

## **Franklin Agricultural Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2019**

#### **Municipal Building 355 East Central Street**

**In Attendance:** Members Present: *Carly Fisher, Jeff Perry, Nick Hoffman, Tim Garboski, Linda Noel, & Marian Szymanski.*

#### **1. Opening:**

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B. Roll Call: six members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
- C. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the 11/26/2018 were unanimously approved.

#### **2. New Business:**

##### **A. Pope Energy and the Smart Solar Program-**

Doug Pope, The President of Pope Energy, and several representatives from the Keller-Williams real estate company gave a presentation on how the Pope Energy Company would like to lease land from local farmers and 61A property owners for the installation and operation of 8' tall solar panels. The land beneath the panels could still be actively farmed and used for a variety of agricultural purposes. The Commission agreed that while we cannot endorse this program, we can let farmers and land owners know about the SMART program. We will also add a link to the SMART program on our website.

#### **3. Old Business:**

- A. **Goals for the Franklin Agricultural Commission** – Jeff Perry created and distributed a document called, “Future Goals and Lines of Effort”. The Commission has agreed to use this document to help us to define our goals and to develop our plans for 2019. The Commission has identified the following items as Potential Goals for 2019:
  - 1. Promotion of local farms and agricultural products. Possible “Farm Day”
  - 2. Expanding our Ag Com brochure into a book which would be available to the public at the Library, Agway, Sr. Center, Black Box, Whole Foods, etc.
  - 3. Creating an Ag Com Newsletter.
  - 4. Promote Mel’s videos of agricultural activities in Franklin.

5. Monthly public service radio announcements about agricultural activities.
6. Engage in P.R. and Political actions on town practices and actions which have an effect on agricultural issues and concerns.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Jeff Perry and Marian Szymanski at 9:29pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski