

FINAL

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP YORK COUNTY PA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Wenrich
Vice Chairman Brian Galbraith
Supervisor Naomi Decker
Supervisor David Buckwash
Supervisor David Christensen
Solicitor Bret Shaffer
Engineer Phillip Brath
Secretary Traci Kauffman
Treasurer/Asst. Secretary Pamela Williams

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

The September 8, 2021, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) Special Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. by Chairman Mark Wenrich. The meeting was held via Zoom and in person at 150 Century Lane, Dillsburg, PA. Visitors in attendance are listed on the meeting sign-in sheet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER

The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer was led by Chairman Mark Wenrich.

Presenter Doug Wolfgang from the PA Dept. of Agriculture/Bureau of Farmland Preservation presented background information on Agricultural Security Areas (ASA)/Farmland Preservation Law. Mr. Wolfgang showed a Power Point Presentation and stated preserving a farm starts at the local level within the Township. The ASA provides protection and benefits for the farm owner and is a designation of productive farmland within a municipality. It requires 250 acres (not all contiguous) within the municipality and has a voluntary program renewal which occurs every seven years. The landowner can voluntarily leave the program without any penalty. Mr. Wolfgang explained the Farmland Preservation "Toolbox" in Pennsylvania and what things are available to save our farmland. He gave reasons for protecting farmland and gave criteria on which the land needs evaluated to become part of the ASA. The details for enrollment were given. The municipality is responsible to create an Agricultural Advisory Committee to make sure farms that want to be included in the ASA meet all the criteria. Procedures were given to explain how the municipality reviews petitions that want to be included in ASA. Every seven years these ASA properties are up for review; however, there could also be an Interim Review at any time. He also explained Condemnation of ASA land and how that works. Mr. Wolfgang gave the definition of the Right to Farm Law. Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment (ACRE) is Act 38 of 2005 allows the farmland owner to petition the Attorney General to review local ordinances and charge the legality of the ordinance. He stated they have statistics of how many townships participate in the ASA. Discussion ensued between Mr. Wolfgang and some members of the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Patty McCandless, from the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, joined the meeting by ZOOM. Patty McCandless stated she could be instrumental in overcoming the challenge of providing enough people for the ASA Committee through the Farm Bureau. Patty McCandless indicated that there are 306 preserved farms with five donated easements to the County of York and 45,174 acres including donated easements. The York County Commissioners provided money which has boosted their program activity. They went from two farms preserved by the county and state in 2019 to 16 farms in 2020 and are continuing to go down the list in 2021 and choose 15 more farms. The application process is held every two years and out of 50 they completed 31. If the county contributes funds, it will get a match from state funds for that amount. Discussion ensued between the Supervisors and Mr. Wolfgang.

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Patty McCandless said the farmers at the northern end of the county feel left out and she recommended the township do all they can to create a committee to get the farms in the ASA because it is a requirement of eligibility within the York County Agriculture Land Preservation Board. Chairman Wenrich inquired how many acres in Franklin Township are in the ASA. Doug Wolfgang and Patty McCandless will provide that information later.

Adjournment at 6:43 PM

A motion was made by Supervisor Mark Wenrich to adjourn the meeting a **6:43PM**

Second by Supervisor David Buckwash

Discussion: There was no discussion.

The motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Kauffman

Traci Kauffman
Secretary
Franklin Township