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My name is Justin Gingerich and I have been a resident of Ashland for twenty years. First, I want to thank the council for their service and time. Second, I would like to state for the record that I represent a number of residents who think that Ashand County should regulate manure handling as strictly as possible for the specific purpose of ensuring that factory farms can't come around here and make a giant mess. I would hope that there is a way to include in any ordinances or legislation a means to protect existing farmers or potential resident-farmers from undue regulation. Maybe a residency exemption or grandfather clause. Nobody wants to prevent local farmers from expanding or to new farm families from moving here. Likewise, nobody wants confinement operations stinking everything up and dumping crap in the water.

Upon request I'd be willing to carry on about the importance of clean water, the implicit threat of modern agribusiness, and some of the troubling things I've seen in the waters of Ashland county.

Thanks for considering my opinion.