

ORDINANCE O-14-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 69 OF THE SOUTH HARRISON TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED, "FARMLAND PRESERVATION"

WHEREAS, the South Harrison Township Committee heretofore established a Farmland Preservation Assistance Trust Fund to encourage retention of Farmland and Open Space within South Harrison Township; and

WHEREAS, the Farmland Preservation Assistance Trust Fund encourages land owners to apply for State and County Farmland Preservation Programs; and

WHEREAS, payment to land owners under the Ordinance is limited and restricted to land owners accepted into the State and County Programs for Permanent Farmland Preservation; and

WHEREAS, Section §69-1C and §69-2A requires the Township Committee to provide for an annual appropriation within the Municipal Budget equal to "¢.01 on the tax rate"; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has reviewed the historical payments made from the Farmland Trust Fund and has determined that the current budget appropriation required under Section §69-1C and §69-2A far exceeds the payments made to qualified applicants, and should therefore be adjusted to reflect a more fiscally responsible appropriation based upon the historical data reviewed by the Township Committee for the Farmland Trust Account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED and enacted by the Township Committee of the Township of South Harrison, in the County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey, that the following Sections within Chapter 69 of the Township Code, entitled "Farmland Preservation" are hereby revised and amended to read as follows:

§69-1C. Intent. The intent is to establish a Farmland Preservation Assistance Trust (FPAT) to encourage retention of Farmland and Open Space by placing into each annual budget an appropriation equal to the sum of \$ 500.00 dollars. At the discretion of the Township Committee, the annual Farmland Preservation Budget Appropriation may be adjusted by Resolution adopted by the Township Committee. This Trust Fund shall be used to encourage land owners to apply for the State and County Farmland Preservation Program, and help them gain additional qualification points by allowing them to agree to a lower per acre price (called a bid down) than that established by the State Program approved Appraiser. The one-time payment to qualified applicants shall be limited to those land owners accepted into the State and County Program for Permanent Farmland Preservation.

§69-2A. The South Harrison Township Committee shall provide for an annual Farmland Preservation Municipal Budget Appropriation in an amount equal to \$500.00, which appropriation may be amended at the discretion of the Township Committee by Resolution.

§69-4. Intent. The intent is to establish a Farmland Preservation Assistance Trust (FPAT) to encourage retention of Farmland and Open Space by placing into each annual budget an appropriation equal to the sum of \$500.00 dollars. At the discretion of the Township

Committee, the annual Farmland Preservation Budget Appropriation may be adjusted by Resolution adopted by the Township Committee. This Trust Fund shall be used to encourage land owners to apply for the State and County Farmland Preservation Program, and help them gain additional qualification points by allowing them to agree to a lower per acre price (called a bid down) than that established by the State Program approved Appraiser. The one-time payment to qualified applicants shall be limited to those land owners accepted into the State and County Program for Permanent Farmland Preservation.

§69-5A. The South Harrison Township Committee shall provide for an annual Farmland Preservation Municipal Budget Appropriation in an amount equal to \$500.00, which appropriation may be amended at the discretion of the Township Committee by Resolution.

§69-6C. The Trust Fund Balance available to an approved applicant shall be determined as the unallocated amount (less \$1,000.00) in the Farmland Trust on the date of final approval by the State of New Jersey and/or County of Gloucester. Should there be insufficient funds available to an approved applicant for a particular calendar year, the applicant may re-apply the following year and such approved applicant shall have priority between new applications submitted to the Township Clerk under §69-6D.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any Section, sentence, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction that such holding shall not affect nor impair any other Section, sentence, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its final passage, adoption, and publication as provided by law.

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HARRISON

BY: _____
JAMES MCCALL, MAYOR

Dated: February 18, 2014

ATTEST:

NANCY E. KEARNS, RMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK

NOTICE

This Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of South Harrison, held on the 18th day of February, 2014. The second reading and public hearing of the Township Committee of the Township of South Harrison shall be held on the 12th day of March, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., at a meeting held in the Municipal Building of South Harrison Township, 664 Harrisonville Road, Harrisonville, New Jersey.

NANCY E. KEARNS, RMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance 0-14-03 was finally adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of South Harrison held on the 12th day of March, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building, 664 Harrisonville Road, Harrisonville, New Jersey.

NANCY E. KEARNS, RMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK

Information Only