

July 3, 2012

The Saratoga Town Board met at 12:15 p.m. in the town hall. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. Heeg was absent. The meeting was officially noticed.

Passineau made a motion to approve the June 20, 2012 minutes. Forbes seconded it. Motion passed.

Approximately 150 residents were present at the meeting. George Kraft, a Professor from the University of Wisconsin and a specialist for the UW Extension reviewed the short presentation he gave to the board at the previous meeting about the effects on the water quality and quantity once high capacity deep wells are drilled. He stated that if the wells are drilled it will affect the level of the water. Specialist should be able to estimate the effect the wells will have on the water level. He said that there is a standard to measure the amount of nitrates in the water. It is considered unsafe to drink water with nitrates over 10 ppm. He said that at Central Sands the nitrate level is at 20 ppm or above. He stated that it is hard to figure out the level of risk for the pesticides they would use. There is not a clearly defined risk.

Dave Carrell wanted to know what can be done after a residents well has been contaminated. Mr. Kraft stated that the homeowner would be left with the burden. No one has tried suing the people doing the contamination, but that would be the only recourse. Roger Wilcox wanted to know if filtering the water would take the nitrates out. Mr. Kraft stated that it is not as expensive if the nitrate level is around 20 ppm, but it gets a lot more expensive over that level.

Nancy Koch wanted to know if there was any risk of showering or washing with water with high nitrate levels. He stated that he wasn't sure, but had not read anything about it. Mr. Kraft stated that residents should get their water tested every couple months and keep good documentation of records. If the nitrates level gets too high, the resident may choose to sue the farm for water contamination.

Dave Kester wanted to know who would be liable for wells that ran dry. Homeowners would need to try to sue that responsible party.

Mr. Kraft stated that with irrigation none of the water goes back to the water table. It doesn't matter whether they water during the day or night or whether they do drip irrigation. He stated that a high capacity well can use 1000 gallons a minute while a household of 4 will use 160 gallons a day.

Dan Baumann, Regional Water Leader from the DNR, stated that an impact study will be done regarding the high capacity wells. He said that Wysocki Farms would pay for the DNR to do the study. He also stated that he would welcome bird dogs to watch what they are doing to make sure nothing is being missed. He stated that the residents should use whatever public process they can. Mr. Baumann said that groups could start their own action with their own legal and water experts and attorneys. He said that he does not want 7 mile or 10 mile creek to dry up.

Most permits thru the DNR are general permits; so as long as they meet all requirements, the DNR has to issue the permits. The high capacity well permits are individual permits, so they are more of a public process. Mr. Baumann stated that if the impact study finds that the high capacity wells affect the water too much, then the DNR will not allow the wells. He said that there will be a public hearing and a 30 day review stage. If the permits are granted, people have a right to an appeal. Wysocki would be allowed to put in the wells, but it would be a gamble on their part in case they lost the appeal. Mr. Baumann plans to put information on the DNR website. People may contact him with any concerns. People are encouraged to contact the legislatures if they are not happy about the permitting process that the DNR has to follow.

A resident wanted to know if any high capacity wells that were issued were found affecting the water too much and were then revoked. Mr. Baumann stated that the permits would not be revoked, but the DNR would sit down with the farm and try to find ways to make a smaller impact.

Nancy Koch and many other residents have been doing a lot of research. She said that it is allowable for residents to send comments and research to the DNR.

Jean Borre wanted to know how long it would take for the pesticides and nitrates to reach the groundwater. Mr. Kraft stated that for a well that is 20-30 feet deep, it would take less than one year.

Lynn Sawyer wanted to know if it would affect a landowner's well if it is over 100 foot away. Mr. Kraft said that it would affect the water.

Donna Bornbach wanted to know if the Towns' water protection ordinance would affect anything. Chairman Rickaby said that the Towns' attorney is reviewing the ordinance for its effectiveness.

Dave Carrell stated that there will be 19 miles of road that will be destroyed in the just the developing of the land. Passineau stated that currently it costs about \$150,000 to repair one mile of road. The cost could be significantly more if there is any under fixing to do.

Brian Hamm encouraged everyone to get educated about the effect the farm will have.

A different venue will be located for the meeting on July 19, 2012 with Wysocki Farms since a large crowd is expected. Notices will be placed and it will be in the paper when a location is secured.

Richard Sabel, 591 Tesserville Road, has his fence to close to the right of way. Because of the liability to the Town and himself, the board would like him to remove the fence.

According to the fence ordinance if he is reconstructing a wooden fence and he is within 63 foot from the center of the road, the fence can only be 2.5 feet tall. He would be able to put an open wire fence in 33 foot from the centerline of the road. The board would not issue a variance for him to keep the fence within the road right of way. The board stated that the resident is responsible to find out all the information before building a fence or building. The board gave him 30 days to remove the fence and will allow him an extension if he needed longer.

The board discussed retaining an attorney that is versed in the law regarding large scale farming and dairy. The board gave Chairman Rickaby permission to contact several lawyers and return to the board to make a decision on who to hire. An attorney would help analyze all the information and help the board make the best decision for the Town.

The board postponed the resolution fee schedule until the next meeting.

The board reviewed a permit application for long term camping. It would allow camping on property as long as the grey water and septic was taken care of properly for up to 90 days. Forbes made a motion to okay the application form. Frank seconded it. Motion passed.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the Treasurer's report. The amount of the fire contracts for the year is for \$204,447. She will start the process of getting a resolution for the next meeting.

Correspondence was read.

Frank made a motion to approve the bills paid. Forbes seconded it. Motion passed.

Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Passineau seconded it. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski, Town Clerk

