

STATEMENT OF POSITION BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Pennsylvania State Sportsmen's Association (PSSA) has, regrettably, recently commenced legal action against the Valley Gun & Country Club (VGCC) and its officers. This action in equity was filed in the Northumberland County Court of Common Pleas. This action primarily seeks "quiet title" to certain land and specific performance on certain provisions of an Agreement (the Agreement) dated January 18, 1995 between PSSA and VGCC. This action was initiated after lengthy negotiations between the parties failed to accomplish the transfer by the VGCC of the land that they had agreed to convey, despite their accepting payment year after year from the PSSA. Additional information is provided below.

The VGCC and PSSA have shared the shooting grounds and operations located in Elysburg, Ralpho Township, Northumberland County, PA for many years under various agreements, the most recently being an Agreement dated January 18, 1995. In this Agreement, the VGCC agreed to convey ownership of their property to the PSSA for a substantial consideration which the PSSA has paid. After an unexpected and threatening letter was sent by the VGCC to the officers of the PSSA in March, 2009, a series of meetings were held between representatives of both organizations to try to reach some amicable resolutions to the contested issues. There were four meetings held in 2009 and five in 2010 prior to the initiation of this legal action.

The main area of contention is property ownership. The PSSA desires to have its rights enforced as set forth in Paragraph 1 of the Agreement. This paragraph states....."The VGCC shall transfer to the PSSA all right, title and interest which they have to any real estate situate in Elysburg, Ralpho Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, subject to all of the conditions hereinafter set forth." The PSSA has complied, and will continue to comply with, all of its obligations contained in the Agreement.

Some of the Agreement conditions require that the PSSA pay VGCC one cent for every clay target thrown on the grounds as well as split evenly the proceeds received from any lead reclamation. Since 1995 through 2010 the PSSA has paid in excess of \$550,000 to the VGCC under these required conditions. Additionally, as the camp grounds have continued to expand, the PSSA provided the VGCC all of the funds necessary to pay the property taxes on all of the property.

There are many reasons why the PSSA needs to insist that VGCC live up to the commitment it made in the Agreement and honor its word. In good faith reliance on the Agreement, the PSSA has made many improvements on the grounds, including the lower campground. There are significant additional improvements that are planned to maintain the facility as a first class trapshooting venue that will continue to attract now, and well into the future, even more participants. This not only benefits both organizations but the entire community in Ralpho

Township. These significant improvements include, but are not limited to, repaving of roadways and walkways, rebuilding of the lower shooting fields and trap houses, replacement of all trap machines, construction of permanent vendor buildings, and more. The PSSA cannot, however, make these investments that will allow it to maintain a first class shooting facility without ownership of the property which VGCC agreed to sell and for which the PSSA has paid.

It must be clearly stated that it is not, and has never been, the intent of the PSSA to take over the VGCC or put it out of business. As required by the Agreement that we want VGCC to honor, we want them to retain their clubhouse as well as certain grounds and shooting fields so they can remain a strong and viable shooting club.

If the PSSA cannot obtain title to the grounds for which it is paying, and which the VGCC has agreed to convey, it will regrettably, have to leave the local community and find a new location for its home grounds. Obviously, this is not a desired outcome. A move would be devastating to the local economy because of lost revenues at area businesses, lost property taxes and the removal of a summer employment opportunity for hundreds of area youths. This is not what we want to see happen to all of our friends and neighbors in Elysburg and the surrounding communities.

We look forward to continuing for many years as your good neighbors and friends.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee
Pennsylvania State Sportsmen's Association