

Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

Vol. 2, No. 12

Friday, March 22, 2002

We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

The Springdale Land Grab Continues

We once again witness the misappropriation of sympathies in a community obsessed with proprietary feelings **for land that isn't theirs.**

Particularly struck by the heartfelt letter from farmer Phil Esser at the short end of the stick, we wanted to get his words out.

Mount Horeb Mail, March 21, 2002

Dear Editor:

On Monday, March 17 at the Springdale Plan Commission meeting, the **new Land Use Plan was adopted.** Of the people who spoke for the plan, **99 percent of them have moved into this township in the last 21 years. They have never farmed a day in their lives or tried to make a living farming.**

Fact #1—If some farmer had not sold them land, directly or indirectly, they would not be here today.

Fact #2—If it be know, at least 95 percent of their houses were built on agricultural land, a lot of them in the middle of the field or on the top of a ridge—but now they don't want anyone building on agricultural land or on ridge tops.

Fact #3—Being we have our dream house, in the country, we don't want anyone invading our air space, our view or our privacy.

Fact #4—Instead of hating us farmers, you should be so thank ful that you got your dream house in the country—but you aren't —you are out to get every farmer that is left in the township. What a bunch of ungrateful people you are!

Fact #5—A large number of you transplants are highly educated individuals who lack compassion and common sense. These are two traits that are very important in any person.

Fact #6—My motion to send a questionnaire and ballot to every landowner and taxpayer was completely ignored. (It was seconded by Neil Johnson). Mr. Demets, a candidate for town chairman a few years ago, who was defeated, made the comment, "You can vote on it in 13 months." In other words, in the next election. The plan was railroaded through with letters and signatures of people who weren't even there. Legally, how can they represent all these people. I don't believe they can—but it sure made for a lot of people in favor of the plan. The plan was rewritten by a select group after the appointed committee had finished their work so they could get the plan the way they wanted it. I would say that that is a first class dictatorship, not a democracy at work in the township of Springdale.

Fact #7—For the fulltime farmers (those who are depending on their farm for retirement) this plan is the ax that chops your retirement to one-third or less. You can say all you want about how "the farmer is going to be so well off." That's bologna! Time will prove that you are wrong, but we are the losers, not you. All the executives, CEO's, professors, doctors, etc. who have moved here

have it made. Their land is not their retirement. They have their cushy IRA's, 401K's, etc. By the same token, they can stand up at the meetings supporting the plan because they have nothing to lose. The same goes for the town board—Ed has his retirement, Steve owns no land yet, and Richard chose in 1987 to be Exclusive-Ag, so with the government controlling his land, he is unaffected.

Fact #8—Don't any of you have a conscience? Don't you care for anyone but yourselves? The two adjectives that come to my mind are "hypocrites" and "users."

Fact #9—Some of the same people who spoke for our new land use plan on Monday night, March 11, were the same people who spoke against Symdom Motors a few years ago. Well, Symdom Motors has proven to be a real asset to Mount Horeb and the rural communities. That proves their judgement is not always right! (Note: within six months of their grand opening Mount Horeb annexed Symdom Motors – we lost them to Mount Horeb after all the hard work to keep them in our township.)

Fact #10—In letters to the editor on Feb. 28 (Mount Horeb Mail) Tim White states he is a landowner—he owns two whole acres—has never farmed a day in Springdale township and under the new Town Land Use Plan has nothing to lose. He can just enjoy the rural character, and the open spaces at the expense of the farmers and land-owners who are farming.

Fact #11—We could all work together if everyone in our township followed the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." There are too many people in our township who don't follow that rule—they choose "Don't do as I do, but do as I say."

Philip Esser

Announcing the new tax for all of those people out there who seem to like them so much...

THE RURAL CHARACTER TAX

(Now you don't have to feel guilty that the farmer down the road can't sell his property to retire!)

Put your money where your mouth is, or more precisely, where your eyes are.

If you want to enjoy some OPEN SPACES and RURAL CHARACTER you'll need to **Pay Up.**

Many others in the world have figured out a way to collect \$\$ for sitting on their ownership rights.

Now the farmers are stepping up and offering you a chance to make it fair to them while YOU ENJOY THEIR LAND...*will that be cash or check?*

Readers' Bulletin Board. e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

*** Published by Freedom Matters, Inc., Cross Plains, WI. 53528, Michael Byrne, Editor ***
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