

**PENNS VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2019**

PRESENT:

Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

Centre Hall	Chris Cooper and Bill Guisewhite
Gregg Township	Doug Bierly and Keri Miller
Haines Township	Daryl Schafer
Miles Township	Ron Hough
Millheim Borough	Denise Immel
Penn Township	Bob Fox
Potter Township	Ron Grove

Other:

Centre County Planning and
Community Development Office Linda Marshall

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fox called the January 21, 2019 meeting of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission to order at 7:04 p.m.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Fox called for nominations for Chair of the Commission.

Mr. Bierly nominated Mr. Fox to serve as Chair. Ms. Cooper seconded the nomination. The nomination received unanimous approval.

Mr. Fox called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Bierly nominated Mr. Schafer for Vice Chair. Mr. Hough seconded the nomination. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fox called for nominations for Treasurer.

Mr. Guisewhite nominated Ms. Cooper. Mr. Bierly seconded the nomination. The nomination received unanimous approval.

Mr. Fox called for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Bierly nominated Ms. Marshall for the Secretary's position. Mr. Hough seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL of MEETING NOTES

Mr. Fox called for additions or corrections to the November 19th meeting notes. Mr. Bierly corrected the first line in the last paragraph on Page 2 to read 'Mr. Matt ~~Millheim~~ Milliron.' Ms. Cooper moved to approve the November 19, 2018 meeting notes, as revised. Mr. Bierly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Cooper read the Treasurer's Report, noting that all the municipalities except for Miles Township had paid the \$50 contribution to the Treasury. She reported that there is a balance of \$423.79 in the account.

Ms. Marshall informed the Commission that Mr. Hough had given her a check in the amount of \$50 for Miles Township and that all the municipalities are paid in full. Miles Township's check will be deposited into the Commission's account.

Mr. Guisewhite moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Mr. Hough seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SECRETARY REPORT

Ms. Marshall asked the Commission if they would like to see any changes to how the Commission's meeting notes are written. The consensus was that the meeting notes are acceptable as currently written.

Messrs. Bierly and Schafer commented that they would appreciate receiving the notes sooner than a week in advance of the meeting. The reason for the request is so that the members can refer to the notes when reporting at their next regular municipal meeting. Ms. Marshall agreed to accommodate the request; however, she noted that the notes would be in draft form and not official until the Commission approved them at its next meeting.

In addition to emailing the meeting notes to the representatives well in advance of the next meeting, Ms. Marshall will ask the Commission members for agenda items for the upcoming meeting.

REPORTS

Centre Hall

Mr. Guisewhite and Ms. Cooper reported that the Borough is finalizing its Fire Tax Agreement with the Centre Hall Fire Company. The Agreement will also be executed with Potter Township.

Both reported that the fire tax is 1mill and that the tax generates \$100,000 in Potter Township and approximately \$23,000 in Centre Hall Borough.

Gregg Township

Mr. Bierly reported that the Township hired Ms. Pam Hackenberg as Secretary/Treasurer, and Mr. Todd Devinney as the Township's Assistant Road Master.

Ms. Miller stated that the Township is working on a Small Transmission Tower Ordinance (a.k.a. monopoles). The ordinance will be similar to the Township's Wind Turbine ordinance. Ms. Marshall noted that they should be sure to look at the Section 106 review process for telecommunication towers when drafting the regulations due to National Register Rural Historic Landscape District.

Haines Township

Mr. Schafer reported that the Township has been fairly quiet. He noted that there have been a few structure fires in the Valley, and he indicated that he is planning to hold an education meeting on the process for re-building structures destroyed by fire.

Mr. Schafer also commented that the Haines and Penn Townships and Millheim Borough Fire Tax Committee needs to hold a meeting in the near future to make certain that their Agreement is up-to-date.

Miles Township

Mr. Hough reported that a road crew employee is going to retire and that the Township hired Mr. Dustin Auman as the Township's new Roadmaster.

Millheim Borough

No report

Penn Township

Mr. Fox reported that Mr. Henry Beiler was appointed to replace Mr. Leroy Young's unexpired term on the Board of Supervisors.

Potter Township

Mr. Grove reported that the work continues on the Potters Mills Gap project. He added that the Potters Mills sewer project is underway.

Mr. Grove concluded by stating that the Township is currently working on a sign ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS

-Tri-Municipal Park and Recreation Committee

Mr. Bierly reported that he had attended the Committee's recent meeting and that the discussion focused on fundraising for the park as well as trees.

Mr. Bierly added that the Committee was also projecting its cash flow for 2019.

-Penns Valley EMS

Mr. Fox reported that Mr. David Braucht, President of the Penns Valley Emergency Medical Services (PVEMS), informed him that Mr. Jason Brooks was no longer serving as Chief of the PVEMS. Mr. Fox added that Ms. Cindy Ross is now serving in that capacity.

Mr. Fox relayed that the PVEMS is discussing developing bylaws for the organization.

