

SPECIAL MEETING – JULY 19, 2006

On Wednesday, July 19, 2006, the Town Board of the Town of Paris held a Special Town Meeting. Chairman Gentz called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Virgil Gentz; Town Board Supervisors, Ken Monson and Jeff Ashmus; Town Clerk, Linda Terry; Town Attorneys John Knuteson, Nancy Wilson and Kim Howarth.

The purpose of the special meeting was to take citizen comments regarding request to Wisconsin DNR by Waste Management of Wisconsin for exemption from sNR504 (3)(f), Wis. Admin. Code, allowing Waste Management to site its Pheasant Run Landfill expansion less than 1200 feet from private water supply wells.

Attorney Kim Howarth stated that he and Ms. Wilson are representing the Town with the negotiation process with the landfill. Some of the people in the audience may have received a letter regarding the variance request of Waste Management – the variance has been granted.

Mr. Mike Erenberg (resident)

Concerned with the seepage of waste into the ground. Sooner or later there may be seepage – it may even get into the wells.

Connie Bevry (resident)

These are minimum standards and the Town Board has the ability to ask for greater standards. I do not care to see the Town lower its standards. The petition that was presented last year was signed by many residents wanting at least 1200 feet setback from the wells. She is also concerned about the sandy lenses.

Judy Sommers (resident)

She is awoken in the morning at 6:10 AM from the noise of the landfill – they are not to be starting before 7:00 AM. She is presently over one-half mile from the site – she cannot imagine what it will be like if the landfill is less than 1200 feet away. She also agreed that there is no reason to change the Town's standards. There is no reason for the landfill to come that close (within 1200 ft) of the wells.

Joe Tiso (resident)

Will we ever address the wells?

Attorney Kim Howarth:

The Board is interested in protecting the rights of the citizens with that area.

Dave Poisl (resident)

Is there something in writing showing that the variance was granted?

Attorney Nancy Wilson:

The affected property owners received a letter.

Dave Poisl:

If the variance was granted, will they pay for the well and will they compensate the property owners? He also asked if the DNR had a public hearing?

Attorney Howarth:

The DNR approved the variance – the letter would have come from them. The Board is working very hard to protect the citizens. As far as a public hearing – the DNR was to send letters to the affected property owners.

Ron Sommers (resident)

Does this approval open the door to expand the site they are presently closing? He doesn't want the Town to set precedence.

John Callahan (resident)

Stated that his well was bad about 3 – 4 years ago. He is also less than 1200 feet away from the existing dump. He also mentioned the bad smell from the dump the past few days.

Jill Sopa (resident)

She doesn't want the 1200 foot variance; she has concerns for her small children. She also stated that with the new leachate programs, the landfill already gain capacity, even if they move 300 additional feet back from the wells.

Ken Bevry (resident)

Doesn't understand why the landfill needs to go any closer than 1200 feet for the benefit of a private business. Doesn't approve of landfill coming any closer to his private well.

Jason Sopa (resident)

The extra 300 feet will only give the landfill one extra year of operation. We will have to suffer forever.

Todd Hartman of Waste Management stated that he was present for the meeting to listen to the concerns of the citizens.

Mike Erenberg (resident)

With all the technology that is out there, he just wishes they could find something else to do with garbage rather than just throw it away and cover it with dirt. Could we not sell to WE Energies for power? There has to be a way to do something else with the garbage. Would like to see Waste Management research different ways to process the garbage.

Joe Tiso (resident)

Questioned as to whether or not anything has been done with Mr. Callahan's well problem?

John Callahan (resident)

Questioned if the Town is trying to protect it's residents, then why did Pheasant Run get the variance granted?

Ted Palmen (resident)

If the DNR granted the variances, are they not supposed to notify people? He is very concerned about the water. What will be done if these wells go bad? What assurance do the residents have?

Mary Pagliaroni (resident)

When I purchased my property, we were told that the landfill would be closing in 2008 – this should not be expanded for Illinois garbage.

Connie Bevry (resident)

Waste Management is a private, for profit landfill. Wisconsin DNR should not certify needs regarding Illinois garbage. Should take into effect Wisconsin needs, not Illinois needs. She has no idea what the plan of action would be regarding children, animals, etc.

Dave Poisl (resident)

Feels that it is terrible that the DNR did not notify the people involved. He would like to see the Town draft a formal complaint to the DNR.

Ken Bevry (resident)

State that nothing has been done with Mr. Callahan's well – every time Waste Management asks for something, they get it – it's not right.

Jill Sopa (resident)

Concerned about property values. She will accept what she has to accept. The Town should do what the people want. The people really want the 1200 foot setback – if there's a problem, where should the people go?

Judy Sommers (resident)

Why would the Town possibly want to give any exemptions? Isn't 15 million dollars enough?

At this time, the Regional Manager from Waste Management stated that the water resource group checks into things first, and then, it goes to the DNR.

At 6:30 PM, Town Chairman Gentz stated that he has heard many things this evening. He appreciates everyone's comments.

Supervisor Ashmus appreciated everyone coming to the meeting.

Supervisor Monson had a comment from a citizen; however, the citizen attended the meeting and spoke on her own behalf.

At 6:30, the Board moved to Closed Session under Wis. Stats. 289.33(7)(g) and 19.85(1)(e) to discuss public business regarding Waste Management, where bargaining reasons require closed session, ON AN ASHMUS/MONSON MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

At 8:25 PM, the Board reconvened in Open Session to conclude business regarding Waste Management request for exemption from s. NR 504(3)(f), Wis. Admin. Code, allowing it to site its Pheasant Run landfill expansion less than 1200 feet from private water supply wells ON A MONSON/ASHMUS MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE LEGAL COUNSEL TO SEEK AN EXTENSION OF AT LEAST 30 DAYS TO FORMALLY RESPOND TO WASTE MANAGEMENT'S REQUEST FOR EXEMPTIONS UNDER NR504 OF THE WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND COMPLETENESS OF ITS FEASIBILITY REPORT AND TO DILIGENTLY CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, MADE ON A MONSON/ASHMUS MOTION. Roll Call vote – MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

AUTHORIZE LEGAL COUNSEL TO SEEK APPROPRIATE REMEDIES IF REQUEST FOR EXTENSION IS DENIED BY WASTE MANAGEMENT. Roll call vote – MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

At 8:30 PM, the meeting was ADJOURNED ON A MONSON/ASHMUS MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Terry
Clerk/Treasurer