

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Strategic Plan Update
Worksession Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held a worksession that continued the discussion of the Strategic Plan Update on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, as a hybrid meeting. In attendance were:

Board: Laura Dininni, Chair
Patty Stephens
Tierra Williams
Hilary Caldwell

Staff: Centrice Martin, Interim Township Manager
Jenna Wargo, Planning/Zoning Director
Dave Modricker, Public Works Director
Chris Albright, Chief of Police

Others in attendance included: Faith Norris, Recording Secretary; Art Reede, Resident; Ryan Hamilton, Resident; Mark Kunkle, Resident.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dininni called the Tuesday, March 8, 2022, worksession to order. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

II. CITIZENS INPUT

There were no comments.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Financial Stability

Ms. Martin reviewed the proposed objectives and action steps. The program allows for scenario-based modeling that can be utilized;

Ms. Dininni discussed investment of tying in the regional component of municipal services – visually and verbally in this section. Synchronize efforts of internal controls collaboratively.

Ferguson Township will be a community with a mix of land uses that maintains a diverse tax base and supports high quality of life.

Ms. Wargo discussed objectives under item C. Specifics were noted on some categories, i.e., taxes, preservation of historic buildings, services to the Township and utilizing local businesses and regional municipal services. Ms. Wargo noted economically speaking to utilize local businesses vs. big box stores for office supplies to keep the money local. Ms. Dininni confirmed with staff that the funds can be used anywhere in the district for the workforce housing ordinance and look for possible expansion in the future. Ms. Dininni agreed on the conceptualization of funds.

Ms. Martin stated that Chief Albright did a collaborative process that reviewed ways to save money and manage/minimize costs.

Economic Development.

Ms. Martin noted that Township departments were tasked with goals and objectives for this section. Mr. Modricker suggested reviewing this section in the 2014 action plan to see if there were objectives to keep for current action steps. Ms. Martin discussed the proposed development of a

pandemic economic recovery response plan. Ms. Dininni and Ms. Martin discussed examples of promoting and supporting local business and residents under the proposed objective, Leverage information systems for enhanced livable, sustainable, and resilient community.

Ms. Wargo discussed the next topic that encompassed encouraging a diverse economic base and a business climate that is nurturing to new businesses in Ferguson Township. Ms. Dininni noted how some new local business owners have complimented how well the staff work with them and asked how to advertise those quotes directly. Redevelopment and Economic Development discussion followed and to possibly tie this in to the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Committee. Discussion followed on proposed murals/public art/other activities for the objective, Maintain and create quality of life factors that attract residents.

Growth Management/Redevelopment.

Ms. Wargo reviewed objectives. Ms. Dininni clarified that there are additional steps needing completed for Zoning and Subdivision ordinance land development plans.

Ms. Dininni noted to review the incorporated goal 10 of the 2014 Strategic Plan at a future discussion.

Environmental Stewardship.

Mr. Modricker reviewed the objectives. Mr. Modricker suggested adding, 1) Water Quality related to the Township's Pollutant Reduction Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and 2) incorporate Renewable Energy Action Steps into the Capital Projects for development similar to the solar array on the Public Works Building.

Staff discussed letter f. that should go above i. in this section; g. and h. objectives in between were provided by the Police Department. Mr. Modricker continued discussion on g. and h. objectives regarding electric and hybrid vehicles. Public Works staff continues to investigate options for their larger trucks.

Ms. Dininni suggested adding to vehicles "*and equipment*" to g. and h objectives.

Sustainable Development

Ms. Wargo reviewed the principals for this objective. Topics discussed were under development opportunities for community gardening and urban agriculture. Ms. Dininni liked the emphasis on working with the HOAs.

Best Management Practices

Staff discussed the objectives. Under the objective Continuous Improvement Chief Albright discussed accreditation requirements, policies, setting up a partnership with Patton Township on electronic forensics, and regional needs to share resources. He further discussed training, advertising, recruitment, and retention. Mr. Modricker noted the Chief's discussion items could be extended to other departments. Mr. Modricker reviewed Capital projects objectives.

