

Supervisors to hear farmland rezoning request

■ Incentive package offer to encourage Country View nurses to work weekends to be discussed.

By **TIM JAMISON**
Courier Staff Writer

A rezoning request pitting a proposed new home against the preservation of prime farmland has reached the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors.

The supervisors are scheduled Tuesday to hold a public hearing on James Bosier's request to rezone for residential use two acres of agricultural land about one mile south of Waterloo.

Bosier told members of the county Zoning Commission last month that he

wants to construct a new house on his farmstead at 9527 Kimball Ave. He would occupy the house and let his parents live in the existing dwelling.

But commission members voted 5-2 to deny the request.

The land has a Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) of 86 on a scale from zero to 100, said Zoning Administrator Ken Lind. Anything above 50 is considered prime farmland.

"The whole zoning ordinance is designed to protect prime farmland," Lind said.

The first line of the county's zoning policy states, "It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County that only agricultural uses or those uses incidental to agriculture shall be allowed on prime land."

Lind said Bosier may claim the land will never be used for agricultural purposes in the future. But rezoning the land on those grounds could set a precedent for other property owners, he said.

"(The zoning commissioners') big fear is that everybody with three or more acres is going to want the same thing," he said.

In other action, the supervisors are scheduled to discuss offering an incentive package to encourage nurses at the Country View care facility to work weekends.

Country View Administrator Claire Erickson has indicated that it is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange the work schedule to fully staff Country View on Saturday and Sunday. The incentive package is an effort to stabilize the schedule.

Nurses willing to take on the weekend shift would work 36 hours Friday through Sunday and have four days off each week. They would be paid for 40 hours, with the additional four hours being incentive to participate.

The change would also give some nurses now working weekdays more flexibility. It would be easier for students to take college classes and would allow people in two-income families to save money on day care for their children.

Country View serves as a nursing facility and an intermediate care facility for mentally retarded individuals in Black Hawk County.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Tuesday in conference room 201 on the second floor of the courthouse.