. St. Louis County Onsite Wastewater SSTS standards shall be followed.
- 2. The shore impact zone shall be preserved in a natural state and screening shall be retained.



# Correspondence



# **Board of Adjustment**

#### **Questions?**



# Public

#### Questions?

