



Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority

300 Laird Street, Suite #A-1

Wilkes-Barre. PA 18702

Minutes

February 16, 2021 Regular Session

Call to Order

On February 16, 2021 at 1:00 P.M., the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board convened their regular monthly meeting at the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Administrative Offices, 300 Laird Street Suite A-1 Wilkes-Barre. It was noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

Mr. Yannuzzi, Chairman, called to order the February 16, 2021 meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Present

Mr. Dominic Yannuzzi, P.E., Chairman
Mr. William Hardwick
Mr. Richard Adams
Mr. William Falls
Mr. Gordon Dussinger

Also Present

LCFPA

Christopher Belleman, P.E., Executive Director
Christopher Slusser, Esq., Solicitor
Jeffrey Rockman, Esq., Solicitor
Amy Grevera, CPA, Accountant
Laura Holbrook, Mitigation & Outreach Specialist
Peter Bacumpas, Levee Operations Supervisor
Deana Prochaska, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Anthracite Scenic Trails Association (ASTA)

Sean Robbins, President
Richard Cochrane
David Bass
Nettie Ginocchetti, NEPA Alliance GIS Service Manager
Christine Dettore, PADCNR Regional Advisor

Public Input

None.

Regular Meeting

Motion was made to ratify the minutes of the Authority meeting held on January 19, 2020.

Motion by: Mr. Adams

Second by: Mr. Falls

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

Old Business

Mr. Hardwick requested an update on the candidate search for the Project Engineer position. Mr. Belleman advised the Board that the position was advertised in the Times Leader newspaper, on the Authority website and the Indeed and ZipRecruiter employment websites. From the list of applicants four (4) candidates were selected to be interviewed in the upcoming week.

Mr. Hardwick requested an update on the cooperation agreement with Luzerne County. Mr. Yannuzzi stated that our solicitor reached out to Luzerne County's solicitor (Vito Deluca) on how the agreement is progressing. On behalf of the Authority, Mr. Slusser expressed our thoughts on moving the agreement forward and keeping it to the forefront. Currently waiting to hear any further developments from Luzerne County.

Bills and Communications

Motion was made to approve the payment of the bills as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Adams

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

Report of the Treasurer

Motion was made to submit the report of the Treasurer into the record as stated.

Motion by: Mr. Falls

Second by: Mr. Dussinger

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

New Business

2020 Levee Fee Collections Update.

Mr. Robbins of the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association (ASTA) provided an update on the proposed Edwardsville Trail Extension of the Back Mountain Trail, from its existing terminus in Luzerne Borough and across LCFPA right-of-way to connect with our levee access road near Main Street, Edwardsville. The LCFPA and ASTA executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2015 to cooperate together on the Edwardsville Trail Extension.

Mr. Hardwick expressed concerns about liability if someone were to trip or fall on the trail. Mr. Robbins advised the Board that the public currently uses the levee crest access road for recreation, so this use is not something foreign to the LCFPA. Also, there are liability statutes protecting trail organizations in the Commonwealth. Mr. Belleman also offered that the LCFPA's insurance carrier is aware that we allow safe and responsible public use for recreation on top of the levee, which is incorporated in the annual premium.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Dussinger

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

Motion was made to support rehabilitation and enhancement efforts through DCNR and other grant opportunities for the Wyoming Valley Levee recreational features.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Adams

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

Motion was made to approve Amendment No. 6 to the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority's *Personnel Policy Handbook*.

Motion by: Mr. Adams

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

Motion was made to request authorization to approve the following Luzerne County Mitigation Projects:

1. Project PIN #01-20-0001, "*Phase III Bloomsburg Flood Control System Design*", Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, PA. Estimated cost: \$670,000.00.
2. Project PIN #02-20-003 "*Duryea Borough Levee Rehabilitation Project*", Duryea Borough, Luzerne County, PA.

The LCFPA will act as the project administrator and will prepare and publicly advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) from interested firms for professional engineering, surveying and design services. This project is contingent upon receiving and working through the resolution/ordinances from Duryea Borough on its long-term Operations & Maintenance (O&M) obligations of this system before the funds are committed. Duryea Borough would need to re-affirm its commitment to upgrade the Duryea Levee system in accordance with USACE certification standards and ultimately achieve FEMA accreditation. This re-affirmation would include either that Duryea Borough commit municipal funds to maintain and operate the system in accordance with USACE standards; or evaluate the option about partnering with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority to initiate the process to merge the Duryea Levee system into the Wyoming Valley Flood Risk Management Project.

3. Project PIN #02-20-0004, "*Residential Acquisition and Demolition, 48-50 Italy Street, Mocanaqua*", Luzerne County, PA. Estimated cost: \$90,000.00.
4. Project PIN # 02-20-0005, "*Borough Building Floodproofing, 35 West Union Street, Shickshinny*", Luzerne County, PA. Estimated cost: \$430,000.00.
5. Project PIN # 02-20-0006, "*Construction of EMA Building, 35 West Union Street, Shickshinny*", Luzerne County, PA. Estimated Cost: \$493,000.00. Note: Per USACE guidelines, the funding provided must be consistent with the square footage of the current EMA building.
6. Project PIN # 02-20-0007, "*Armory Acquisition and Demolition, Relocate Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Station & Construct Retention Basin, West Pittston Borough*", Luzerne County, PA. Estimated Cost: \$725,200.00.

On the question- Mr. Yannuzzi asked Mr. Slusser if we can approve this motion with the contingency on the Duryea Borough Levee. Mr. Slusser advised the board yes and to make sure it is clear in the motion.

Motion by: Mr. Adams

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

The Board met in executive session at the conclusion of the February meeting to discuss property negotiations and personnel.

Next Regular Meeting

March 16, 2021 at 1:00p.m.

300 Laird St. Suite A-1

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the February 16, 2021 meeting of the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board.

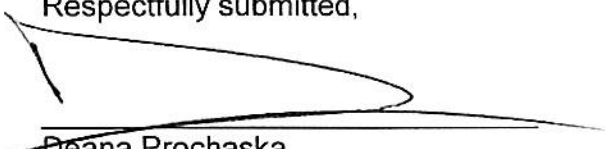
Motion by: Mr. Falls

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, ADAMS, FALLS, DUSSINGER.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Deana Prochaska
Recording Secretary