

**Town of Florida  
Planning Board  
Hutchison Harvest Public Hearing  
Monday, August 1, 2022  
6:45PM**

The Public Hearing was opened by Planning Board Chairman Michael Taylor at 6:48pm.

Emily, Krystle & Kate were present to do a short presentation regarding their application and site plan for a Farm Products Plant "Slaughter House" on the corner of Leahey and Bullshead Roads in the Town of Florida. Showed a rendering and photos of what the building will look like. Showed the site plan and an aerial view of the site currently. Explained the tentative building layout and the requirement for the holding tanks for the animal trimming waste product. They also explained that they will be going for USDA approval and the requirements are very strict for that. Would like to at some point have a sausage kitchen and a smoking operation for meat. List of who will be working and what their duties will be. Emily & Krystle just attended a three (3) day intensive class for cutting and wrapping meat. Everyone will be taking a week's long training class on butchering and wrapping. The USDA agent will have an office on site and will be there once a week to inspect and watch the butchering process.

The following people spoke during the Public Hearing:

Steve Mayott, 1009 Bullshead Road; so close to houses; can't other acreage be used away from homes.

Mary Delany 655 Bullshead Road; so close to houses; only serving a small part of the community; concerned about property values and having a store on Bullshead Road.

Becca Countermine 511 McDougall Road; USDA processing is highly intensive. Altamont is the closest place to have meat processed the next closest is 1.5 hours away and the wait is very long; up to a year. Will not smell; this is an agricultural community and the area smells like manure.

Charmaine Rackowski; 272 Bullshead Road; property values will go down; smell

Jessie Vandetta, 1005 Bullshead Road; closest to her property. Issue with closeness. Concerned for her families health and safety. Concerned it will attract wildlife; ie: coyote, bear, fox. Smell, flies. Where will the carcasses be disposed? Who will regulate how many animals they can process? How many animals do they plan on doing? Couldn't they move it somewhere else?

Bullshead Road; what happens if the business fails in 3 – 5 years? What happens if the tanks fail with the animal trimming waste?

Mark Slezak; 937 Bullshead Road; this is a great service to be offered. What would the hours of operation be?

Elma Phillips; 795 Pattersonville Road; this is a farming community and this is a needed service. People built their homes on farmland that farmers sold to them. Farmers pay taxes.

Nicole Tommell; Farm Business Management Specialist – Cornell Cooperative Extension; has been assisting the Hutchison's with this project for a year. Working with them and NYS Ag & Markets to help navigate the process. Would be more than happy to answer any questions anyone has after the meeting at a later date.

There is tremendous oversight from the USDA with slaughterhouses and this is a great need for the farming community in and around this area.

Terry Phillips; 783 Pattersonville Road; very stringent process to get USDA certified. Currently takes a year to get meat processed at a USDA certified facility. 4 of 11 processes are within a three hour drive and are smokehouses as well. She went on to explain the different cuts of meat and the process to get it done. This area has an abundance of meat animals that could be processed at this facility. Everything that is not sold is removed from the site and this is going to be very well regulated.

Kirsten Dunn; Palatine Bridge; this is a need for the County. Cautioned the Planning Board to do its due diligence and make sure all reviews of the project are satisfactory so as to avoid it getting turned over if it contested.

Chairman Michael Taylor announced that two letters and two emails were submitted from residents: (full statements can be viewed upon request from the Town Clerk)

Joanne Mormile; 158 Severin Road; supports the project. Locally sourced high quality affordable meat is in great demand. Has lived next door to the farm for many, many years and has had no issues with them as neighbors or a farm business. This would serve the local farmers in need of this service and would assist in bringing income to the tax base. Has every faith this will be a very successful business.

Lenz's Lazy Acres, Town of Florida; supports the project as a boon for the Town of Florida and the farmers who will use it. Will be a great benefit for the Town and surrounding community.

Brian Holloway; Millers Corners Road; supports the project as a positive business for the farmers and other people in the Town of Florida. Shortage of local meat processing facilities which causes farmers to have to drive their animals for hours to get them processed. There is a demand for locally raised and grown food and this business would make it easier for more people to access this type of food.

David Kietzmann; 839 Thayer Road; supports this project as an asset to the farmers who live in the Town of Florida and surrounding area. Having to travel so far to get animals processed is a huge financial burden and this would lift some of that burden.

Emily Opalka (Hutchison) – facility is self-contained. There will not be an overabundance of flies or a smell. Slaughtering will take place once each week with an inspector from USDA on site from start to finish. There will be no loud noises, no one will witness animals being slaughtered outside the facility. Tentative hours of operation are 8am – 4/5pm or 9am to 5pm. All refuse and extra trim goes into barrels which go into a cold room and then trucked away. Fluid and small pieces will be washed down drains in the floor to holding tanks and the tanks are pumped out a minimum of once a week. This is the location chosen based on road frontage and access.

The Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Michael Taylor at 7:22pm.