

WAPELLO COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

DATE: 5-12-2020

TIME: 5:43 p.m.

PRESENT: Brian Morgan, Chair; Wayne Huit, Vice Chair; Jerry L Parker, Supervisor; Kelly Spurgeon, Auditor; Chiara Elena Romero, Ottumwa Courier; Carolyn Ann Munley; Thomas Munley; Cheryl McMullin; Neal E McMullin; Jeremy Hissem; Mary Lou Sill; Laura J Morsberger; David Durflinger; Rachel Irwin; Tyler Irwin; Mark York; Shawn Adam; Hunter Mason; Dennis Willhoit; Jeff Adam; Brandon Warren; Dennis & Gail Hunter; Martin Rupe; Wendell Dimmitt; Charlotte Irwin; Gerald Irwin; Brian Fenton.

Chair Morgan opened the meeting. Vice Chair Huit moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Huit moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to approve the minutes of May 5, 2020 board meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – VALLEY VIEW LLC – SITE 3.

5:44 p.m. Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to open the public hearing.

Supervisor Parker read written comment from Roger Russ stating his concerns with the odor as they have 10 within 1.5 miles of their home and when you walk outside and it is well below freezing and your eyes and nose can hardly stand the odor something is not right. He wrote that 8 of the 10 don't seem to bother us, but 2 barns seem to be the culprit. I know some barns in question use chemical to abate the odor. Evidently at least 2 in question do not. What can be done?

Chair Morgan read written comment from Dennis Willhoit who requested that the board please deny the construction permit application for Valley View Swine in Section 22, Pleasant Township. He stated this area of Wapello County is more developed than many and Competine Road is a scenic north-south thoroughfare on the eastern side of the county for locals and visitors alike. The construction of such facility would disturb the scenic view and be a regular source of vile stench. Adjacent housing prices will likely be suppressed with the potential of future abandonment and decay of the structures.

Chair Morgan read written comment from Joan Summers who requested the board to deny the construction permit application for Valley View Swine in Section 22, Pleasant township. She further stated as a resident and property owner in the area I am extremely concerned regarding the environmental impact on this facility may have on air and water quality for years to come. In addition, the immediate impact on property values is also extremely concerning. This area, while rural is more densely populated with individuals who value their homes and take pride in the care and upkeep of their property. Being able to access the outdoors without the stench and noise of a hog confinement operation is one the great advantages to living in the area. This is also an area that is frequently traveled by locals and visitors alike who enjoy the scenic drive as they go about their daily activities or take advantage of the nearby tourist destinations.

Mark York stated he is a land owner he is concerned with the odors that will come with the facility and Nick has visited with a couple of the people in the area indicating the exhaust fans

will be facing to the south and residents will not be able to smell them. Where he lives when cars drive past his house on the gravel 95% of the time the wind is blowing the dust to the north. So that tells him that the wind will be moving the smell to the north not necessarily to the south. On air quality standpoint primarily, the manure is in the pits below the hogs and the reason for the fans from his understanding is the stench is bad for the hogs it would kill them with ammonia that is the reason to blow it out of the confinement. He believes the people who are building these confinements should have to live within 500 ft. of them and if they move then the confinement should be shut down.

Wendell Dimmitt asked how can the confinement be from a property line. Supervisor Parker stated the county has set backs and could check with the County Engineer. He stated he will be within spitting distance from this confinement and was never contacted so he was a little disappointed with that.

Tom Munley, he wants to know information about dumping manure, he lives in a house about 2100 ft. from the building and he knows where the prevailing winds are at and he will probably never be able to open his windows again. He stated they just destroyed the fresh air and tranquility there, there is a lot right across the road from us where if you put the manure there, then its going to wash across his yard. He stated to the Adams they have all that land why put it here.

Carolyn Munley stated the rain water runs across their yard then washes right into the Buckeye Creek.

Gail Hunter lives NW of the facility; our quality of life has been amazing working outside and keeping our lawn nice. She has been reading about CAFO. They take jobs away from small time farmers and have been reduced drastically. Obnoxious odors from the ammonia make you susceptible to respiratory problems, nausea, diarrhea, headache, burning eyes, confusion, depression, fatigue and children with asthma. She has cattle and she understand you have to put antibiotics into animals. The quality of life, our homes after she talked to Nick the other night about property values and they actually go down. The fans blow out the toxins in the air. She hopes you are thinking about other.

Brandon Warren stated he lives right next to one, they have always had family gatherings. He farming 250 acres with the family farm and to say the smell will cause burning eyes and diarrhea is completely false.

Carolyn Munley stated there is one difference is Brandon chose to live there and she chose to live where she does because of the quiet, wonderful neighbors and fresh air and not have to worry about the water quality of the Buckeye and the smell across the street. If you start to spread the manure across the street what is my recourse. Supervisor Parker stated Valley View has to list it in their manure plan with the DNR.

Rachael Irwin asked if they were going to put trees around the confinement.

Jeremy Hissem lives at 9831 Competine Road his house is going to be about the closest of any approximately 1964 ft. He is asking that they respect the neighbors, do bumper strips of trees. He thinks if they partner and work together it will work. He heard there are things you can put

in the tanks. He stated he has driven by their other sites and there is no smell, but when he drives by Warrens corner it smells horrible and he doesn't know why. He is asking them to plant 3 rows of fast-growing trees. He worries about the drainage into Buckeye Creek, doesn't know how much manure will run into the creek. He has concerns about property value going down, who does he sue. He is going to invest in tree belts around his property. Who helps him invest in the tree belts to protect his property. He asks to please be respectful of the neighbors.

Laura Morsberger her question if for Shawn Adam, have you researched other areas. Shawn stated that they have researched other areas.

Brian Fenton wanted to know how big the facility. How close can you build another facility? We are talking about one facility now, what is the impact of a 2nd facility. His concerns are the value of his mother's property. What happens to the ground water quality. He representing his mother in this case.

Gail Hunter wanted it put in the record to reschedule or post pone the application because of the pandemic and the inability to get the application.

Mary Sill asked if everything goes around the DNR, why are they not here to answer questions. Supervisor Parker stated that the board is not required to have the public hearing.

Carolyn Munley thanked the board for having the public hearing. If the circumstances were a little different in regards to the pandemic there would be more people in attendance. How does she get reports on the water quality for Buckeye Creek? Supervisor Parker stated after the site is complete and they wanted to test the water quality if they think it's being contaminated.

Shawn Adam stated if the residents have any questions, feel free to call or reach out and they will answer questions the best as possible.

6:41 p.m. Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to approve Resolution 29-2020 Appropriations for FY 2020-2021. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Huit moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to approve request for new hire for summer intern, Heaven Walker effective 4-8-2020 at \$15.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to approve request for new hire for temp summer laborer Owen Glosser effective 5-11-2020 to 8/7/2020 at \$15.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to approve Resolution 30-2020 Noxious Weeds to be destroyed. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to deny Iowa DOT Road Haul Agreement for US 63 Project. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Huit moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to approve Treasurer's April 2020 Investment Report. Motion carried.

6:55 p.m. Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Huit to adjourn. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kelly Spurgeon
Wapello County Auditor

R Brian Morgan, Chair
Board of Supervisors