Ms. Miller reported that there was to be a Joint Municipal EMS meeting held on January 21st; however, it was cancelled. She added that the Service's recent membership drive did not result in the outcome that the organization had hoped for. It was thought by some that the recent adoption of the Local Services Tax had an impact on the drive and that communication/education is key to help the residents of the region better understand the tax and the needs of the EMS.

Mr. Hough commented that insurance reimbursement issue needs to be resolved at the state level.

Ms. Miller stated that Governor Wolf recently signed HB 1013, which would allow emergency medical services to bill for other services. She added that no one is sure what services can be billed until the provisions of the law are figured out.

In response to a discussion on the viability of emergency medical services, Mr. Hough reminded the Commission members that the Mifflinburg EMS' employees are paid through the Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg. He noted that employees are one of the biggest expenses for emergency medical services.

It was noted that Mr. Henry Beiler is working on another fundraiser for the PVEMS.

Mr. Schafer recommended that the PVEMS consider forming an Executive Board to focus solely on the financial side of the service.

It was reported that the PVEMS Board of Directors has a financial advisor to assist them and that the EMS did develop a budget for 2019.

Ms. Marshall asked the Commission if they wanted to keep the PVEMS as a regular discussion item on future agendas, and the consensus was in the affirmative due to the fact that the Commission wants to stay informed on this matter of critical importance to the region.

-Draft Future Land Use Chapter

Ms. Marshall asked the representatives if there were any additions/corrections for their municipalities in regard to the Draft Future Land Use Chapter. The representatives indicated that their municipalities had no changes except Mr. Bierly questioned the land use for Noll's Gun Shop in the area west of the Village of Spring Mills. He was interpreting the land use designation as Industrial. Ms. Miller also questioned the Industrial land use classification for the YMCA property in the Village of Spring Mills. Ms. Marshall stated that she will look into the matter and respond back to them.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Comprehensive Plan Priorities Discussion

Ms. Marshall distributed a memo to the Commission members and also a chart listing the Draft Goals for the Regional Comprehensive Plan. She noted that the Commission members had been asked to consider municipal and regional priorities for the update of the Penns Valley Regional Comprehensive Plan. The priorities were to be based on what the region and/or your municipality believe would be important goals to accomplish over the next ten years. The intent is to develop an implementable comprehensive plan.

For background information, an implementable comprehensive plan includes:

- Identifying priority issues;
- Collecting and analyzing data that substantiates and validates the issue;
- Establishing objectives;
- Recommend solutions to address the priority issues; and
- Develop an Action Plan.

Since it has been some time since the municipalities considered the goals, Ms. Marshall is requesting that the municipalities review the draft goals listed on the March 2018 chart, determining if any changes are needed, and to also prioritize the elements/chapters. Input is to be provided before the March 18th meeting.

Ms. Marshall stated that she will be forwarding the Memo and Goals Chart to the municipal secretaries for consideration by their elected officials.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1) Mr. Hough informed those present of the Town Hall Meeting on The Opioid Epidemic, which is scheduled for February 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will be held at the Penns Valley Area High School. He was not sure if all of the municipalities had received the flyer or not and wanted to bring the meeting to their attention.
- 2) Mr. Hough showed the Planning Commission Members a horseshoe, with Borium spot-welds for added traction on hard surfaces, which he found on the road and commented as to how these shoes are damaging the state and local roads. He asked if there is anything that the municipalities can do to address this concern.

Mr. Hough added that he had spoken with the former Representative Mike Hanna about a registration fee for Amish buggies. He continued by stating that the legislation was introduced; however, he was not enacted.

Mr. Hough would also like to see an age limit for young Amish buggy drivers.

Ms. Cooper responded by stating the Pennsylvania Transportation Institute had conducted a study on horse and buggies.

- 3) Mr. Hough asked if the Region's municipalities could schedule a tour of the Penns Valley Area High School renovations. Ms. Marshall stated that she will contact Dr. Griffith, Superintendent.
- 4) Mr. Hough mentioned the Community Meeting to be held by the Penns Valley Area School District on January 31st to receive input on land use ideas for the acreage and property owned by the District.

Mr. Fox stated that it is his understanding the traffic generated from this site may access Green Grove Road.

- 5) Ms. Marshall reminded the Commission members of the CCMPO (Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization) Update handout that was included in the agenda packet. She noted a few of the meetings that will be held in the future and that the CCMPO staff will attend a Regional Planning Commission meeting in the next few months to provide an update on the Long Range Transportation Plan process.

Representatives from Penn and Miles Township and Millheim Borough stated that they have not met with CCMPO staff as of the date of this meeting.

- 6) The Commission expressed an interest in inviting the state legislators to their March 18th meeting to discuss issues of importance to the region and their municipalities. Mr. Fox asked the members to come up with a list of issues in advance of the meeting that would be shared with legislators and their staff.

The Commission would like for this meeting to be held in conjunction with a tour of the Penns Valley Area High School with the meeting being held first. Ms. Marshall will work on scheduling the meeting/tour.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

No other items were reported.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Hough moved to adjourn the January 21, 2019 meeting of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Bierly seconded the motion. The motion carried.