

Public Hearing
Annual Agricultural District Inclusion
February 19, 2009

The Public Hearing on requests of inclusion of viable agricultural land in agricultural districts received within the designated time period in 2009 was called to order by the Chair at 10:01 A.M. Six Legislative members were present, Legislators Oberbeck, Huttleston, and Sauerbrey being absent.

There were 6 people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Josh Brown from the Planning Department spoke. "The agricultural district inclusion is a yearly process that Tioga County began in 2004. January is the designated month for the enrollment process. During the enrollment process in the month of January we received applications and phone calls for interested property owners in the county and over the past two years we have actually began to receive emails as far as requesting applications and to address inquiries from the public. During the Annual Inclusion process land may be added to the agricultural district but not removed.

"For 2009 we had three applications for landowners enrolling in the Ag district. They are in the Town of Barton, Candor, and Owego totaling 5 parcels of land for those three applicants and a total of 306.23 acres. Overall this year we received four phone calls and two emails. Each application was verified using assessment property class codes, GIS mapping data which includes aerial photography and also staff will conduct sight inspections when needed. All three applications meet requirements for the annual enrollment for the Tioga County Ag District this year under Article 25 AA of Agricultural and Markets Law. This data was also presented to the Tioga County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board and the Legislative Agricultural Committee at their February 3rd meeting and they have also provided recommendations to include their applications.

"The packet that I handed out, the first page is the location map showing where the properties to be included are in the 2009 Agricultural District. The second page is a breakdown of the municipality landowner, the address, tax ID acreage, and the principal farm enterprise. The final page is a line graph showing from 2004-2009 the number of acres that have been enrolled in the County. Altogether since this Annual Inclusion process began we have enrolled over 2100 acres in Tioga County."

There being no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:06 A.M.