

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Overview on SPPA Working Group and Strategic Plan Update

Monthly Worksession Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held a worksession to discuss the status updates for the Solar Power Purchase Agreement Working Group and the Strategic Plan Update on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, as a hybrid meeting. In attendance were:

Board: Laura Dininni, Chair
Lisa Strickland, Vice-Chair
Patty Stephens
Hilary Caldwell
Tierra Williams

Staff: Centrice Martin, Interim Township Manager
Chris Albright, Chief of Police
Dave Modricker, Public Works Director
Nick Beiling, Communications Coordinator

Others in attendance included: Peter Buck, Bill Keough.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dininni called the Tuesday, May 10, 2022, worksession to order.

Ms. Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the worksession had been advertised in accordance with the PA Sunshine Act as a hybrid meeting with an option to attend online utilizing zoom and the main meeting room for any public members to participant. Persons attending the worksession as members of the public and wanted to participate were asked to state their name, municipality, and topic. Members of the public were asked to be muted during the worksession and must be acknowledged by the Chair and then unmute for comment. Ms. Martin took Roll Call and there was a quorum. Ms. Strickland attended in person. Ms. Williams was not present for the first part of the worksession.

There are no items for the Board to take action on at this worksession.

II. CITIZENS INPUT - There were no comments.

Ms. Dininni noted the items to discuss are reversed on the agenda due to the presenter for the Solar PPA topic will be joining the meeting later in the meeting.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. STATUS UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Martin reviewed the updates to the Strategic Plan in detail. Follow-up from Ms. Strickland on comments. Discussed a Friday deadline to have goals for the Board's review. Noted more detail was needed than what was provided by the consultant Peter Melan. Discussed additional sections to

include. Ms. Martin noted still working on staff and Board goals to incorporate into the document and breaking into objectives and action steps.

Ms. Williams joined the meeting at this time.

Recommendation for next worksession meetings to review and identify objectives and associated costs. Noted some overlap in views, interests and comments from the public.

Ms. Martin noted that Chapter 6 could be emailed to the Board following the worksession. A Doodle poll can be sent out for the next worksession on the Strategic Plan. Noted was the topic Financial Stability was changed to Financial Resiliency. Priorities and process reviewed.

Ms. Dininni asked for reflection on the document and to send on Friday. Continue to move forward. No intention to have on next agenda. Plan and do not rush it.

Ms. Strickland noted it is a good method for updating and taking everybody's comments. Discussion followed on having the draft document for review before having another subcommittee meeting to get a good picture of prioritizing goal setting and associated costs.

Per Ms. Strickland's comments on the survey and graphs section, consider what emphasis we want on the survey since it is a substantial part of plan. Focused discussion followed. Ms. Dininni discussed structure of the draft document and regarding Economic Development to consider "Community and Economic Development" as a topic option. Ms. Martin noted she will add that into the document and noted that there was a proposed alternative. In wrapping up the discussion, Ms. Martin noted she would have the updated draft document to the Board members next week and to note that she has only devoted time to Chapter 6-Goals and Action Steps. Once the Board has aligned the goals and objectives, then the Board may consider reevaluating chapters 2, 3 and 4.

Ms. Dininni discussed the more built-out goals and having a separate discussion about that particular goal and the new reporting section and staff interaction.

Mr. Keough was recognized for comment. Discussion followed with Ms. Dininni and Mr. Keough on whether there will be additional public meetings for feedback on the draft document before final adoption. Mr. Keough expressed his concern on the consultant's deliverables. Ms. Dininni clarified that there will be opportunities at our regularly scheduled meetings for public comment and that the full draft will be available at the next regular meeting for public comment. Ms. Dininni noted that the Township does not have the resources to provide a separate event just for public comment on the Strategic Plan Update. Mr. Keough commented if it is possible to have this as an agenda item for the Township's Planning Commission for review. Ms. Martin was asked about the process. She noted that we were not satisfied with the consultant's facilitated deliverable. We can reference the public opinion survey of some of the responses we have received. Ms. Martin noted the Strategic Plan Update was presented to the ABC committees, including Planning Commission, and was given the opportunity to provide feedback at that time prior to this meeting. Ms. Dininni said at this time we are not going to place this on the Planning Commission's agenda and thanked him for his input. She encouraged him to reach out to staff and Board members to discuss the document outside this worksession.

Ms. Dininni moved the meeting forward to the next agenda item.

2. STATUS UPDATE AND OVERVIEW ON SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WORKING GROUP

Mr. Buck presented the topic. He thanked the Board for having his presentation and being supportive of the SPPA Working Group. He noted Mr. Eric Endresen has been a good representative in those meetings. He previously provided a fact sheet to the Board to reference and discussed the Long-Term Solar Install Costs Projections. He noted that Ferguson Township has had the most aggressive climate goals in the region and state. He noted what is needed for the request for proposal is the range of electricity or size from each entity for purchase through a solar PPA. It does not consign any entity to purchase any solar power through this agreement. Desired timeline was reviewed. PJM market price vs. estimate solar PPA discussed. Utility-Scale PV: Fixed tilt vs. One-Axis Tracker reviewed. Mr. Buck noted the price of solar has gone down about 20% of what it was about ten years ago and continues to decline due in part to panel efficiencies. He noted that we should be able to get a cost-competitive project or a project that beats the price we are paying institutionally now among our member organizations.

The last item discussed came from a previous question from Ms. Dininni on avoiding deforestation. Mr. Buck stated that in the proposal request, it is possible to place siting criteria into the request to avoid deforestation. Mr. Buck noted criteria developed by the Nature Conservancy can be used by using their connected and resilient habitat. It protects forests and migratory pathways for animals in North America.

Mr. Buck reiterated the request for range of electricity or size from each entity for a potential purchase through a solar PPA and that it does not consign or mandate any entity to purchase any solar power through this agreement when the request for proposal (RFP) comes back. Price and other criteria may guide the decision. Ms. Dininni clarified the deadline for the initial range of electricity determination for the RFP is May 25. No comments were made.

We will discuss this at our next regular meeting to determine the range and give the project team an idea of what we are interested in procuring.

Mr. Modricker commented that the Finance Director could gather all the electric consumption for the Township and provide that to the group. Discussed estimating the annual production and usage and the consumption process.

Ms. Stephens noted this topic was discussed at a Facilities Committee meeting and will be discussed at an Executive Committee meeting. The number that was discussed at Facilities was 50-90% but COG is a larger user of electricity. Ms. Stephens asked Mr. Buck if they will let us know once we determine our range if we have any dyspepsia with the range, i.e., met or exceeded and/or need to adjust for the 20 million kWH. Mr. Buck noted to avoid this dyspepsia you need to be comfortable with a model number to work within the range. We have 2018 figures right now. Look at the number

and do a meaningful projection. Mr. Buck noted the numbers can be aggregated to the services of the consultant to get the best information to determine your range.

IV. CALENDAR ITEMS – MAY as noted.

V. ADJURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Stephens motioned to **adjourn** the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Centrice Martin, Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 06-07-2022