

DICKINSON TOWNSHIP JOINS MUNICIPAL COALITION REGARDING FOOD PROCESSED RESIDUALS

At its regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (3-0) to approve entering into a Joint Cost Sharing Agreement to form a municipal coalition with other municipalities regarding Food Processed Residuals (often called FPRs). “This issue has been a significant issue for our Township residents” stated Rob Kole, Chairman of the Dickinson Township Board of Supervisors. “There is simply something out of balance and we are deeply concerned about our environment, the health and well-being of our Township residents, and our farmland. Something has to be done and with the help of our local state Representative Torren Ecker and Senator Greg Rothman, we knew the time was now to have representation to make sure our voices are being heard. We also appreciate the efforts of Representative Barb Gleim as well.”

The Joint Cost Sharing agreement was recently created when the South Middleton Board of Supervisors engaged Bryan Salzmänn, an environmental law and land use attorney with Salzmänn Hughes, P.C. to represent the Board on the issue. Cory Adams, South Middleton Township manager, welcomed the news that Dickinson Township had joined the coalition. “We deeply appreciate all the work being completed by our state electeds. However, we also know that these journeys take time, diligence, and focus and we welcome Dickinson Township in this important matter of health and safety. Municipalities need to have a collective voice and have a seat at the table for these discussions.”

Jennifer Degaetano, newly-elected Dickinson Township Supervisor echoed these comments. “When I was campaigning and spent time at the polls, the issue of FPR application and its effect on our residents was clearly the number one issue I was hearing about. I decided at that time, that something needed to be done. I think it is important that Dickinson Township take a leadership role on this and not simply sit back. We are thankful to South Middleton Township for its invitation to work cooperatively together to find a way to adequately address a practice that appears to be largely unregulated and now severely restricted in other states. We also hope other neighboring municipalities will join us.”

Penn Township will be considering adoption of the Joint Agreement at its meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024. The County Commissioners have also voted to negotiate with Salzmänn Hughes on its representation regarding FPRS.

For more information regarding the Dickinson Township Board of Supervisors involvement, please contact Supervisor Rob Kole at 717-440-2264.