

RESOLUTION NO. 9-70-170a

**BEFORE THE SPRING PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD
RESOLUTION INCORPORATING THE CITY OF STIRLING AS A MUNICIPALITY IN
MINNESOTA PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. ANN. § 414.02**

WHEREAS, Spring Prairie Colony ("SPC") is a community that was established in 1979, currently consisting of over 180 individuals, making up over 45 households within Spring Prairie Township, Clay County, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, SPC is governed by an elected governing board and operates as one economic unit, conducting numerous commercial and manufacturing businesses. SPC anticipates growth in their existing business operations and future business endeavors.

WHEREAS, SPC seeks to incorporate the area as a municipality, specifically as a city, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Ann. § 414.02.

WHEREAS, the proposed name of the municipality shall be the City of Stirling.

WHEREAS, the attached Exhibit A to this Resolution is the proposed corporate boundary map for the City of Stirling (the "affected territory"). The quantity of land within the affected territory is approximately 2,880 acres. SPC members collectively own approximately 1,320 acres surrounding or near the affected territory, which will provide ease in expansion of the City of Stirling as needed in the future.

WHEREAS, the following parties are entitled to the Chief Administrative Law Judge's mailed notice of hearing on the proposed incorporation of the City of Stirling, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Ann. § 414.09:

The township or municipality presently governing the affected territory: Spring Prairie Township, Clay County, Minnesota.

Any township or municipality abutting the affected territory: None.

The county where the affected territory is situated: Clay County, Minnesota.

Each planning agency which has jurisdiction over the affected area: Clay County Planning Commission.

WHEREAS, the reason SPC is requesting incorporation is to further the members' social and economic goals as a community to support their anticipated growth in population and business.

WHEREAS, incorporation as a municipality would be in the best interests of SPC members as it would support the anticipated growth of the community. With a generational gap coming to a close and an increasing number of young families settling in SPC, SPC leaders anticipate the community will grow by at least 100 people in the next 10 years. SPC currently has 48 apartment units within the affected territory, but members foresee a need to build an estimated 60 or more additional units over

time due to the expected community growth. Incorporating as a city will allow city leaders to provide for orderly residential development.

WHEREAS, the SPC developed facilities that are consistent with a municipality within the affected territory, including a chapel, laundry services, cleaning services, two daycares, a community center, and a dining facility that serves approximately 140-150 people daily. SPC developed a K-12 school within the affected territory as a part of the Hawley Public Schools System. SPC plans for the school to remain a part of the Hawley Public School System post-incorporation for the foreseeable future, but foresees the possibility of establishing its own municipal school system at some point if justified by the population.

WHEREAS, incorporation as a municipality would be in the best interests of the SPC community members, as it would support the growth and development of their existing and future industrial and commercial businesses. Currently, there are numerous businesses within the affected territory, including the following: a pre-fab concrete manufacturing facility that employs approximately 150 people, a dairy operation with approximately 2,000 cows, an orchard, an electrical motor and engine repair shop, a trucking company that employs approximately 30 people, and a printing company.

WHEREAS, SPC community members expect opportunities to expand and grow their businesses in the future. SPC community members plan to expand the pre-fab concrete manufacturing business and freight company. With this expected growth and an increased number of employees, there would be opportunity to build a commercial convenience store and gas station. SPC is in the process of paving a road that it plans to maintain for ease of transportation to and from SPC businesses with the larger trucks that will be needed for the economic development opportunities. The road will be built to county highway standards, approximately 3 miles long and will run through the affected territory to State Highway 9.

WHEREAS, the existing SPC leadership's prospective development plan would not be allowed in certain instances by current applicable Clay County permitting and zoning controls applicable in agricultural areas. The current Clay County permitting and zoning controls do not permit additional apartment complexes and would also limit certain business expansions of interest to SPC members. These ordinance limitations stymie growth and development now, and will undoubtedly continue in the future with SPC's growth in the absence of incorporation. In short, the desired economic initiatives and need for additional community housing would not be allowed under current rural zoning, halting most economic growth and residential development. Incorporation would provide a governance model with the authority to control permitting and zoning within the affected territory so that community housing, facilities, business operations, and economy can continue to grow in a measured and reasonable fashion into the future.

WHEREAS, the current SPC governance model provides the community many services historically provided by municipalities. SPC developed and operates an internal water and sewage system that serves the community. Additionally, SPC owns a fire truck that is located within the affected territory, with the ability to request assistance from the Glyndon and/or Hawley fire departments in emergency situations. Like many other neighboring municipalities, SPC receives electricity from Red River Valley Co-Op Power and natural gas from Xcel Energy.

WHEREAS, incorporation as a municipality would be in the best interests of SPC members, as it would allow for organized development of housing, community services, businesses, and manufacturing operations through electing local leaders and creating city ordinances, policies, and controls that fit the needs of their growing community.

