

July 19, 2012

The Saratoga Town Board met at 6:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Chairman Rickaby called the special meeting to order. All members were present. The meeting was officially noticed.

Approximately 850 people were in attendance.

Wysocki Farms gave a presentation that included discussing their proposed crops which would include alfalfa, field corn, potatoes, snap beans, peas, and sweet corn. They stated anytime they would take a crop off, they would put another one in as soon as possible to manage wind erosion. With the manure they plan to capture the energy and also use it as fertilizer for the fields. They stated that the lagoon will be able to hold around 180 days of matter. They stated that they plan to only have 49 wells for the whole project, which would include 2 at the dairy site. They stated that they would be hiring about 25 full time people along with a few more for harvest time. They state that they use GPS, digital moisture probes and other technology for applying water, fertilizer, and chemicals which would help to make sure they would not be applying too much or over-spraying. A hydrologist talked about the water in the Town and surrounding areas, but did not discuss the possible effects by Wysocki's proposed plans.

Questions were taken from the public.

Pat Pissellini asked why they decided to put the CAFO in a higher populated town. Jim Wysocki stated that the farm is further from houses than most CAFO's.

Jean Borre wanted to know why the digester for the manure was not in the plan until phase two. They stated the digester would be at the dairy before the first cow was brought to the site.

Richard Carrell stated that with the tax structure that the CAFO would be under, they would be taxed at \$140.15 per 40 acres. He wanted to know who was going to ultimately pay for 39 of the 40 acres, since they are paying the same for 40 acres as a regular person would be for 1 acre.

Mr. Carrell also stated that he lives by County Trunk U where there are crops just across the County line. He watches his pond go down between 3-6 inches per day when they are irrigating. He said that pond will eventually go up some, but never fully recover.

A resident asked who would pay for a new well when his well went dry because of irrigation. He wanted to know who would pay for the filtration system to get the nitrates out of the water. Jim Wysocki said that they are working with the DNR to avoid those problems.

Chairman Rickaby asked Jim Wysocki if he co-authored legislation regarding high capacity wells; which was stated in the Public Affairs Newsletter. Mr. Wysocki stated that he spent years working with environmentalist to see how agriculturalist and environmentalist can work together.

Rick Potter stated that Wysocki's have received \$1,778,607 in crop subsidies. He stated that they are paid that from tax payers' pockets. Russell Wysocki stated that they have received the money from crop insurance.

Dan Baumann from the DNR stated that they have received the applications for the high capacity wells. After the initial review, they will start the public input period. The DNR will have to do groundwater studies before they process the permits. The DNR plans to have a meeting in mid-August to get all concerns and things the public would like to have them look into. He said that the DNR does not want streams and wells to run dry. The DNR is setting up a webpage within a few weeks so that anyone can see where they are in the process.

A property owner said that he is living along Lake Camelot and said that they are having a big problem with nitrates in the municipal water. It costs them a lot more money for the water because they have to drill more test wells to try to get water with less nitrates.

Dave Greenway wanted to know what the Wysocki's would do with the land if they were not able to bring in the CAFO. They said they would have to cross that bridge if it came to

that.

Sue Davis wanted to know if the cows were able to go out to pastures, if the lights were left on all the time, and what happened to animals that were euthanized. Jim Wysocki stated that they were not allowed time in the pasture. At least some lights are on all the time since they are milking 24 hours a day. He also said that any euthanized animals are taken to a rendering facility.

Terry James from the Town of Rome was on the Adams County Board. He said that the Town Board welcomed a CAFO in Adams. He saw what has happened there. He said that he is scared about the 49 wells. He said that the Town should do full diligence. Make sure that the process is slowed down since it is not good for transparency.

A resident from Rangeline Road said that his property will be surrounded on 3 sides by fields. He is very concerned about the air. He can't believe the small windbreaks that they are proposing would do much for dust control. They stated that they have made the dust control in the Town of Armenia much better than in the past, but it is always an ongoing effort. He said that one of the proposed wells is within 100 yards of his property. His well is 30 foot deep now. He is concerned about who would pay for a new well if his well went dry or had too much nitrates in it. Jim Wysocki said that the DNR is looking at each well and would tell the Wysocki's if a well would need to be moved. The resident wanted know why they never asked the residents if they wanted the CAFO in the Town. He stated that he did not buy the land to be by fields.

Tom Right from Rome wanted to know if 49 wells was the total that they would be asking for. Jim Wysocki said yes. Mr. Right also wanted to know how many animals would be on the farm. There will be a total of 6130 cows on the dairy.

Robin Roth was concerned about the air quality. She stated that there would be an increase in asthma and cardiac issues. More information would be needed for lung related issues.

Bill Schulz stated that he didn't know much about the CAFO, so he went to the area around a CAFO in Juneau County. He said that there weren't many houses in the area, which is very different from the Town of Saratoga. He stopped at a few houses and asked what they thought about the CAFO. They said that they couldn't open their windows or hang clothes out when they were fertilizing. He also asked about the water. He was told that they don't drink their water because the nitrate level was way too high.

A resident wanted to know who was going to pay for the damage the farm equipment was going to do to the roads. Jim Wysocki said that the DNR was doing the impact study to reduce the damage to the roads. He said that they were doing a lot of hoses instead of trucks.

A resident asked how they were able to do this with the Comprehensive Plan in effect. How could they do this and a regular person wouldn't be able to. Marney Hoefer, attorney for the Town of Saratoga, stated that earlier in the evening the Town Board adopted a moratorium that would stop the issuance of building permits for large areas of land that are not in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. It would allow the Town more time to address more zoning. The moratorium is only in effect until December 31, 2012, but could be shortened or lengthened by the Board. The Plan Commission has been working on zoning for several years and was planning to have it completed by the end of the year before Wysocki's plans were submitted.

Chairman Rickaby stated that Heartland Farms came to the Town and asked the residents if they wanted them in the Town. When the residents spoke and told them they did not want them in the Town, they decided not to purchase the land. He stated that they did not come in the back door.

A resident wanted to know if the digester would remove any nitrates. They stated no. The resident wanted to know what the percent of reduction of chemicals were used because of the full circle farming. They did not know the answer. She said if they are using that as a selling point, they should know how much less chemicals they really are using. The resident also stated that a system that would help remove nitrates would cost several thousand dollars. She also stated that the DNR should take in consideration that a lot of people in the Town only have point wells.

Chairman Rickaby would like any residents that still have questions to please submit them to the Town office or to a Board member. They will forward the questions to the Wysocki's to get the answers.

Nancy Koch gave closing comments. She is concerned that Ten Mile Creek is very similar to the Little Plover River, which has been having major issues with the water level. She asks that residents test their wells now and do periodic monitoring to have a base line in case the CAFO does go in. She stated that trees remove 90% of nitrates, which may be why we have such great water in the Town now. She asks that residents fight thru the proper channels and to not fight negatively.

Brian Hamm also gave closing comments. Including in his comments he stated the potential negatives far outweigh any positives. The CAFO could eradicate everything that we hold dear and be completely devastating. CAFO's deny the rights of its neighbors. It lowers the water quality, quantity, and property values. He wanted to know if their need to grow and succeed trumps the social and economic effects on over 5,000 people.

Heeg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank seconded it. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski, Town Clerk