

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING

323

Town Hall

2/11/88

8:00 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Holbrook  
Council Members Carey, Kunis, Maloney, Smith  
Murray N. Jacobson, Town Attorney  
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

RE: INFORMATIONAL MEETING RE: LASER TECHNOLOGY FOR GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Councilwoman Smith gave the credentials of the people speaking this evening. She mentioned in particular Dr. Dudley J. Burton and Mr. F. Paul Pedersen, President of Co-Fab.

Mr. Pedersen stated that he would give a two part presentation on the laser system. He would discuss the technology and the mechanics of the system and how they plan to deal with the various problems inherent in presently existing mass burn and incineration systems. He wanted to make it clear that this was not an incineration operation. They have absolutely no oxidating process taking place in the system whatsoever. This means in essence that there is no open flame of any type. They will provide a total recycle capability.

Mr. Pedersen went into great length regarding their procedure which is to recycle as much of the incoming feed stock material as the economic conditions will bear. If there is no market for recycling it is economically impractical to do it. He said they could do it but there is no market for it, so why do it.

Mr. Pedersen introduced Dr. Burton, who is a consultant to the company and who has spent many years with the physicist who designed the process. He reiterated that this is not a process his company invented, but that they have sole licensing rights to the process for the United States. He said they developed it but did not invent it. Mr. Pedersen stated that Dr. Burton has been involved in environmental studies and trying to rectify problems as they exist. He is knowledgeable regarding the poisons which are created by incineration process. He taught at Brown University and has a great deal of hands on experience.

Mr. Pedersen said they can take our garbage and convert it into oil and gas. He said this has been done for many years but they are just doing it in a little different manner. It is still oil industry techniques. It is the taking of an old idea and making it better. Improvements have been added and this is a revolutionary new device.

Dr. Burton then went into great technical detail chemistry wise, etc. He said the basic equation is to take hydrocarbons absent the presence of oxygen and distill those carbons into liquids and gasses. This system has achieved distillation much more energy efficiently than in the past. It uses light energy rather than thermal energy. The light is provided at the frequencies suitable to breaking this particular molecular bonds so you are providing energy at the specific level needed to achieve that decomposition.

This can be done on tires and on plastics even now and get a positive heat balance out of it. For less energy rich materials like municipal solid waste you can't do that effectively. The trick is to provide the energy to break those bonds so that you create new simpler hydrocarbons, more specifically you convert solid hydrocarbons into liquids and gaseous hydrocarbons. In the oil industry people know how to deal with liquids and gas hydrocarbons. We don't know a lot about how to deal with solid hydrocarbons. The achievement of this technology is specifically to make the transformation into liquids and gasses.

Continued on Next Page

ABE545

There followed a quite lengthy presentation of a highly technical nature. (Tape on file in Town Clerk's Office.)

Mr. Pedersen mentioned that Dr. Burton was an independent physicist and not on the staff of CoFab Inc.

Mr. Pedersen then went on with his presentation. There is not a full sized complete production system operating anywhere at this time. Mr. Pedersen then said he would build this system, at absolutely no cost to the community. He said if we would guarantee him the garbage and a place to put it he will put his money into it. He town or county would have absolutely no liability whatsoever.

There were questions from the audience which Mr. Pedersen answered. It was ascertained that an upgrading could be made to the system at a relatively low cost if in the future more was demanded of the system.

Mr. Pedersen said what is in it for them is the money made from the sale of the energy produced from the garbage to the local power company.

There was a lengthy question and answer session.

Councilwoman Smith thanked Mr. Pedersen and Dr. Burton for making the presentation. She thanked everyone in the audience for attending. She also stated that if anyone wished to speak to the mayor or the councilpeople from Ocean County, Stafford Township, New Jersey she had telephone numbers and addresses. She invited the people to come forward and examine the presented material more closely.

The informational meeting ended at approximately 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia Sheridan*  
PATRICIA SHERIDAN,  
Town Clerk