

PUBLIC HEARING-ORLEANS COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
July 28, 2021, 4:20 p.m.  
Consolidated Agricultural District No. 1-Additions to the District

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Present: Lynne M. Johnson, Chairman; Donald, Allport; E. John DeFilipps, Kenneth DeRoller, Merle Draper, William Eick, Fred Miller, Legislators; Kathy Bogan, County Attorney; John C. Welch, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer; James Bensley, Director - Orleans County Planning Department; Barry Flansburg, Chairman of Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.

Chairman Johnson opened the public hearing at 4:20 p.m. Clerk Stenshorn read the public notice of public hearing. Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Bensley and Mr. Flansburg to explain the process.

Jim Bensley thanked the Chairman and Legislator for their time. Jim stated that packets have been handed showing viable land to be added to Ag. Dist. #1. These lands have been approved by the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, upon Legislature approval this will be sent to Ag and Markets for approval. This a small number of six (6) parcels totaling just over 137 acres. The next full blown 8 year review will be December of 2024. Jim acknowledged and thanked new County Planner Corey Winters. Corey did a lot of work putting this together.

Barry Flansburg also thanked Corey. The board meet and approved the additions to Ag. Dist. #1. Parcels can be added only during the yearly cycle. It is during the full renewal of this district, every 8 years, when parcels can be removed. During this review, every parcel is sent a letter asking if they will stay in or be taken out. This is a very extensive amount of work, with one public hearing. Barry believes this is one of the largest individual Ag. Districts in NY. Most of the productive farm land is in the Ag. District.

Chairman Johnson asked for public comment.

Legislator DeRoller stated that Ag. Districts went from 10 to 3 to 1 districts. This represents about 117,000 acres at 47% of our land mass. Barry stated the white areas on map, have something other than Ag. in those main areas. The North side of Ridge Road it is mostly white due to the cobble stone. The Murray area has gained land over the years. The big open white area to the South is Barre Stone and Keehler. The open areas have previously been researched.

Legislator DeFilipps asked if the parcel in Murray goes to the road. Barry stated it is set back frontage, the backend possibly owned by canal. Jim stated the law allows only whole parcels. Barry stated that vacant farmland in Ag. Dist. with water down on the road can hook up. That's why the parcels don't all go to the roads.

Chairman Johnson called the public hearing to close at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stenshorn, Clerk  
Orleans County Legislature