

From: rstiles123 <rstiles123@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:22 PM
To: clerk <clerk@miamicountyks.org>
Subject: Rebuttal - Public Meeting June 23, 2021

****This email originated from outside of County of Miami****

To: Miami County Commissioners (Phil Dixon, Bonnie "Rob" Roberts George Pretz, Tyler Vaughan)

From: Roger Stiles, Miami County Resident

Attached is a letter submitted to the Commissioners and Board that presided over the Public Hearing regarding the Incorporation of the proposed city "Golden" at the Middle School in Paola, Kansas on June 23, 2021.



June 24, 2021

TO: MIAMI COUNTY ADMINISTRATION (OFFICIALS-COMMISIONERS)

Dear All Respected,

After attending the meeting Wednesday evening regarding the petition to incorporate the designated land into the city of "Golden" I came away with a more understanding of why I am for the city of "Golden".

First of all I commend all of you for giving everyone the opportunity to speak, I did not speak but prefer to share my thoughts in writing. I was impressed by many of the people that came forward especially the person that was from County Conservation Office regarding the effects of how the industrial park could impact our water and the Hillsdale Lake. What would this area do without the Lake for our drinking water and the recreation it provides to the community? We currently experience severe water shortages throughout the western United States and also as close as western Kansas, water is one of our most precious resources and we have been blessed especially in this area to have a plentiful supply, however we all know how things can change overnight or in a short period of time.

Another speaker, the attorney representing the 100 plus people that are opposed to the incorporation of a new city "Golden" made some comments that caught my attention. He said that some of the people that signed his petition owned a good portion of the land in the proposed city of "Golden", which I agree a handful of people do own larger tracts of land in the northern Miami County area which will be in or near the proposed city. Many of these tracts of land are designated agriculture type lands and are assessed accordingly for taxes. Why do we have many small tracts of land owned by many people and larger tracts owned by a minority? Over time farmer's and families have benefited more by selling the land then farming it and county zoning boards along with all the parties involved approved the development creating a win/win situation for the buyers and sellers. Even sections and quarters were divided which allowed more potential buyers (that may include some of larger land owners in this 9 mile area of the proposed "Golden") the opportunity to own these larger tracts and enjoy the ownership of productive ground. I would not own my 38 acres if at the time the seller was willing to divide the land. What about all of the people that own 5-10-20 acres and maybe even less acreage in this 9 mile

proposed city – do we tell them we cannot protect them from future development that may not be beneficial to their home values or be infiltrated by warehouses and semi-trucks going up and down the roads by their homes? I think we need to consider what do our neighbors desire?

The real issue when deciding the fate of the decision to incorporate is the effect it will have on the number of people that live in northern Miami County and in the new proposed city “Golden” and that quality of life we currently experience that I noted in my previous letter, not the few that may have a large holding of real estate. This area has changed, we have a large number of people that own small tracts of land that includes their residence, no longer is northern Miami County made up of farmers living off the land with exception to a few who may have acquired their real estate thru other income not ag related just as I have by working for the government. It takes a thousand of acres today to be successful in farming and in some years they may need government subsidies to make it work along of course with good management. Many of the people that own farms or have land in Northern Miami County have experienced their values of land increasing, mainly due to the families that have come to the country and purchased small tracts of land to raise their families and be our neighbors, along with the urban growth that has moved south of Kansas City into neighboring towns, just as it has done thru-out many metropolitan areas, not the result of “industrial or commercial” warehouses.

The result of the increased population are paved roads, fire departments, police protection, internet service and other amenities that taxes support. If the area consisted of a handful of farmers that owned sections of ground Miami County it would not need all these amenities I just listed, less revenue would be sufficient to support the area.

We need to give the people that are working families, that have moved into our neighborhoods to share a country type life, a chance to maintain that quality of life they dreamed about, a place to raise their families without the anxieties that come with the city life and the changes to our land by commercial and industrial corporations. These corporations will affect us all one way or the other, its not the rural country I grew up in but times change, lets make it the best we can for everyone.

Thank you to everyone at the meeting last evening for letting all of the voices be heard, I did not hear anyone or person(s) in attendance show a disheartening tone, that’s speaks to everyone there, very well planned, organized and respectful, that says something for our county. May Miami County continue to be a place that people want to call their homes and be a part of a beautiful community.

Sincerely,

Roger Stiles