

Vermillion Township
Pine Bend Paving
Public Hearing Minutes
September 24, 2025

Attendance:

Chairman Jeramy Ladzun
Supervisor Jason Anderson
Clerk Cynthia Ladzun
Attorney James J. Mongé III
Planner Nate Sparks

Chairman Ladzun opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Clerk Cynthia Ladzun read the public notice.

Planner, Nate Sparks provided a detailed explanation of the proposed Pine Bend Paving Mine Expansion that would include an amendment to the Mining Overlay District, Rezoning of the property into the Mining Overlay District and a Mineral Extraction Permit which was outlined in the memorandum and provided to the Board that included the following topics:

- Background
- Existing Conditions
- Environmental Assessment
- Interim Use Permit Review
- Interim Use Permit
- Scope of Mining Operation
- Agricultural Land
- Access to Site
- Berms, Fencing and Landscaping
- Stormwater
- Wetlands
- Fuel Storage and Pollutants
- Hours of Operation
- Noise
- Rehabilitation, Reclamation and Restoration Plan
- Haul Routes
- Annual Operating Permit
- Recommendations

Matthew Duffy, Attorney for Pine Bend Paving, provided a quick background to the request for the proposed mine that includes the following:

There is a shortage of aggregates in the area as many of the reserves closer to the Twin Cities have already been developed, which means areas of interest to be mined are becoming further away. Expansion and excavation of the area to the north of the current mine will help sway the dwindling supply in the area and hopefully prevent excessive road costs or roads not being able to be built due to no supplies in the area. Pine Bend Paving has been a good neighbor and community member for over twenty years in this area and has been in business long before that. They have brought well-paying jobs to the area as well as contributing significant tax revenue through property taxes and the aggregate tax. Matthew Duffy also provided a detailed explanation of the application that was presented to the Board.

There were two emails and one phone call that were received prior to the public hearing, and they were read out loud.

Items of discussion during the public hearing were:

- The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is not mandatory. It was noted that a lot of the material that would be provided in an EAW was included in the application. An EAW would determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required and if so, that would mean additional agencies would then have an opportunity to review and make comments.
- Pine Bend Paving has been known to be good friends and good to the community.
- Lots of dust is created when trucks use Fischer Avenue.
- The proposed drainage for the waterway would either be to the north of the property into the ditch or culvert it through the site to eliminate surface impact. Any water that falls on the site stays on the site.
- The Board would like a more detailed plan on the water diversion planned for the site for both surface and ground water.
- Currently, no increase in jobs is proposed due to the expansion.
- Current mine floor is 43-47 ft above the water table and extraction is still taking place.
- Sand and gravel are running low at the current mine and thus the reason for expansion.
- The current and proposed mine would have the same 30-40 year excavation and reclamation completion timeline.
- The township does not have reclamation plans for the current mine as it predates the current ordinance. Reclamation plans would need to be provided if the expansion was approved.
- Blasting is a big concern and there are currently no requirements for notifications.

Planner, Nate Sparks stated that the township had retained a stormwater engineer, and some clarity needs to be made on some of the items on the applicant's application along with the requested water diversion plan for the surface and ground water that had been requested during tonight's public hearing.

Adjourn:

Ladzun motioned to adjourn the public hearing at 7:30 pm. Anderson seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Cynthia Ladzun
Vermillion Township Clerk