

Chautauqua County Ag & Farmland Protection Board Meeting
February 6, 2007 - Gerace Office Building, Room 331 - Mayville, NY

*Special meeting, called by Chairman Steve Baran, to discuss a response to NYS Ag and Markets request on the proposed extension of a water line along State Route 5 East of State Route 76 in the Town of Ripley for a distance of approximately 2.5 miles.
Proposed project would pass through portions of Agricultural District #4.*

Members Present: Steve Baran, Chairman, Dave Sturges, Brian Aldrich, Fred Croscut, David Munsee, Andy Dufresne, Bill Morrill

County Planning Department Staff: Doug Jacobs

Note: Quorum of Board Members Present

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM by Chairman Steve Baran. He circulated an attendance sheet for the collection of addresses and emails for those members present.

Steve mentioned the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the board's response to a request for comments on a Notice of Intent (NOI) from Ag and Markets regarding a proposed extension of a water line along State Route 5, east of State Route 76 in the Town of Ripley for an approximate distance of 2.5 miles.

Brian asked if landowners had been contacted and what they thought.

Steve reported he had personally contacted those in the Ag District. They all were very positive as their current supply of water is high in sulfur.

Andy recalled this exact issue in the Town of Ripley some 10 years prior, indicating this proposed water line has been slow to develop.

Doug commented on the purpose of the agricultural district in this instance would be to limit the number hookups to existing homes or farms in the Ag district area.

Brian wanted to know what the limitations were regarding Ag districts.

Andy commented on the penalty to sell land out of an Ag district if an agricultural assessment benefit had been received. Bill added there is a 5 year look back.

Brain wanted to know how agricultural landowners will be charged to access water. Bill mentioned that in an Ag district there is a restriction on the amount of frontage that can be assessed on a water line. David commented that in other areas local residents are charged a tapping fee.

Brain asked how bad the sulfur is in the area. Many replied terrible!

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Steve mentioned that he called the new Ripley town supervisor Pete Ryan. Although he was unable to attend the AFPB meeting, he was very positive about support for project.

Doug produced a sample letter on the topic that had been used in the Town of Portland if the group wanted to reply. Steve read the letter and indicated he would likely draft a similar letter.

Fred made a motion to “approve the use the sample letter as reply from the board in support of proposed project”. Brian Seconded

Steve indicated he would have the letter completed and sent to director William Kimball before February 16th.

Steve asked for a vote on the motion which was unanimously approved by the members present.

The meeting then moved to general discussion.

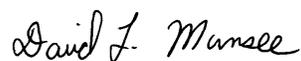
Doug commented on progress with County Ag District updates and current work on the Carroll, Busti and Kiantone Ag district #12 with help from David Munsee. Doug also proposed merging the Hanover and Sheridan Ag districts during their review and merging the Ripley, Westfield and Portland Ag districts during their reviews. This would make 10 total Ag districts within the county instead of the 13 that currently exist. He also made comments regarding a conversation he had with Ron Mead at NYS Ag and Markets on how to these district mergers can be accomplished.

Andy Dufresne agreed to continue on the board as a general board member.

Fred thinks the group should consider if there is more work to be done with respect to the farmland protection plan initiatives, such as the timber portion of the plan. He would also like to organize or sponsor another County Ag Summit in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM. Next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Munsee