

Willig, Robert A.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 5:56 PM
To: ACRE Shared Mailbox
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Abuse of power & harassment of a farmer
Attachments: lancaster.pdf

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[REDACTED]

On Tue, May 24, 2022 at 11:54 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am requesting a review into Lancaster Township, Butler County on their abuse of power and harassing me for operating my farm and making a living. My wife and I own 74.893 acres consisting of 2 parcels, located at [REDACTED]. I am the owner of an agricultural based excavation company and am a licensed manure hauler. I purchased the property from [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] in 2015, [REDACTED] who had a multigenerational farming operation/ excavating business here prior to my purchase of said property. Before I purchased this property, I received verbal permission from the previous township manager that I could operate my farm as well as an excavation business as long as my business did not bring public onto the property.

As table 601: Table of authorized uses shows Agricultural Operations and home based business are permitted. November 24, 2021 the township sent us a letter [REDACTED]. Please notice that the original letter from Nov, 2021 was only in regards to the township claiming we are operating a landscape supply business. The cease and desist letter includes more than the original violation letter. When I tried to talk to the Township regarding the Nov letter, they refused to talk to me without their solicitor present. On April 25, 2022 the Township served us with a Cease and Desist order. We filed an appeal May 3, 2022 with the Zoning Hearing Board. Between April 25, 2022 and today I have a total of 13 citations, keep in mind it is still within the 30 days stated on the cease and desist order. 7 of the known citations are criminal harassment charges. All 13 citations were written for performing agricultural things around our farm; burning brush to clear for animal pasture, using equipment to install animal pasture fencing, using a bulldozer to clear and grade up land for animal pasture, as well as spreading manure. The police do not show up when they write the citations, they are only efilling them. The citations are not for anything different then I have done for the past 7 years of owning this property.

I have also attached photos of the police department trespassing and barricading off my driveway on April 28, 2022. The township manager, [REDACTED], as well as the chair Township supervisor, [REDACTED], have been trespassing on our property while taking pictures and videoing our property. Based on the eye witness name [REDACTED], on the citation issued by [REDACTED], it is our one neighbor complaining. The [REDACTED] purchased their property on September 8, 2017. [REDACTED]s allowed us to continue farming a hay field located on their parcel. I have put money into that hay field but have not been able to farm it yet this year to recapture my expenses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will help me in this matter.

[REDACTED]