

Town Partnership Proposal

Large Livestock Facility Ordinance

May 13, 2021

Overview

Early in 2019, word spread through the towns of Trade Lake, Anderson, Laketown, Sterling, and Eureka that developers were looking to build large swine factory farms.

Land owners were solicited to sell parcels to Cumberland LLC, a Wisconsin company set up by an Iowa corporation that manages swine operations in Iowa and Minnesota. Cumberland secured a purchase agreement for a site in Trade Lake. They have applied for county and state permits to build a farrowing plant with 26,000 hogs.

Since that time, four of our towns have passed moratoria to allow time for further study. Two towns - Trade Lake and Eureka - have taken the next step and passed ordinances requiring a license to operate. Both Trade Lake and Eureka continue working to strengthen their ordinances in order to protect citizens' health and property values.

At the same time, our town officials and citizens spent countless hours working with Burnett and Polk County officials, hoping they would protect us. Instead, both counties have either passed or proposed ordinances that target hog factory development in our towns as "sacrifice zones."

With little to no hope for strong county action, our towns can come together to share the legal and research resources needed to protect our communities. While Trade Lake and Eureka have done much of the legal and scientific research needed for effective ordinances, there is still work to do. This includes establishing:

1. Legal Specifics

Conditions for Operations Ordinance
Performance Bonds and Application Fees

Application Form
Potential Siting Ordinance

2. Baseline Data

Local "reasonable and scientific findings of facts" for ordinances related to:

Groundwater
Surface water

Air pollution
Manure management

Topography
Property values

Next Steps

Please consider a resolution similar to the following example to begin the process of forming a partnership.

Whereas:

- A farrowing facility for more than 26,000 hogs is proposed in the Town of Trade Lake.
- Land owners have been approached to site more hog facilities.
- These facilities present many threats to public health and property values.
- Burnett and Polk counties have not taken action to protect our town.
- The Towns of Trade Lake and Eureka passed ordinances to protect public health and property values.
- As partners, our towns can save money by sharing costs needed for legal and scientific research.

Be it therefore resolved that:

The Town of Trade Lake appoints Ramona Moody to serve on the Large Livestock Town Partnership committee to advise The Town of Trade Lake on ways in which we can partner with other towns to protect our citizens' health and property values.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required by law under Sec.60.80 of Wis. Statutes. Resolution takes effect the day after posting.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2021

Roll Call Vote:

Ramona Moody
Chairman Ramona Moody

Aye

Nay

Adam Lesak
Supervisor Adam Lesak

Aye

Nay

Scott Doornink
Supervisor Scott Doornink

Aye

Nay

Attested by Clerk

Nelson McQuay

Date:

5/13/21

Posted on:

5/15/2021

Time:

12:30 pm