

WAPELLO COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

DATE: 5-8-2012

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Steve Siegel, Chair; Greg Kenning, Vice Chair; Jerry L. Parker, Supervisor; Jerry Brownlee, Richard Warren, Brandon Warren, Michael Warren, Shawn Adam, Brian Ritland, George P. Israel; Kelly Spurgeon, Auditor; Pam Norton, Auditor's Clerk.

Chair Siegel called the meeting to order. Vice Chair Kenning moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Kenning moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2012 Board meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A CONFINEMENT FEEDING OPERATION IN SECTION 15, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP. Auditor Spurgeon said no written comments were received. Chair Siegel asked for public comments.

Jerry Brownlee, 5324 35th Avenue, Eldon, IA addressed the Board. He stated that in the fall of 1984 they moved to their current location. They wanted to live away from noise and distractions of the city, breathing the fresh air. It was wonderful, everything they'd dreamed of. He said they've worked hard through the years to keep their place looking nice. He said they're very sorry to hear they're expanding their operation.

The Board asked Mr. Warren to explain the change he's planning. He said he now has around 2000 head, and they knife in manure on half the acres. The new unit will be about a 2400 head unit. They'll be able to knife in manure on all the acres they own. The manure management plan takes care of all the rules and regulations. He has some extra acres from a neighbor in case he needs that to apply.

The Board asked Mr. Warren if DNR had notified him of anything he hadn't corrected in his application. He said that everything seems to be in order.

Mr. Warren said he would like to say that he's a 5th generation Iowa farmer, and his boys are a 6th generation, living on the same land for over 150 years. They've always had a lot of livestock. He said they're trying to keep it available for our young people here in Iowa. He said a lot of the neighborhood farmers are older and their sons are gone, not passed down like it should be.

The Board asked Mr. Warren how close the current unit is from where they live. Mr. Warren replied about a quarter of a mile.

The Board asked Mr. Warren if anyone lives closer than that. Mr. Warren said his son does, and there might be a neighbor to the east and west about a quarter mile.

George Israel addressed the Board. He said he lives about a mile from the Warrens. He said the normal thing in the area in the past has been row crop as well as livestock. In the past, most hog operations were farrow to finish. He doesn't know any now that are, they're all finishers. He said this isn't a corporate operation, it's a family operation. They join farms. He said he's been in the livestock business in the past, both beef and hog. He said Mr. Warren's operation is in the cement pit, all has been injected. He said depending on humidity and temperature and wind, perhaps for a day they'll get a little odor off it, probably no more than an ammonia product.

Mr. Israel said they're about a mile northeast of it. He said most of the things he's read they've not had a problem with. He said people say we can't have our windows open or hang clothes on the line, but most have central air and don't have their windows open anyway. He said he's for it and would support it 100%.

The Board asked Mr. Warren if he'd talked to most of his neighbors.

Mr. Warren said he's not talked to every single one of them, but to several of them.

The Board explained that they are not a part of the matrix, so there are certain things they say we don't have the privilege of doing. They've been to Mr. Warren's place with the DNR twice, and this last time the only thing we have control of is how far you are from the road and the wells. They said Mr. Warren was in compliance the second time they were there. Wapello County doesn't have much to say about the operations. The Board isn't required to hold a public hearing, just to publish it. They take the minutes and have until the 21st to submit them with any comments to the DNR. That's about the only roll the Board plays in it.

The Board asked Mr. Warren if DNR says he's met all the requirements. Mr. Warren said yes. The Board said the counties don't make the rules, it all comes from the state, and as far as they know, he's complied with everything. The Board said the Supreme Court upheld that counties can't be more restrictive than the state.

5:53 p.m. Hearing no other public comments, Supervisor Parker moved to close the public hearing, Vice Chair Kenning seconded. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Kenning to approve C & W Boiler, A & J Associates recommendation, as the low bidder for the Courthouse boiler project. The contract will come to the Board for their approval. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Kenning to change a previous tax suspension from Iowa Code 427.9 to 427.8, the recommendation of the County Treasurer. Motion carried.

Supervisor Parker moved, seconded by Vice Chair Kenning to approve Resolution #848-2012 to assign tax sale certificates to the city of Ottumwa. This is 6 lots at the old Rock Island Depot building. Motion carried.

5:58 p.m. Vice Chair Kenning moved, seconded by Supervisor Parker to adjourn. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Kelly Spurgeon  
Wapello County Auditor

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Steve Siegel, Chair  
Board of Supervisors