

Monthly Board Meeting
December 22, 2020
7:00 PM
Cushing Community Center

Meeting called to order by Dan.

Roll call –all present. Total of 19 present

Clerk's report was presented for November budget Meeting. Monte made a motion to accept the report. Bruce seconded it. Motion carried. Clerk's report presented for the November Board Meeting. Monte made a motion to accept the report. Bruce seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented. The ending balance on 11/30/20 was \$581,777.80. Bruce made a motion to accept the report. Monte seconded it. Motion carried.

Open forum – Ben Binversie from Eureka Township (an agricultural engineer) works for all farmers both large or small to make sure all stay safe. Looks at fact and science without emotion. He believes that residents are discrediting people at the state level. Agriculture is important in our township

Mike Byl – dairy farmer Thinks the three towns should just leave it to the state to make the laws

Set the caucus date for January – January 19th with the caucus at 7:00 and the monthly board meeting to immediately follow.

Motion by Monte to approve the town board checklist for Alan Pearson. Seconded by Bruce. Motion carried.

Motion by Monte to approve the town board checklist for Skonewood. Seconded by Bruce. Motion carried.

Presentation of information from the moratorium committee

- Lisa submitted the report with three options. Had 12 meetings to study, review and consider a large scale livestock ordinance.
- Vicki – review the comprehensive management plan which went into effect 10/09 and in effect until 2029 – feels that factory farms should be discouraged per the present plan.
- Residents would be responsible for possible cleanup costs and also any road repair
- 3 suggestions they would like the board to consider 1) do nothing 2) follow Eureka, Trade Lake or Bayfield's ordinances and combine expenses and benefits 3) go to Laketown's ordinance and put agriculture back in (new ventures would be at 500 units and current would be at 1000 animal units) but Bakke and Norman should look at changes that would need to be made
- Sara does not think there should be limitations on agriculture and presented a statement to be included in the minutes

Roger Breault – discuss ordinances. Wants the board to keep an open mind and look at scientific evidence. His personal opinion is to consider a conditional use permit and to adopt the Eureka ordinance.

Road report –Been doing a little salting and sanding. Also Merle is planning to retire the end of March (should post the job by January) Also presented a quote for a dump truck with trade for \$144,000.

Approved and signed vouchers of bills to be paid.

Monte made motion to adjourn. Bruce seconded it. Motion carried.

Official statement from Sara Byl, Laketown Family Farmer, Co-Owner of Northernview Farms:

I do not want my name printed anywhere on "The Town of Laketown, Polk County, Wisconsin Moratorium on Livestock Facility Licensing Committee Report," as it represents the voice and agenda of one committee member, with little consideration given to any alternative opinions or ideas. It became clear, early on in this process, that if I didn't agree with the anti-CAFO rhetoric, I would be berated. The discussions from our 13 committee meetings are not fairly portrayed in this document. One example is the fact that our committee spent three hours on November 4th at Minglewood Dairy, learning about CAFO permitting, management practices, specific environmental stewardship actions, etc, and the only mention in the report can be found on the bottom of page 33, following the sections about China and immigrant labor. It reads, "The committee interviewed a Polk County dairy CAFO with 1,500 cows that is operated by four family members and about two dozen immigrants."

Meanwhile, any suggestion or discussion pertaining to starting a local watershed citizen group, including information from the REI/study of Trade Lake, helping increase the number of acres of nutrient management plan compliance, implementation and utilization of current laws, legal siting options, using reputable sources for information, etc...was met with instant disregard by the author. There is a difference between honest intentions of collaborating for real solutions and having one clear agenda...to ban CAFOs.

I am driven every day by my passion for protecting my family's legacy and future. And as a family farmer and advocate for agriculture, this one-sided report is little more than a compilation of activist propaganda and cherry-picked Google search information. Supporting agriculture and our local farmers means more than supporting only the type of agriculture that you personally approve of.

Sara Byl
12/21/2020