

11 Sept. 2010

10-031

Ms. Karen Hall  
Public Hearing Officer

Re: Pecatonica Pavilion Hearing

It is my desire to make known comments to the recent pros and cons of the hearing.

This community has been very interested in the progress of this development ; as per Mr. Ed Smith's remarks. The developer has invested much time, money, and effort to bring this to a reality.

My concern is in the remarks of the opponnets to the project. They have consistenly told about their having only 70-80% occupancy. This, to my personal views is their undoing. I have made many visits to these nursing/ rehab centers in the area. My visits have always been disturbing and heart-breaking. The smell and many areas in disarray; this is not conducive to warmth and serenity.

Pecatonica is definitely in need of the Pecatonica Pavilion, We have a number of seniors that are anxiously waiting for this project to be started and completed, it is the topic of conversation constantly around Pecatonica.

Arthur J. Stites  
755 John St.  
Pecatonica, Ill. 61063

P.S. - My wife and I are both senior citizens !! 85 / 82 yrs. young

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

10-031

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
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Dear Ms. Hall,

We are writing this letter in regards to the meeting which you chaired on July 30, 2010 in the Peatonica Village Hall, Peatonica IL 61063. The subject matter of that meeting was Project Number 10-031, a request by Severe Health Care Ltd. and Peatonica Pavilion LLC seeking approval from the Ill. Dept. of Public Health to erect and operate a skilled nursing home containing 46 units.

After reading the minutes of that meeting all the Pros and Cons, it is our hope that the project will be approved. It appears that the only people to speak against it were competitors in the same business and if they cannot arrive at their designated percentage of capacity, it could be said that either their services are not what some people desire or their prices are too high or both.

We have always been of the opinion that competition in the business world and the work place, results in better products, better services and better prices.

We have been residents of the Village of Peatonica since I returned from Military Service in 1947 and we have spent our entire working career within the confines of this town, as an employee of the original Dean Milk Co. F. & F. Assembly and as a Postal employee and Postmaster.

We are now retired and have resided in the same house for 54 yrs, just  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Blocks from the proposed building site. We both feel that this facility is in great need for our local citizens; we are in our 80<sup>'s</sup> and, who knows, perhaps we will be in need of it ourselves.

We feel that, in addition to the needed skilled care, it might attract new business and re-vitalize our whole community.

We have not spoken to a single local resident who has been against this project and we hope that our opinion will be considered when the decision is rendered.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Meyer, Carmen J. Meyer

456 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Pecatonica, IL 61063

I am a 65 year old resident of Pecatonica, Illinois and I recently read the transcripts of the hearing for request for a skilled nursing facility in Pecatonica. The transcripts mostly consisted of opposition to the facility by other nursing homes in the area. All opposition consisted of the competitive nature of such a facility becoming a threat to the census of their own facility and skilled staff. I agree with Mr. Ed Smith who spoke of the benefits of competition in our free enterprise society, and also to the popular demand from our small town community for the desire for our elderly to remain in their community.

But the other important message I heard was quality. The unspoken threat I heard from the opposing facilities was that perhaps they might be forced to be more competitive in the cost of health care and the quality of services and staff. I believe every facility should *already* be constantly motivated to improve cost and care whether there is competition in their area or not.

People who are forced to move to assisted and skilled care do not want to stop living entirely; the recognition that their former lives have changed is traumatic enough. They want to remain in their familiar surroundings where their loved ones and friends can visit as often as they did when they were in their homes. They don't want their lives to end, as such, they just need assistance with their daily physical needs so that they may live on comfortably, emotionally and spiritually. Living in a smaller community for 70+ years then being forced into the noise and confusion of a strange and larger city is elderly trauma in the first degree.

I also have acquaintances who live in larger cities who have stated the desire to go to a smaller community facility when they require assisted or skilled care just because they feel it would be a more secure, safer and more personal environment.

So, in summary, if the weak argument based on competition and average numbers of occupancy is the only objection, I say, quit objecting and make your own facility more competitive by sprucing up, cleaning up and offering more quality and economical services in your own backyard! Just as the people of Pecatonica are saying by instigating this new facility, the baby boomer generation (who are less than a decade away from requiring assisted and skilled care) are expressing a future need...are you prepared?

Board of Review, please consider the humane issues involved not just the whining about low census, stealing skilled staff etc. That is all about money not about the human needs of the elderly.

I am very much in favor of a skilled nursing facility in Pecatonica.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Patricia Peterson  
121 E 6<sup>th</sup> St. PO #870  
Pecatonica, Ill. 61043  
Sept. 30, 2010

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My name is Ruth Moth, and I live in Pecatonica, Illinois. I am 89 years old and have lived in Pecatonica all of my life. My family, friends, church and roots are all here. I live in a development in Pecatonica just behind the proposed sight for the Pec Pavillion assisted living. My husband and I owned a home in Pecatonica and lived in it for nearly 57 years. When the maintenance became too difficult for us, we purchased a condo unit where I presently live. Leaving our lifelong home was a difficult and traumatic experience but we were still in the same town, had the same friends, church etc. so ultimately made a satisfactory transition. My husband has since passed and I am quite comfortable in my environment surrounded by many widowed women who share exactly the same story and circumstances as mine. In fact, there are at least 17 widowed or elderly couples in this particular development alone. Most of us worked very hard to promote the TIF for the building of the assisted living facility.

I know that soon I may require assisted care and perhaps at some point skilled nursing care. I would like very much to be able to look out the windows of this facility and be content in my last days to see what I have seen and am familiar with for so many years, and to visit with family and friends that are so familiar to me every day.

My pharmacist knows me and my required medications; my pastor visits regularly when I am unable to attend church; my children and friends can stop by for short visits and well checks regularly. These things are what I have been accustomed to my entire life and feel very comfortable and secure knowing I have this familiarity.

I am asking you to please support the proposal for the skilled nursing facility in the Pec Pavillion in Pecatonica.

Thank you for considering my request

*Ruth Moth*  
 633 Park View St.  
 Pecatonica, IL 61063

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