

February 28, 2019

Town of Deerfield
838 London Road
Deerfield, WI 53531

RE: Blasting and Nonmetallic Mining in the Township

Dear Board Members:

In light of recent discussions taking place in the township over the Halverson Quarry and the effects it has had (and potentially could have in the future) on the township, I feel obligated to speak up and express some thoughts for consideration. I am not only a long standing member of the St Paul Liberty Lutheran Church but I am also as a longtime construction and mining business owner in this area. I truly see both sides of the struggle that is taking place here between the community expanding and growing and yet the struggle to maintain the existing character and history of the area.

It is important to remember first and foremost that both sides can truly exist with each other. I think if both sides focus on finding the common ground first then they can work out the remaining issues to find that middle ground. I don't think that anyone on either side of this discussion would argue that the church is not a historic facility and worth providing special protection for. I also don't believe that anyone on either side would argue that mining is an important part of this area's economy. Let's focus on this positive step first and then we can take that first step and move forward.

The next step I believe is finding a middle ground on the blasting issue. Blasting is necessary to remove limestone for processing. Blasting is not an exact science but more of a blend of science and art. Modern technologies have given this industry more options for determining and setting up of blasts. Some of these means and methods may cost more, but in the end it still allows mining to take place in more sensitive areas. We have several quarries in the Dane County area and each one has its own rules and site restrictions. Some of the quarries cost more to produce material at due to these restrictions but yet we are still able to operate.

I have read the current Town Ordinances for blasting and approve of the limits being imposed for historic structures. The only objection I have is with the consequences for violating these Town Ordinances. If a blasting limit is exceeded, the blasting permit should be immediately suspended for the site until all parties can meet to discuss what took place, why it happened and how it will be corrected/prevented in the future. If another violation takes place, then the license should be revoked for a year for the site. After a year, if a new permit is applied for again, there should be new measures in place that address past issues. (Note: I have read the staff report for this CUP with the proposed potential conditions. In general, it is not appropriate to add conditions to a CUP that lessen current Town Ordinances.)

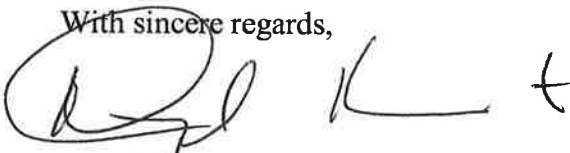
Beyond revising the current Town Ordinances as stated above, I believe that carefully thought out conditions can be made a part of the Halverson CUP that is under consideration. The most important one being only allowing the CUP for two to three years max. They need to establish themselves as good neighbors first, before being allowed a CUP for a longer term. If the first two/three years goes by without any major issues, the CUP renewal process should be much easier the next time around. A long term CUP is a privilege not an automatic right.

I certainly can offer my assistance in reviewing any proposed conditions but would prefer that the County, Township, Halversons and Church Board work through the negotiation process first to come up with their ideas.

I hope that this letter provides some help to the Township in finding a way for everyone to coexist.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight Huston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Dwight Huston

Lifetime Area Resident and Construction/Mining Business Owner

- Cc. Pam Andros – Dane County Planning and Development (via email)
Dan Everson – Dane County Planning and Development (via email)
Todd Violante – Dane County Planning and Development (via email)