

Public Hearing June 11, 2020
Continuation of Hearing May 18, 2020

The May 18th hearing was reconvened by board member Doug Weber. Also present were Board members Larry Schmidt and Kevin Lundquist. Several residents and 5 zoom attendees. Doug summarized the meeting on May 18th and changes being considered to Mining Ordinance 8. This portion of the hearing will be for public comment. Floor was opened for comment:

Brenda Harris/Afton Rd. Lives very near townships only gravel pit. She has had 2 major life threatening incidents on Co Rd 11 because of cars passing slow moving gravel trucks. The road is dangerous and needs improvement! Please don't increase the traffic.

Claudine Solseng/Carver Highlands Dr. Realize that increasing the number of trucks from 24 to 40 means from 48 trucks an hour to 80 trucks per hour. Once changed in the Ordinance it will let the genie out of the bottle and operators will want the max level. The lower number was justified with a traffic study.

Bob Perkins/Afton Rd. Why do they need to increase numbers? If they continue to inch up where will it end besides unbearable like it was several years ago.

Linda Turnquist/High Bluff Dr. The ordinance will become the IUP when it comes down to it because we only have one mine. Linda tried to get on CoRd11 early this year (before covid) and waited 6 minutes for 12 trucks to go by. About 5 years ago It was unbearable. There was a petition then from ¼ of the population represented by the board to decrease the number of trucks permitted from the Hanson pit. Those opinions still apply.

Ken Turnquist/High Bluff Dr. If the ordinance allows 40 the IUP will go there.

Phil Solseng/Carver Highlands Dr. Phil sent a letter to the board members outlining 3 concerns. Board acknowledges receipt. The ordinance is about the IUP. The county was trapped by their ordinance with the Mueller Pit because they had no reason not to allow the maximum. Phils comments (in his letter) talked about the hazards of increased truck traffic. SFT has 3 of the most dangerous roads in the county. 4 gravel pits with 40 trucks/hr would allow 360 trucks per hour on our those roads. It is the boards responsibility to keep it's residents safe. Phil presented a Handbook on gravel pit reclamation. An average plan is \$5000/acre. SFT should be sure it has a big enough bond in case a pit is abandoned. Phil suggested having the IUP tied to the owner and the operator. If the operator changes perhaps the IUP ends.

Letters received by the board were read from Linda Turnquist, Ken Wolter, David Hall, Becky Gordon, Todd Becken, Larry Jeurissen and Phil's letter was referenced. All letters opposed allowing more trucks or changing hours of operation. Two were concerned with water quality around the pit.

Doug Weber/Planning Board confirmed the bond will be on 35 acres not just the 10 that are open. County also holds a bond for water and drainage reclamation.

Kevin Lundquist/Board. Can see the owners point. This board could only allow 24 trucks in the IUP, but the next board will change it to the 40 in the ordinance. He also wants to insure that the bond is enough to cover restoration of an abandoned mine.

Larry Schmidt/Board. Gravel will come on Co Rd 11 whether it comes out of the Hanson pit or another source. The demand will continue to increase truck traffic in our township.

Motion for the Planning Board to recommend the following major changes to the Town Board:
\$3500/Ac bond for 35 Acres, Acreage @ 80 acres per IUP. Tie operator and owner to IUP if it is legal, 28 trucks/hour. 2nd. Passed 2 to 1. Larry opposed.

Process from here is to present this to the town attorney and he will write a resolution from the planning board to the town board. (same people on both boards).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Heidi Schmidt – Town Clerk