

January 23, 2008

Testimony to Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations  
Frank Matejcek

1. History of Extraterritorial Zoning by the City of Grand Forks

City abused power by stacking Planning and Zoning Commission with city officials. When the 2-mile zone was taken, 3 extraterritorial (rural) representatives were mandated by State law. The city then increased the Commission to 15 members to include the Mayor, the City Engineer, two City Council reps, a School Board rep, a Park Board rep with the rest appointed at large by the Mayor.

The 4-mile ET vote was: Planning and Zoning Commission - 10 in favor; 3 opposed. At City Council, the vote was 5 in favor, 2 against.

Some city officials deceived residents about the intent of the 4-mile ET by saying it was only for good planning purposes and had nothing to do with siting a landfill.

2. Example of abuse of 4-mile ET: Landfill issue

a. Under the 2-mile ET rules, there was no zone in which a landfill was allowed. There was no conditional use permit, no permitted use, no mention of a landfill whatsoever.

When the 4-mile ET was taken, the city rewrote the code. We rural reps fought the change, but the city changed the code to make a landfill (now called a municipal solid waste facility) a permitted use in A1 or A2 zones. By writing it in as a permitted use, no public hearings need to take place.

See enclosed examples of new code.

b. Annexation point rating system. With the 4-mile ET, the city also rewrote its criteria for annexing property, making it much easier to annex. See enclosed point systems.

*Thank you for your time  
Frank W. Matejcek*