

CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL HEARING MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2023

A special public hearing was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 to consider the Agricultural Security Area Proposal of Benjamin Patton at 1257 Prospect Rd. Present were Vice-Chairman Larry D. Spangler and Supervisor Ricky L. Kradel. Terry Steinheiser did not attend. Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr. was present to conduct the hearing and secretary Brenda Davis was present to take the minutes. Benjamin Patton was present as the applicant. The special meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Larry D. Spangler at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Alliance.

COMMENT PERIOD (three minute limit pertaining to hearing)

Sandra Cox, resident at 360 Fassinger Rd., stated she was in attendance per Ben Patton's request.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated this hearing is required by statute to convene on the Benjamin Patton Agricultural Security Proposal.

Andrew Menchyk, Jr. presided over the public hearing. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. reviewed the exhibits: 1. Ag application, 2. Ag Public Notice, 3. Butler Eagle invoice, 4. Excerpt from Supervisors meeting minutes on April 5, 2023, 5. Memorandum from Township to Butler Co. Planning Commission, Connoquenessing Township Planning Commission and members of Connoquenessing Township Agricultural Security Advisory Committee, 6. List of Agricultural Security Advisory Committee members, 7. Letter dated April 21, 2023 from Butler County Planning Commission stating they had no comments, 8. Email from Brendan Linton, Connoquenessing Township Planning Commission chairman, stating they had no comments, 9. Public Hearing Notice memo dated June 2, 2023. 10. Butler Eagle invoice and 11. copy of fiduciary deed.

Benjamin James Patton was sworn in by Mr. Menchyk, Jr.

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Mr. Patton to state the property address and asked if he was the sole owner. Mr. Patton stated 1257 Prospect Rd., Prospect, PA 16052 and stated he is the sole owner. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked what the property is used for? Mr. Patton stated it is his residence and has 30 acres of farmland that he rents to his neighbor, Rob Burr. Mr. Patton stated Mr. Burr uses the property for crop corn, grain and hay. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. questioned if there are any farm improvements to the land? Mr. Patton stated there was a pole building previous to purchase and he uses it for storage. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if he has any soil characteristics for the said property. Mr. Patton stated, "no". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if there are any erosion or sediment controls for the subject property. Mr. Patton stated there are field drains that are maintained and working and does contour farming with crop rotation. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked what Mr. Patton's long term goal of farming would be? Mr. Patton stated hay and grain. Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Mr. Patton if during his ownership of said property it will be used for Agriculture. Mr. Patton said, "yes".

Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked if supervisors had any questions? Spangler and Kradel stated "no". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked Mr. Patton if he had any further comments? Mr. Patton said, "no". Mr. Menchyk, Jr. asked the board if they needed time to deliberate before rendering a decision? Spangler and Kradel stated "no".

Kradel motioned to approve the addition of the Benjamin Patton property to the Ag Security Area. Spangler seconded. Roll call, yes.

Lastly, Mr. Menchyk, Jr. stated a resolution would need adopted stating this property is accepted in Ag Security and recorded at the Butler County Recorder of Deeds. Spangler motioned to enact resolution #2-23 which accepts Benjamin Patton property into the Township's Agricultural Security Area. Kradel seconded. Roll call, yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kradel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. to an executive session to discuss possible litigation and stated the board would not return. Spangler, seconded. Roll call, yes.