

**PENNS VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2019**

PRESENT:

Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

Centre Hall	Chris Cooper
Gregg Township	Doug Bierly
Haines Township	
Miles Township	Ron Hough
Millheim Borough	Lauralee Snyder
Penn Township	Bob Fox
Potter Township	

Other:

Casey Grove	Gregg Township Resident
BT Schwier	Potter Township Resident & Penns Valley Area School Board Member
Centre County Planning and Community Development Office	Linda Marshall

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fox called the March 18, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL of MEETING NOTES

Mr. Fox called for additions or corrections to the January 21st meeting notes. Ms. Cooper moved to approve the meeting notes as written. Mr. Bierly second the motion. The motion was approved.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Cooper reported that there is a balance of \$431.07 in the account and that the report shows the Miles Township contribution to the Treasurer.

Ms. Snyder asked if all of the Penns Valley municipalities have made their contribution. Ms. Marshall replied that the previous Treasurer's Report showed the contributions of the other six municipalities.

In response, Ms. Cooper pointed out that there is a notation on the report that all of the municipalities have contributed \$50 each to the account.

Mr. Fox moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Hough seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SECRETARY REPORT

No report.

REPORTS

Centre Hall Borough

No report.

Gregg Township

Mr. Bierly reported that Gregg Township has agreed to mediation in regard to Right to Know requests. He added that no agreement has been reached.

Haines Township

No representative was present.

Miles Township

No report.

Millheim Borough

No report.

Penn Township

Mr. Fox reported that the Township has been gathering up snow fencing.

Potter Township

No representative was present.

OLD BUSINESS

-Tri-Municipal Park and Recreation Committee

Mr. Bierly reported that the Committee had identified a potential donor for the park improvements. In addition, he noted that the Committee has hired a fundraiser, Mr. Paul Olivet, to raise money for the park.

-Penns Valley EMS

Mr. Fox informed the Commission that he had spoken with Mr. Dave Braucht before the meeting in order to get an update on the Penns Valley Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Mr. Braucht relayed to Mr. Fox that the Municipal EMS Committee has not met and that he plans to work on scheduling a meeting. The Penns Valley EMS will hold a hoagie and stickies sale on April 6th.

Mr. Fox mentioned that there has been some discussion on getting a commitment from the municipalities similar to the fire companies. In addition, Mr. Fox commented that it would be advantageous to have an elected official represent each municipality on the EMS Board. Currently, Miles and Penn Townships have an elected official serving on the Board.

A question was posed as to whether or not the municipalities have received any budget information from the EMS. None of the representatives present had seen a budget report since late 2018.

Mr. Bierly commented that it would be helpful to see what the Local Services Tax generates. Questions were raised about the distribution of the tax, and Ms. Marshall stated that she will re-send the Powerpoint presentation that was given to the Commission in June of 2018.

-Penns Valley Area High School Tour-April 15th-Discuss Details

The Commission discussed touring the improvements to the Penns Valley Area High School. The members agreed that it would be helpful to invite all of the supervisors and council members in the region.

Ms. Cooper asked if the tour could start at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting to follow. The Commission concurred with Ms. Cooper's suggestion. Ms. Marshall stated that she will contact Dr. Brian Griffith, Superintendent, to ask if the time change will work for the District's schedule.

-Tentative Meeting with State Legislators-May 20-Discuss Details

Ms. Marshall informed the Commission that Senator Corman and Representative Borowicz are confirmed to attend. She will double check on Representative Benninghoff's availability.

Mr. Fox emphasized the importance of providing the legislators with a list of issues and questions for them to address on the 20th of May.

The Commission recommended a preliminary list of issues, which are as follows:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Proposed Pennsylvania State Police Fee
- Impact of Amish buggies on state and local roads
- Minimum age for driving non-motorized vehicles on state and local roads
- Broadband
- Proposal to increase the sales tax in order to cut property taxes

The Commission was asked to continue to give this matter some thought.

NEW BUSINESS

-Penns Valley Area School District's Request for Community Input on the acreage and property owned by the District

Mr. BT Schwier, School Board Member, was present for this agenda item.

He informed the Commission that the last Community Meeting to Generate Options for the acreage and property owned by the District will be held on March 19th.

Mr. Schwier passed out a handout, which summarizes the prioritization of proposed solutions. Mr. Schwier emphasized that the District is looking for input from the community.

Mr. Fox referenced the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the rate of growth in the region. He commented that the District added a wing to the Centre Hall-Potter Elementary School based on a proposed development that never got developed, which was an added cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Fox remarked that he did not see anything in the summary sheet that addressed adding teachers and/or making class size smaller.

Mr. Schwier noted that the trades are seeing more interest from secondary students than interest in attending college. He added that the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Technology (CPI) is expanding at a faster rate.

Mr. Hough asked as to how many Penns Valley students attend CPI. Mr. Schwier replied that he will obtain that information and provide it to the Commission.

Mr. Hough asked about holding trade classes at the high school. Mr. Schwier replied that remote teaching is an option; however, there is a logistics concern for providing that opportunity. One issue is not having the appropriate facilities at the high school.

Ms. Marshall informed the Commission that she contacted the Penns Valley Area School to find out when is the deadline for completing the survey. She learned that it is April 3rd.

Ms. Marshall asked Mr. Schwier as to how can a person complete the survey if they do not have internet access. Mr. Schwier replied that they can call the School District and a survey will be mailed to them.

-Regional Comprehensive Plan Priorities Discussion

The Commission had a brief discussion about the priorities. Ms. Marshall suggested that public safety be the next chapter to be developed. The Commission concurred and agreed to continue the discussion at the September 16th meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Marshall reminded the representatives that the municipal Act 13 Usage Reports need to be posted on the municipal or county website no later than April 15th. She added that if the municipality does not have a website that their secretary should email the report to the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office for posting.

Ms. Marshall also informed the Commission of an upcoming workshop, *Making Connections & Managing Water for Multiple Community Benefits*, which is scheduled for April 2nd. She stated that she will email the announcement to them.

Mr. Fox noted that the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic Town Hall Meeting has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd at the Penns Valley High School.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

No other items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Fox moved to adjourn the March 18, 2019 meeting of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission at 7:48 p.m. Mr. Hough seconded the motion. The motion carried

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