Vineland says yes to cold storage facility in industrial park

Joseph P. Smith, Vineland Daily Journal  Published 3:01 p.m. ET Aug. 15, 2019

VINELAND – Construction is expected to start soon in Vineland Industrial Park-North on the first phase of a 109,914-square-foot cold storage facility.

The Vineland Planning Board on Wednesday night unanimously approved the final site plan for a 37,372-square-foot building at 3546 N. Mill Road. The business will operate as KRES Cold Storage and a spring 2020 opening is anticipated.

The board also gave preliminary approval to a plan for a follow-on component, a 72,132-square-foot building. The project site encompasses about 10.48 acres spread over two lots and with existing businesses, including Homiak Transport Inc.

A rough time frame for phase two development to start is two to five years unless business makes it practical to begin earlier, KRES attorney Michael Fralinger said.
The president of KRES Cold Storage is Ray Cronk II, who attended the hearing. KRES is an acronym based on the first names of members of his family.

Although a separate business, KRES will work closely with and in support of neighboring Homiak Transport, where Cronk is the majority owner. The actual site plan applicant is a third business, Cronk Curcio Realty LLC.

“Homiak Transport Inc., right now, is a third-party hauler,” Fralinger said. “They will go and pick up refrigerated product at a customer location. They have to take it to a storage facility, drop it at the storage facility, and then go back to the storage facility, pick it up, take it to the … user. What they want to do is cut out the middleman, so to speak.”

The main shift at the facility is estimated at 30 workers, according to the city staff plan review.

Board members voting were Chairman David Manders, Vice Chairman Michael Pantalone, John Casadia, Samuel Fiocchi, Sandy Velez, Robert Odorizzi, David Acosta, David Catalana, and Keith Salerno.

“This the type of development we look for in Vineland,” Fiocchi said.

“Before I vote, I also want to say my sentiments that I’m so pleased to see a business that’s been here so many years grow and stay here,” Odorizzi said. “We lose too many businesses.”

Joe Smith is a Philly native transplanted to South Jersey more than 30 years ago. He is a former editor and current senior staff writer at The Daily Journal in Vineland. Have a news tip? Reach out at (856) 563-5252 or jsmith@thedailyjournal.com or follow me on Twitter, @jpsmith-dj.