

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2021
MEETING OF VENANGO TOWNSHIP**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Present for roll call were Scott Barbour, Don Merritt and Ron Dunlap. Also present were those signed in on the attached listing. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and Scott motioned to accept the minutes as read; seconded by Ron and vote was all approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and the Bill List was presented. Scott motioned to accept the report and approve payment of bills; seconded by Ron and vote was all approved. The Building/Septic Reports were read.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Donnie Johnson was present and discussed the request of Pattern Energy to allow them to be able to place electric pole locations in and along the Hecker Road Township right-of-way for solar development. A copy of our Cable Franchise Agreement was previously requested as they asked if we could do a similar type agreement for their pole locations to connect the solar panel areas with the substation and other land owners in the area. The Supervisors indicated they were not in favor of allowing them in the road right-of-way at this time. At previous meetings, enacting an Ordinance or regulations had been discussed and Jill had provided various copies of sample Ordinances for the Supervisors to review. Cussewago and Cambridge Townships have been considering this and Washington Township already updated their zoning regulations for solar developments. Ron had spoken with a few residents who were not in favor of large solar developments or allowing easements on their properties but there are others that have already signed agreements. Various residents from Skelton Road and Hecker Road were present and noted they were not in favor of substantial solar development in residential areas. Various items were discussed such as property values, final map showing leased areas, support of local businesses, job creation, amount of sunlight, viability of solar to be used or sold locally, road bonds and what happens after panels are decommissioned. Michael Barron noted the main issues for the Township to investigate are zoning, protections for the landowners, setbacks, fencing and landscaping. Most others present agreed. Donnie Johnson discussed community and tax benefits and agreed to take the information he heard back to his company. Pattern representatives can be contacted directly to answer questions for anyone interested. Donnie noted the tentative schedule provided to us of June-July 2021 obtaining PNDI and NPDES permits, December 2021-January 2022 final permitting and engineering procurements, April-May 2022 begin construction and December 2022-March 2023 anticipated finish date are somewhat aggressive and may change. Don questioned if we could have a public meeting to hear the concerns of the residents. Scott noted no zoning and limited rules and regulations are what have drawn people to live here. Ron noted we are gathering information and trying to figure things out for the benefit of the whole Township. Don motioned to have Jill contact the Solicitor to see if we can have a special meeting, work on an Ordinance or to get his recommendations; seconded by Scott and vote was all approved.

2021 Dirt and Gravel Road Project was awarded for Cemetery Road. Ron motioned to ratify the contract with Crawford County Conservation District for Cemetery Road drainage improvements and material placement, estimated at \$23,299.76; seconded by Scott and vote was all approved.

Troy Cypert, PennDOT Municipal Services Representative, had provided the Agility Work Plan. Scott motioned to sign the 2021 Work Plan for Venango Township under the Agility Program with PennDOT; seconded by Ron and vote was Scott-yes, Don-no, Ron-yes and vote was approved. Ron explained the use of millings and how valuable they are to Townships.

The Board discussed outside building cameras and alarm system options. Ron motioned to switch from ADT Security System to Canadohta Security for alarm monitoring system and install additional alarm equipment in new section of building for \$500.00; seconded by Scott and vote was Scott-yes, Don-no, Ron-yes and vote was approved.

Paving and road work options on various Township roadways and PIB loan was briefly discussed but no action was taken.

New Business

Scott motioned to authorize the purchase of 60,000 gallons of Salt Brine to be applied under pressure and at the Supervisor's discretion from Seneca Mineral for 33 cents per gallon; seconded by Ron and vote was all approved. Due to the change in bidding requirements quotes can be obtained for the purchases up to \$21,000.00 instead of advertising for bids.

Scott motioned to approve Resolution No. 04-06-2021, adopting the Crawford County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan as recommended by the Crawford County Department of Public Safety; seconded by Ron and vote was all approved.

Scott motioned to approve Resolution No. 04-06(a)-2021, authorizing the disposition of various Tax Collector and Township Office Documents as set forth in the Municipal Records Schedule; seconded by Ron and vote was all approved.

Don motioned to approve Michael Barron to fill a vacancy on the Venango Township Planning Commission with a term ending 12/31/2023; seconded by Scott and vote was all approved.

Correspondence

Copies of an email from Jessica Graf of Venango Borough were provided to the Board about all the good things happening in the Borough as she is interested in attending to discuss ways to work together with the Township.

PSATS 2020 Annual Report was received.

Crawford County TCC and Berkheimer, Inc had both noted the local tax date of April 15, 2021 could not be extended without legislation but there will be no penalties until after May 17, 2021.

Crawford County Public Hearing for CDBG Funding to be held on April 12, 2021 by Skype.

Great Lakes Route 6 Façade Grant Program requested a letter of support and Jill will provide.

Encova Insurance Annual Meeting will be held at 9:00am on April 26, 2021.

PSATS Unemployment Compensation Reports for January and February 2021 were received.

Mary Karr requested Recycling be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjourn

Don motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.; seconded by Scott and vote was all approved.

Jill Dunlap, Secretary