

# Goodhue County Land Use Management

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TO: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Lisa M. Hanni, LUM Director / County Surveyor / County Recorder  
DATE: April 18, 2023 County Board meeting  
RE: Request to Waive fee

## **Summary:**

The Holden Church has requested a waiver from paying the Operating Permit fee for their SSTs on Parcel 44-019-0700.

## **Background:**

Operating Permits are required when someone has a holding tank. We want to see the records that they are actually pumping and maintaining the system. These systems are usually a last resort type of system for places that do not have the space or soils to put in an underground system or drain field.

The local septic program is required to have operating permits (OP's) by MN State Rule. The local ordinance was updated to include the parameters for OP's in 2014. In 2019 we started enforcing the OP program. All new qualifying systems have been required to obtain an OP, and existing systems that would require an OP would be enforced when another trigger such as a building permit, change in ownership, change in operation, or a significant land use that would change the water usage at the property.

There are currently about 60 active operating permits that regulate about 100,000 gallons of sewage per day. There will be 3 to 4 times that amount of existing systems that are expected to be regulated once one of the OP triggers is met.

We have 3 churches that own property that have OP's, including Holden. These systems have such low usage and if they indicated that they have a drain field, we have not been requiring the fee. The Holden church had a septic permit from 2010 indicating a holding tank near the park shelter, which was on the same parcel as the parsonage at the time. The parcel has since been split and the holding tank is on the parcel listed above.

Regardless of whether or not the Board chooses to waive the annual fee, the church will still need to submit pumping records to indicate they are pumping and maintaining their system.

## **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the County Board waive the annual operating permit fee for Holden Church, as long as they provide pumping and maintenance records.