

**PENNS VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2019**

PRESENT:

Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

Centre Hall	Chris Cooper and Bill Guisewhite
Gregg Township	
Haines Township	
Miles Township	Ron Hough
Millheim Borough	Lauralee Snyder
Penn Township	
Potter Township	Jake Tanis and Ron Grove

Other:

Catherine Smith	Gregg Township Resident
BT Schwier	Penns Valley Area School Board
Centre County Planning and Community Development Office	Linda Marshall

TOUR

Starting at 6:00 p.m., Dr. Brian Griffith gave those present a tour of the new improvements to Penns Valley Area High School. The tour included the attendance office and meeting room, auditorium, cafeteria, band room, theater dressing rooms, and gymnasiums.

The tour concluded in Room 503 at 6:40 p.m.

Dr. Griffith was asked to stay and answer a few questions.

Mr. Tanis asked if the District will be raising taxes, removing the tennis court and building a walkway over SR 45 to provide safer access to both schools.

Dr. Griffith replied that the District's debt service is flat for 13 years and then the District will be completely out of debt. He added that the School Board considers if any tax increases are needed in January of each year. The Board of Directors is required to adopt a preliminary budget each January and that budget is intended to provide the Board with the most flexibility possible with regard to taxes.

In regard to the tennis court and walkway, Dr. Griffith stated that it depends on what the School Board wants to do.

A question was raised as to how many School Board positions were on the ballot. Mr. Schwier indicated that five positions will be on the ballot with four being open seats. There are no terms limits for School Board positions, and the Board members receive no pay.

Dr. Griffith stated that the District's sewer project is the next project to be addressed. He reminded the Commission members of the engineering analysis that was conducted and that a laying four inch sewer line to the Gregg Township Sewer System was the preferred solution. He explained that the current system was working well with the exception of discharging into a sinkhole. The project, which also includes a new pump station, will cost \$2 million with \$1.5 million in grant funding.

Dr. Griffith informed the Commission that the District is undergoing 'Run, Hide, Fight' training for active shooters. They are also making certain that the Fire Companies, State Police and Sheriff's Office are familiar with the District's schools and their layout.

Dr. Griffith mentioned the Influencers event at the State Theater, which is scheduled for April 24th and will address Broadband issues.

CALL TO ORDER

In Messrs. Fox and Schafer's absence, Ms. Cooper called the April 15, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Cooper asked those present to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Schwier stated that he was asked at the March 18th meeting for statistics on the number of Penns Valley students attending the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI).

Mr. Tanis asked if the CPI students from Penns Valley also attended the high school. Mr. Schwier replied that the students take their electives at the high school and their academic classes at CPI.

APPROVAL of MEETING NOTES

Ms. Cooper called for additions or corrections to the March 18th meeting notes. Mr. Hough moved to approve the meeting notes, as written. Mr. Guisewhite seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Cooper presented the report, showing a balance of \$431.07 in the account. She noted that there was no change from the March report.

SECRETARY REPORT

No report

REPORTS

Centre Hall Borough

Ms. Cooper reported that the Fire Agreement between Centre Hall Borough and Potter Township has been finalized.

Ms. Cooper added that the natural gas project will begin this summer and that there is another information meeting scheduled for some time in the near future.

Ms. Cooper commented that the Borough officials want to make certain that the natural gas lines do not get too close to the Borough's water lines.

Gregg Township

No representatives were present.

Haines Township

No representatives were present.

Miles Township

No report.

Millheim Borough

No report.

Penn Township

No representatives were present.

Potter Township

It was reported that the Potters Mills sewer system project will be operating by the end of August. The contractor is temporarily moving off site since the equipment has not arrived yet.

OLD BUSINESS

-Tri-Municipal Park and Recreation Committee

No report.

-Penns Valley EMS

The Commission members did not have anything new to report on the Penns Valley EMS. Ms. Catherine Smith, a resident of Gregg Township, informed the Commission that the EMS' book sale raised \$1,500 and that \$5,000 was raised from the hoagies and stickies sale. She added that the EMS appreciated the support from the Amish community in helping them raise funds.

Mr. Tanis reported that Mr. Denny Foust, Potter Township Supervisor, took over the Municipal EMS Committee. No meetings have been scheduled to date.

-May 20th Meeting

Ms. Cooper referred to the upcoming meeting with the legislators. She stated that she brought up the list of issues to be addressed with Centre Hall Borough Council, and the Council Members recommended changing Emergency Medical Services to Emergency Services to include fire services. Ms. Marshall agreed to revise the letters to the legislators.

Ms. Schwier commented that he was involved with the Penns Valley EMS in previous years and that he had recommended the formation of a Centre County Ambulance Service with satellite stations throughout the county. He feels that working together improves the Service's purchase power.

A discussion occurred on the Local Services Tax and what some of the Region's municipalities levied.

Mr. Tanis anticipated that a meeting of the Municipal EMS Committee will be held by the end of the year and that the municipal contributions will be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items addressed by the Commission.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Schwier updated the Commission on the District's Land Use Plan process. He stated that they have completed the community input meetings and that the survey is now closed on the website. Since the District is still tabulating the paper surveys, he indicated that a resident/property owner can still contact the School District to obtain a hard copy of the survey to complete.

Mr. Tanis expressed a concern about the buildings on the recently acquired adjacent property posing a liability for the School District.

Mr. Schwier mentioned ideas that he has for the property, which include converting the double wide home to bathrooms with the work being done by CPI students.

Mr. Schwier indicated that he was not sure of the condition of the barn structure, and Mr. Tanis offered to inspect the condition of the barn with him.

A question was raised as to whether or not the land was leased for farming purposes. Mr. Schwier replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Schwier stated that it is his understanding the current structures on the land do not have any historic significance. Ms. Smith commented that the house sits on top of the location where a stockade home was located. She said that it was one of three stockade homes in the region, dating back to the Revolutionary War.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

There were no additional items brought to the attention of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Grove moved to adjourn the April 15, 2019 meeting of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission at 7:23 p.m. Mr. Tanis seconded the motion. The motion carried.