

Joint Public Hearing of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees and the Town of Wilna Board of
Councilman Held at the Town of Wilna Offices
September 9, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Village of Carthage Members: President G. Wayne McIlroy, Deputy President Michael Astafan, Trustees Kathleen Latremore, Rebecca Vary, and Linda Smith-Spencer.

Town of Wilna Members: Supervisor Paul Smith, Councilmen Susan Storms, Daniel Nevills, Marco Franchini, Francis Skvorak, and Town Clerk Michelle Camidge.

Others: Mark Gebo, Village/Town Attorney; Robert Ball, CEO; Jim Yuhas, David and Krissi Elshaug; and Star Carter, DANC.

CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Smith called the Town Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President McIlroy called the Village Public Hearing to order at 6:46 p.m.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING:

Attorney Gebo read the public hearing notice to consider the annexation of certain properties located in the Village of Carthage to the Town of Wilna which parcels are located off Alexandria Street and are know as Village of Carthage Tax map parcel numbers 77.81-1-1 and 77.81-1-2.

Attorney Gebo asked if there was anyone there who wished to speak from the public.

Mr. Elshaug stated he would like to de-annex his from the Village of Carthage as he would like to raise livestock to include steer and chickens and further would like to drill a new well. Ms. Elshaug stated she would like to preserve the historic nature of the property as a farm and feels it degrades the property by not being allowed to do so.

Deputy President Astafan asked when the property was purchased if there was information in the documentation leading them to believe that they could operate a farm and Ms. Elshaug stated they assumed they could use the barn for animals when the property was purchased.

President McIlroy stated that currently there are no laws prohibiting farm animals in the Village providing they are kept in a well fenced area. President McIlroy stated the Village will have a public hearing on September 15, 2014 to place a moratorium on farm animals in the Village to give the Village time to research the issue. President McIlroy explained the Village may be able to grant exemptions to certain properties allowing animals.

Ms. Elshaug stated there is a shallow well on the property but they would like to drill a deeper well and be disconnected from the Village water supply as she feels well water is better than municipal water.

Attorney Gebo explained if the properties were de-annexed from the Village to the Town, and they wished to have municipal water, the Town would need to permit their property to be included in the Town Water District #1.

President McIlroy explained Village services are available to the properties with the exception of sewer. President McIlroy is concerned due to the property tax cap of losing properties and the lost revenue received from property taxes and the water service.

Trustee Latremore asked if the Village could allow the Elshaug's to disconnect from the water system and President McIlroy stated there could be potential contamination to the Village water supply from their well water. Attorney Gebo advised the Village to review their water use law.

Attorney Gebo expressed that the Town and Village do not need to make a decision today but both boards must decide independently.

Motion by Councilman Skvorak and seconded by Councilman Nevills on behalf of the Town to close the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary on behalf of the Village to close the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy L. O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer