

**FEBRUARY 19, 2009 SUPERVISORS' AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA HEARING:**

The Mount Joy Township Board of Supervisors met this date, as publicly advertised, at 7:15 p.m. in the meeting room of the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building, 902 Hoffman Home Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 with Board Chairman James W. Waybright presiding. Others in attendance were: Supervisors William Chantelau, George Scott, Samuel Dayhoff, and Robert Rhodes; ASA Coordinator Robin Crushong; Solicitor Walton V. Davis; and Secretary Brenda J. Constable.

Others in attendance were: News Reporter Aaron Young (*Gettysburg Times*); Jerry Althoff and Tom Dunchack representing the Planning Commission; John Gormont; and Elsie Morey.

Board Chairman Waybright stated the purpose of the hearing was to review two (2) proposed additions to the Mount Joy Township Agricultural Security Area involving a proposal submitted by Randy & Stephanie Reiner, 135 Schwartz Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, totaling 53.40 acres; and Kenneth & Linda Hilbert, 4004 Baltimore Pike, Littlestown, Pennsylvania, totaling 76 acres. He noted the proposal was published in the local newspaper and posted in five locations throughout the Township. Favorable recommendations for approval from the County Planning Office, the Township Planning Commission, and the Township ASA Committee have been received.

Mr. Waybright asked for public comment.

Mr. John Gormont: My understanding was, and maybe it's wrong, but that this was for farm property or property being farmed?

Mr. Waybright: You want to go over that Sam? It doesn't necessarily have to be farmed. It's to be agricultural property. There is no requirement that it actually is farmed. And there is no teeth, so to speak, for us to go out and inspect it. If the County, maybe it's a State based thing..

Mrs. Crushong: Yes, State.

Mr. Waybright: State-based program.

Mr. Gormont: I thought when I read the County program it said you had to have an income of like \$2,000 up front.

Mr. Waybright: It's supposed to but nobody regulates it, nobody..

Mr. Gormont: The reason I asked is because the property that adjoins mine does not; it hasn't been farmed in 11 years. That's the reason I was asking questions. I mean I make more on my property from the little garden I have than what, you know..

Mr. Dayhoff: This is Agricultural Security Area, it has nothing to do with Agricultural Land Preservation.

Mr. Gormont: I understand that, that's what I'm talking about. The Ag Security Program from the County says \$2,000.

Mr. Scott: I'm surprised at that, I thought that was for the.. the \$2,000, there's a minimum for clean and green.

Mr. Dayhoff: The County does not have any program, it has to go through the local municipality. So are you thinking of clean and green or something else?

Mr. Gormont: I just was asking the question, and I was just trying to follow it. This ties into, if I understand correctly, this ties into tying larger, a number of pieces of property together into the same Security Area. Right?

Mr. Waybright: Yes. Mr. Dayhoff: Yes.

Mr. Gormont: For example, the old Myers property that just went in recently, this adjoins it.

Mr. Dayhoff: Yes.

Mr. Gormont: And the minimum acreage, or the minimum size property, that can be adjoined into this, is what?

Mr. Dayhoff: I believe it's 10 acres.

Mrs. Crushong: 10 acres.

Mr. Waybright: The same as clean and green, clean and green is 10 acres minimum.

Mr. Gormont: Somewhere I read something that said two to three but I didn't know what that was about so I just thought I'd ask.

Mr. Dayhoff: I think for clean and green, if you fall under 10 acres but you can prove that you produce more than \$2,000 a year of ag income..

Mr. Gormont: Uh ha

Mr. Dayhoff: Then you'd fall under the clean and green program.

Mr. Gormont: Oh...okay, I didn't realize that.

Mr. Dayhoff: Okay?

Mr. Gormont: Maybe that was the two acres I read about, I know it had something to do with two acres.

Mr. Dayhoff: But that doesn't have anything to do with the ASA.

Mr. Gormont: I understand. Okay.

Mr. Waybright: Comments, concerns, anything from the Board.

Board: None.

Mr. Waybright: We'll close this hearing. Thank you.

Hearing closed at 7:20 p.m. this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Constable  
Secretary