

Rural Revival Minutes - August 14, 2017

Members Present (directors in bold): Tim Eisenbeis, Larry Eisenbeis, Phillip Eisenbeis, Dennis Jurkovich, S. Roy Kaufman, Lyle Preheim, Dee Millar, Josh Hofer, Lillie Eisenbeis, Andre Eisenbeis.

Minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by S. Roy Kaufman, second by Lyle Preheim & passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. No Report

Courier Articles: S. Roy Kaufman is preparing an article for August about Ann Waltner.

Beginning and Young Farmers Event: Pioneer Hall is reserved for September 9th. Pat Hofer has been helpful in providing names of west Freeman farmers to be invited. Tim will be sending out the invites. The event will start at 7:00pm. Tim Eisenbeis will welcome the guests and give opening remarks. Other Rural Revival members may also speak. Ice cream and melons will be served.

Desmond Miller: We reviewed a letter from Desmond Miller (copy attached) requesting Rural Revival to take a public stand on the upcoming vote on August 29 to increase farm land taxes to support Freeman schools. It is Rural Revival policy to not take public positions on upcoming votes.

Turner County CAFO upcoming zoning vote: Josh summarized the issues related to this coming vote on August 29. A copy of a flyer being handed out to Turner County residents is attached. Although some of us have strong feelings on this issue, we continue with the Rural Revival policy to not take public positions on upcoming votes.

Upcoming presentations: It was suggested that Andre and Lillie give a talk about their recent experiences visiting organic farms in France.

Adjournment: Moved by Lyle Preheim, seconded by S. Roy Kaufman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Jurkovich

Desmond Miller
44985 281 St.
Parker, SD 57053
August 12, 2017

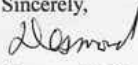
Dear Members of Rural Revival, (Dennis)

The very fabric of our rural community, its values, and its agricultural sustainability is currently being threatened by the imposition of the very urban-type, exploitative, and community-destructive action taken by the Freeman public school board to once again increase their taxes on our land – the very essence of our livelihood, and the basis of our children's future inclusion into our community. As a group that shares my commitment to the economic sustainability of our ag community and ongoing generational transfer of resources, I would like to invite you to take a clear and effective public stand against this threat. Such an opportunity exists right now, as the farmland tax increase measure (opt-out) is coming up for a public vote August 29.

The views and values held by our public school administrators are antithetical to our rural values, and indeed reflect the very exploitative urban agenda which fractures rural communities so quickly. One case in point: During Hurley school's 2004 opt-out campaign to raise farmer's taxes, Hurley superintendent Shane Voss (now a Freeman public school administrator) was featured on the front page of the Argus Leader where he was asked how a declining, small-town school such as his could justify such a tax increase. His answer to the newspaper was only that the Hurley school district had the distinct advantage of lots of valuable farm land as a tax base. He implied that it was his duty as school administrator to tap that wealth.

Buying into this exploitative attitude serves to multiply school official's salaries many times that of ours, finances the construction of impressive facilities in-congruent with declining enrollments, and advances the "big school" image along with its urban values which exploit us who are of the land. We are currently facing the immediate effects of these self-destructive attitudes in the form of another land tax hike which culminates in reduced net profits, subsequently pressuring farmers to employ any method immediately available which might increase their income regardless of land stewardship considerations. The accumulating tax burden on landlords (often needing income for retirement) mandates higher cash rents which in turn diminishes the chances that a beginning farmer can make a living with us on the land. Any youth who do remain will face economic oppression for the rest of their lives due to the periodic nature of these added land taxes.

I am currently working with out-of-state organizations actively committed to transitioning farm assets. I would rather work with a local group such as yours, provided you are willing to take a clear public stand for our rural values as the situation mandates. The Freeman school board has currently mandated such a situation. I believe your public input as an ag group concerned about the decline of our community due to its accommodation to the dominant culture of American society would bring clarity to this issue for local voters.

Sincerely,

Desmond Miller

THIS COULD AFFECT YOU!

Our zoning regulations are supposed to "promote health and the general welfare... The regulations are intended to preserve and protect existing property uses and values against adverse or unharmonious adjacent uses [.]"

-excerpts from 2008 Zoning Ordinance, Article 1, Title and Purpose

• CAFOs affect home values

- Houses directly downwind and within 2 miles of a CAFO (animal confinement) can suffer as much as a **44.1% loss in value**
- An Iowa study shows houses within 3 miles of a CAFO can suffer a **substantial loss in value**

(Source for above: Analysis of the Impact of Swine CAFOs on Value of Nearby Houses, University of Northern Iowa, Isakson & Ecker, 2008)

• The CAFO section of the 2008 Zoning Ordinance was **GUTTED**

- The 2017 Ordinance deleted the requirement for **inspections and annual reporting** to verify compliance with the permit.
- Why doesn't the county want to "protect ground and surface waters"?
- Why doesn't the county want CAFOs "to be properly maintained & managed"?

Vote No on August 29, 2017, or by absentee now at the Turner County Auditor's Office

Paid for by Citizens for Responsible Zoning • PO Box 632, Parker, South Dakota, 57053
citizens4responsiblezoning@gmail.com

VOTE NO

2017 Revised Zoning Ordinance for Turner County

The 2017 Zoning Ordinance increases the number of Animal Units for which a Conditional Use Permit is required from 1000 A.U. to 2500 A.U. It also changes the calculation for chickens from 0.01 to 0.003.

- **Setbacks for 1,250 - 2,499 animal units will be only ¼ mile (1,320 feet) from homes, businesses, and churches and 1 mile from cities.**

One, or even **MORE** CAFOs with animal numbers below could be this close to your home:



1,785 Dairy Cattle, (= 2,499 Animal Units)
24,990 Pigs, or (= 2,499 Animal Units)
833,000 Chickens (= 2,499 Animal Units)
EACH

No Public Hearing
No County Restrictions

No Notice to you, a Neighboring Land Owner
No Conditional Use Permit Required

No opportunity for your voice to be heard!!!