

ATTENDED MEETING DID NOT SPEAK

THIS IS AN EDITORIAL SENT TO MIAMI COUNTY REPUBLIC. Monday I was told they planned to print this editorial, then Tuesday they called me to say they would not be printing any editorials. I hope you read this, we just want to have our side heard.

Not so golden. A group of homeowners in rural northwest Miami County decided to submit an application to form a new town. They drew boundary lines around a 9 mile area they desired to control. They call it "Golden".

Recently land has been purchased for warehouses along County Line Road (215th) and Moonlight Road. The people proposing the town want no warehouses and to prohibit heavy trucks from THEIR roads in Miami County. Intermodal Trucks are not the only heavy trucks using OUR roads. We still have some local farmers, excavators, landscapers, rock haulers, (etc.) living in OUR area. We call them neighbors. The majority of our traffic seems to be cars and personal trucks, not so many heavy trucks.

As for the warehouses, who knows if any will jump over the county line into Miami County? If the warehouse developers want to enter our area, it will happen. Look at what happened when Gardner pushed-back against railroad warehouses. Gardner is an established town of thousands. Did they keep the Intermodal Warehousing out? Not really, but Edgerton certainly expanded. The people leading the proposed town say nothing will change. However, they already have confirmed a town tax. Isn't that a change? In time there will be more changes, probably not friendly to rural people.

Many property owners in this proposed town area were excluded from any input or decisions. Many of us knew nothing of a proposed town until after the application was filed with the county. Some read about the application filing in the paper, others through friends who read about "Golden". All of the land owners in this 9 mile area should have been invited to the "Golden" conversation with this town group before an application was filed. Now we find this group and their attorney has been planning the town since April. I guess this practice is legal, but is it honest or ethical?

A copy of an announcement of a "Golden Meeting" was left in one of our work vehicles. It showed a June 7th "Golden Meeting". It was well after the application for the town was filed, but we decided to go ask some questions. Before the meeting we found "Golden" has a website. We read on the website that they didn't want to force "anyone" into their town, so "anyone" could opt-out and they would ask the county to take you out. We went to the meeting at Hillsdale Lake. My husband and I asked the "Golden" attorney if we could really opt-out. He said not if your property borders Edgerton, just across county line. That was a "no" to us. I imagine in the end, not "anyone" will be allowed out. Who knows? Since our inquiry the "Golden" website has re-worded some of their opt-out section.

Those who oppose being forced into this proposed town have now been forced to seek help from an attorney. If this town is approved, there will be rural groups all over Miami County seeking to form new towns to control their neighbor's property. This is still America?

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MIAMI CO CLERK

As for our family, this 80 acre pasture and hay ground has been with us since the 1940's. Over the decades, 5 generations of DeGrandes have lived on this property at various times. We are a farm family. Our livelihood is our land, it is also our history. Whether warehouses or residential houses are in our scenery, we don't care at this point. Farms don't belong or fit in town environments. We are rural and we like it that way.

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