Ms. Williams asked if the Township has a say in the types of training for its officers. Chief Albright reviewed in detail what the state mandates for training requirements. The Township does set training requirements outside of the state's core requirements.

Ms. Dininni brought the conservation back to Capital projects. She asked about building out this objective in regards to adequate staffing to include planning of Capital projects while acknowledging regional efforts along with aligning it with the Township's financial responsibilities.

Mr. Modricker reviewed Maintenance and Work orders/scheduling. He discussed Asset Management; i.e., Stormwater, roads, trees, traffic signals, building systems, etc..., to determine conditions to keep in operating order and to adequately prepare the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Ms. Stephens asked who is responsible for keeping track of Township signs. Mr. Modricker stated the Township inventories the signs inside the Township's boundary, and then assigns ownership as an attribute. Some signs are PennDOT's responsibility and some are the Township's responsibility. Ms. Stephens noted concern for a hole left by a sign removed on Aaron Drive and Atherton Street that could impale someone. Mr. Modricker will check into the issue.

Next objectives under BMP discussed under letters k and l. Possibly integrate into the Strategic Plan.

Next objectives under BMP discussed under m –p. Ms. Martin noted once the Strategic Plan is adopted a BMP suggestion has been made to continue giving regular progress updates in some capacity.

Participatory Government

Chief Albright did an overview of current and future outreach efforts; i.e., Baileyville Grange Fire Safety event, CentreRides- bicycle lights for distribution, bicycle and other Township sponsored events.

Ms. Williams inquired about using universal digital keys for identification in regards to child safety. Discussion followed on kid care and elderly identifiers / contact information. Chief Albright noted that we could explore options.

Diverse Community...to foster community involvement

Ms. Wargo read the objectives. She keyed on resident guides for new homeowners and how to identify new renters coming into the Township and getting a resident guide to renters as well.

Item iv – Provide opportunities to public to participate at public meetings in a hybrid and safe format. Allow flexibility in meeting formats in person and remote based on community transmission rates of COVID-19.

Item v – Promote ABCs. Ms. Dininni noted she supports this objective of engaging the ABCs.

Promotion of Municipal Identity

Item a – Mr. Modricker noted this item is for consideration. To be seen as other than "State College Area"; benefit of locals or visitors; what is our brand; our diversity – crossing the border from Town and Gown to Agriculture, open space and forests.

Item b – Ms. Wargo built off of item a and read the objectives. Community of distinctiveness of place, strong place brand. Topics: audit brand; engage audiences; create alignment between businesses and community. Mr. Modricker discussed a gateway from the proposed objectives, i.e., Mobility Study for Pine Grove Mills – how or what are we branding PGM / Township? Chief Albright suggested to bring back the Open House (Dunking machine!) and use social media more.

Partnerships and Regional Thinking

Ms. Wargo read the objectives.

Ms. Dininni suggested adding to the objective, "Maintain a working relationship with the COG *in a manner that does not duplicate, is efficient and cost effective.*"

Reviewed last four proposed objectives that piggybacked on the continuation of maintaining working relationships. This included social services and private entities. Chief Albright elaborated on these objectives.

The last objective discussed was maintaining shared Records Management System. Working through current issues.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Dininni thanked staff for working through the objectives and to the Board for the opportunity for collaboration and feedback. Ms. Dininni noted Mr. Peter Melan's presentation is coming up at the next Board Meeting on March 15. The draft was sent to the Board with recommended actions. Specific discussion at the next meeting will include the Diversity Equity and Inclusion goal and areas to build out/action steps under staff recommendations.

Extra thanks went to Ms. Wargo and Ms. Martin for their extended efforts.

IV. CALENDAR ITEMS – MARCH – as noted on agenda

V. ADJURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Stephens motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Centrice Martin".

Centrice Martin, Interim Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 04-05-2022