

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL HEARING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

A special public hearing was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 to consider two Agricultural Security Area additions of Kevin & Denise Ozimek and Ryan & Aaron Kradel. Present were Chairman, Terry Steinheiser, Vice-Chairman Larry Spangler and Supervisor Rick Kradel. Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr. was present to conduct the hearing and Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Ozimek and Aaron Kradel were present to represent the applicants. The special meeting was called to order by Chairman, Terry Steinheiser at 6:05 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENT PERIOD - three minute limit pertaining to the agenda
NONE

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presided over the hearing per Steinheiser's request. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this is a quasi judicial proceeding where the supervisors sit like judges and render a decision upon the forthcoming information. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. said the supervisors will deliberate in an executive session and then return to hearing and render a decision. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the hearing is being audio recorded and will be preserved and made part of the record. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. took a roll call of all attendees which each person responded starting with Aaron Kradel, Christen Kradel, Lee Kradel, Kevin Ozimek, Denise Ozimek, Brenda Davis, Terry Steinheiser, Larry Spangler and Rick Kradel. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated he would be acting as the hearing officer tonight. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. proceeded to ask Aaron Kradel, Kevin Ozimek, Denise Ozimek (applicants) and Brenda Davis, secretary, who would be testifying tonight to raise their hands and be sworn in to tell the truth. All parties responded.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated the format for the hearing will be as follows:

1. go through the documents and mark them as exhibits to make them part of the record,
2. question the applicants, 3. supervisors question applicants, 4. supervisors deliberate in executive session 5. supervisors return with a decision. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated if approved to join Ag Security there will be a Resolution to pass for each applicant which will need recorded at the Butler County Recorder of Deeds. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. marked the following exhibits:
1. Kevin & Denise Ozimek application located at 1222 Prospect Rd. - 40.44 acres - parcel #120-4F23-27
2. Ryan & Aaron Kradel application - consists of 2 parcels located at 109 Eagle Ridge Ln. - .20 acre - parcel #120-3F45-7AA & 46.967 acres - parcel #120-3F45-8
3. Public Hearing Notice for Agricultural Security Area Addition
4. Proof of Publication of Notice in Butler Eagle
5. Agricultural Security Area Addition Public Notice dated June 17, 2022
6. Excerpt from Supervisor meeting minutes of July 6, 2022
7. Agricultural Security Area Addition Public Notice dated July 12, 2022
8. Proof of Publication of Notice in Butler Eagle dated July 12, 2022
9. Memorandum from Township dated July 5, 2022 notifying the Butler County Planning Commission, Connoquenessing Township Planning Commission and members of the Connoquenessing Township Agricultural Security Advisory Committee
10. List of Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee members
11. Copy of Connoquenessing Township's Planning Commission agenda for August 17, 2022

12. Copy of deed for Kevin & Denise Ozimek property dated September 24, 2021
13. Copy of deed for Aaron Kradel and Ryan Kradel property dated May 4, 2021
14. Agenda for this evenings meeting, September 14, 2022

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked supervisor Rick Kradel his relationship to the Kradel properties. Mr. Kradel stated Ryan and Aaron are his sons. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Mr. Kradel if he will recuse himself in respect to their application. Kradel said, "yes". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated Mr. Kradel will be part of the hearing but will only render a decision on the Ozimek application.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. started the hearing by asking Kevin Ozimek if he was the owner of 1222 Prospect Rd. Mr. Ozimek said, "yes". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked what the property is currently used for. Mr. Ozimek said a residential house but he and his wife have horses and are currently building a barn and want to bring the horses onto the farm. Mr. Ozimek stated he leases about 20 acres to Rob Burr, a local farmer, and wants to keep the property agricultural and away from development. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if property is currently used for agricultural use? Mr. Ozimek stated Rob Burr currently harvests corn and wheat for feed. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if Mr. Ozimek had soil profiles for the property? Mr. Ozimek said, "no". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. questioned if there are controls in place for sedimentation or erosion. Mr. Ozimek stated there is a field drain installed from the road to a spring and a pond which does have issues but planning on restoring it next year. Mr. Ozimek is also going to put field tile in where the horses will be so the field won't be wet. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if there are any current farm improvements on the property? Mr. Ozimek said none since he moved in but is planning to fix drain from road and update drains in field and put field tile in to direct water to the pond. Mr. Ozimek said he will be putting in a staging area for manure and a plan to spread it around the field. Kradel asked if the drain from the road is from the state road. Mr. Ozimek said, "no" it is a pipe in the field up above the road that drains out. Steinheiser asked if they are planning to build a barn. Mr. Ozimek said, "yes" it is already built but not completed. Spangler asked how many horses/livestock he is planning? Mr. Ozimek said he is setting up for 9 or 10 stalls for 2-3 horses now and a boarding facility later. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if Mrs. Ozimek had any comments. Mrs. Ozimek said, "no".

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Aaron Kradel to state his name and if he was the owner with his brother Ryan Kradel of 2 parcels located at 109 Eagle Ridge Ln.? Aaron Kradel said, "yes". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked what the current use of the properties are? Mr. Kradel said, "residential, livestock including 3 horses, chickens and farming grain". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if he has any knowledge of soil profiles for those properties? Mr. Kradel said, "no". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Mr. Kradel to address to the supervisors his sedimentation and erosion facilities. Mr. Kradel stated he has drains coming off the property towards a pond adjacent to his property and then to the road. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if there are farm improvements on the property. Mr. Kradel said there is a barn and machine shed. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if Mr. Kradel has any changes planned for the property use? Mr. Kradel stated it will stay as it is. Mr. Kradel said he plans on putting in a pasture early spring. Spangler asked how big the pasture will be? Mr. Kradel said approximately 4 acres. Steinheiser asked how many acres are currently farmed? Mr. Kradel said, "10-12 acres" for hay. Steinheiser verified that there is a barn and machine shed on property. Mr. Kradel said, "yes, they are connected".

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated there were no more questions and needed a motion to go into executive session for deliberations. Spangler motioned to adjourn to an executive session at 6:23 p.m. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

The board returned at 6:25 p.m. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented Resolution #9-22 which represents the Ozimek application and if signed will approve their application and be recorded at the Butler

County Recorder of Deeds. Kradel motioned to approve Resolution #9-22. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Secondly, Mr. Menchyk, Jr. presented Resolution #10-22 which represents the Kradel application and if signed will approve their application and be recorded at the Butler County Recorder of Deeds. Spangler motioned to approve Resolution #10-22. Steinheiser seconded. Roll call, Spangler yes, Steinheiser yes, Kradel abstained and recused.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.