

Rob,

Attached is the Butler Township Zoning Ordinance, my emails back and forth with the Zoning officer [REDACTED] as well as report from Sylvandale Forestry.

We had already started the job and got shut down until we paid the fee. This is the point I reached out to [REDACTED] to get recommendations of how to handle this. I always check ordinances and every township I have dealt with that has had restrictions or fees has a township website with everything available. Butler Township does not have a website to offer their information. With technology being as advanced as it is I do not see how that is allowable.

Butler Township Zoning Ordinance asks for a \$1500 fee for timber harvesting as well as a reviewal process with [REDACTED] Sylvandale Forestry. First and foremost, the fee is outrageous and we attended the township meeting in October which the zoning officer did not show. The solicitor told us to come up with a fee structure with which we felt was reasonable and it would be discussed at the November meeting.

We attended the November meeting and they basically told us to deal with it and they were not interested in the graduated list that I provided based on your recommendation for Williams Township. They claimed that there is no way they can use that fee structure due to the township losing money. As we continued to debate, they said they have paid this forester \$400-\$900 for reviewals. This is not okay. I had our E&S Plan on site and all BMP's established as well as the timber already marked. What gives him the right to in a sense trespass on private property without consent of the landowner to collect a check for the work I have already done. We practice sound forest management as well as invasive mitigation along with all of our timber harvests to protect the resources at hand as well as promoting forest health and sustainability. My biggest argument to them was the fact that on the 30 acres we cut, we only were taking 6 loads of sawlogs while taking care of all the birch in areas where there was heavy oak regeneration so it could establish successfully. I said that the fee hurts us immensely on the scale at which we are harvesting. The only people "ok" with the fee are people who are harvesting at a scale at which the fee does not matter.

Since they rejected our graduated proposal based on the Williams Township resolution, I would really like to see a flat fee of up to \$250 for the timber harvest fee to cover admin costs only. Ultimately, I would like to get my money back from the timber harvest fee but not sure how feasible that is.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Office of Attorney General

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Legal Review Section