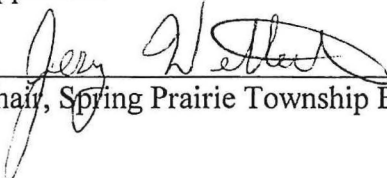
NOW, THEREFORE, THE RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED BY THE SPRING PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP BOARD:

RESOLVED, THAT: incorporation of the City of Stirling as a Minnesota municipality would be in the best interests of SPC and its community members.

RESOLVED, THAT: the Spring Prairie Township Board approves the incorporation of the City of Stirling as a Minnesota municipality, specifically a city, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Ann. § 414.02.

Adopted this 9th day of February, 2021.

Approved:



Chair, Spring Prairie Township Board

ATTEST:



Secretary, Spring Prairie Township Board

EXHIBIT A

Corporate Boundary Map

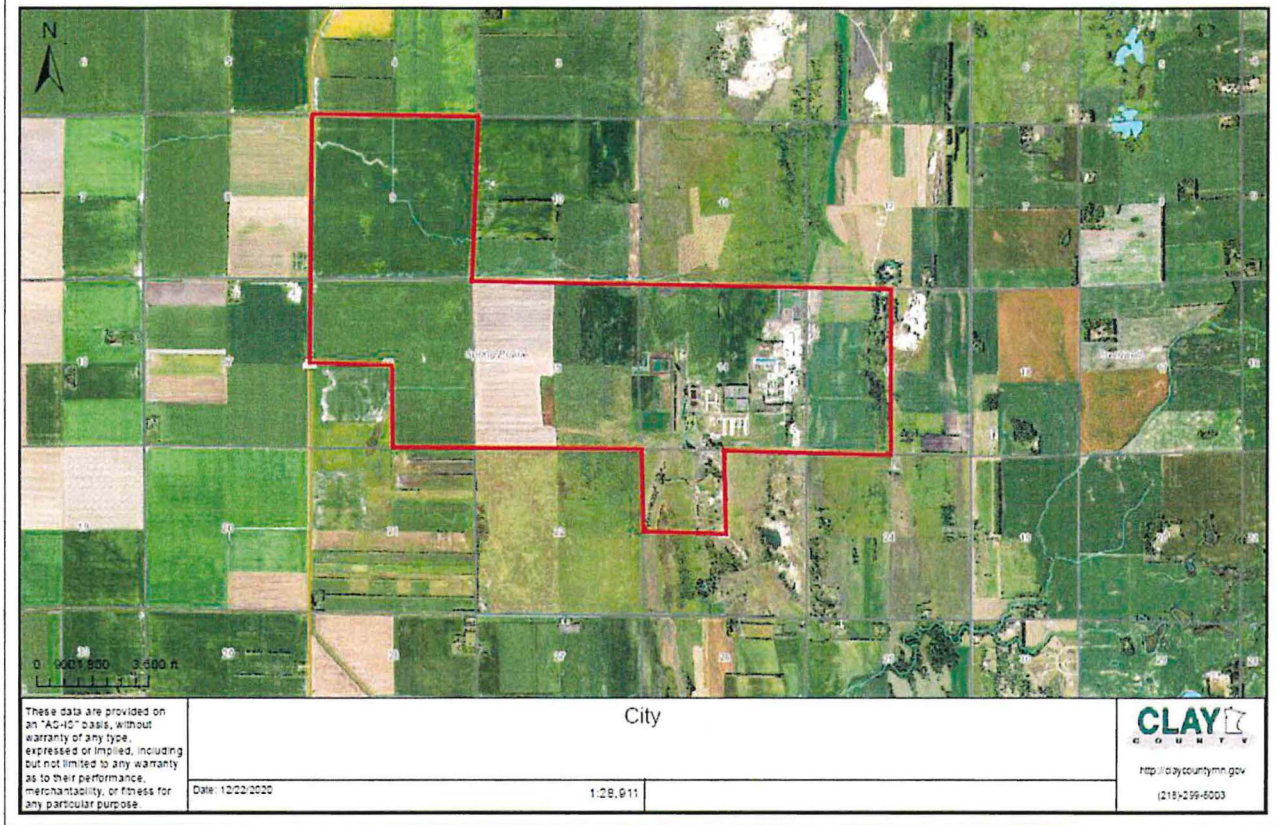


EXHIBIT B

Property Description

The property included in the area to be incorporated is located in Clay County, Minnesota and is described as follows:

W1/2 13-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.013.0200
ALL OF SECTION 14-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.014.1700
NW 1/4 23-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.023.2000
ALL OF SECTION LESS DITCH 15-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.015.0100
N1/2 & SE1/4 LESS DITCH 16-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.016.0100
S1/2 LESS DITCH 9-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.009.0200
N1/2 LESS DITCH 9-140-46; Parcel ID: 27.009.0100