

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

August 14, 2023 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Village Hall, 130 N. Chestnut St. Lower level board room (East rear entrance)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85320972939?pwd=OEhTUXAwZWZKOGdsOXBwbVZtL2I5UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2097 2939

Passcode: 545001

MINUTES:

1. Meeting called to order by President Beissel at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was received.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items. No public comment received.

3. Public Hearing to discuss and consider approval of a request for a Zoning Map Amendment from Ellsworth Bioenergy, agent, for property owned by the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, from the Agriculture district to the Industrial district on Parcel Number 121-01152-0500 located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20, T26N, R17W, Village of Ellsworth, Pierce County, WI

The public hearing notice was read. The request was presented. A/C-T Roy discussed how this request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The hearing was opened for public comment. It was questioned if denying the rezone would stop the project. A/C-T Roy responded that the special use permit does not require the rezone. The Public Hearing was closed. **MSC Bench/Borner** to approve the rezone to the Light Industrial District. No further discussion. **Four in favor and two opposed (Schutz and Hines).** Motion passed.

4. Public Hearing to discuss and consider approval of a request for a request for a Special Use Permit from Ellsworth Bioenergy, agent, for property owned by the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, a Utility (Anaerobic Digester) on Parcel Number 121-01152-0500 located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20, T26N, R17W, Village of Ellsworth, Pierce County, WI

The public hearing notice was read. Emily Tweten presented the project and discussed her experiences with anaerobic digesters in Denmark. Jorgen Fink presented the details of the Bigadan company and the anaerobic digester process. Example of plant designs were presented as well as a draft of the proposed Ellsworth facility. Odor mitigation measures were discussed. Michael McGinley of St. Croix Sensory, Inc. discussed their company and the Odor Management Plan process. The hearing was opened for the

Village Board questions. Questions and discussions occurred about truck traffic, digester applications in other communities, USDA and DNR contacts, the Menomonie digester, truck weight, nitrates and phosphorus, fire protection, federal funding, plant emissions, and the proximity of plants to municipalities in Denmark. Jim Harsdorf spoke about his experience with digesters in Denmark. The hearing was opened for public comment. Questions and discussions occurred about method of processing, size of the facility, facilities workers, emissions, pollutants, meeting process, property values, truck traffic, odor, noise pollution, loss of tax base, conflicts of interest, biofilters, future health concerns, why Ellsworth was chosen, leak concerns, chemicals, prevalence of digesters, neighboring uses, PILOT payments, water usage and pressure, county oversight, sand in the water, and the potential benefits. The Public Hearing was closed. **MSC Bench/Schutz** to defer action and schedule a special board meeting in September. No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

5. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer