

**TURBOTVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2024**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Tom Barrett, Christina Mensch, Adam Kocher(arrived 7:34pm), Pat Betz, Paul Franke and Betty Figels

ABSENT: Steve Snyder

OTHERS: Donna Lynn, Tax Collector, Mileta Joe, Secretary, and Ben Gilbert, Mayor

VISITORS: Mary Styer, James Styer, Bud Bieber, Jay Yoder, Nathan Yoder, Charles Ricketts, Brian Stackhouse, Lisa Stackhouse, Jeff Webb, Donna Lynn, Jack McDermott, Lil McDermott, Rick Bowersox, Michelle Yoder, Brad Styer, Keisa Briggs, Wayne Weaver, Eileen Povish, Michale Sechler and John Kauffman

PRESENTATION:

Susquehanna Solar LLC did not show up for their presentation.

In the absence of the Solar representatives' members of the audience has questions for Council.

Nathan Yoder suggested that first the plans must go through Land Development to make sure sewer, water, traffic plans can support the project.

Mr. Yoder strongly suggests that a minimum of 4-8 hrs. of special training be provided for volunteer fire fighters for specialized training on this type of possible fire.

Borough must evaluate what it will gain on allowing this project to proceed. It could be a better tax base to sell the acreage off for home development thus creating more tax revenue for the town vs a solar farm.

Another issue to consider is how the large, heavy equipment will reach its location? Several of the rural area small bridges has weight limits thus limiting access from some directions.

Donna Lynn, Tax Collector spoke that school tax will benefit the most and local tax will only see around \$4000.00 with this solar farm.

Mrs. Lynn also suggest the borough look into if this solar firm is getting federal money for the project and thus, they must submit a community benefit plan to the borough council.

Councilmemebr Tom Barrett asked if anyone knows what this solar farm will do to property values? An audience member checked into this and property value will decrease by 1.5-2.5%.

Jack McDermott, member of planning board suggests that the borough contact Rep. Michael Stender and Sen. Lynda Culver for assistance on solar farms.

It was also suggested by an audience member to contact County Conservation District of Sunbury for guidance.

***Brian Stackhouse of Lewis Twp.** Attended the meeting for additional education on how Turbotville Borough was handling this project as Lewis Twp. also has ground that is included in the Susquehanna Solar LLC project. Lewis Twp. land is zoned Industrial while Turbotville Borough land is zoned residential.*

John Kauffman for Zion Church requesting permission to pour a cement slab approx..10'x20' at one end of the pavilion area for easier/safer serving of food during carnival week. Council informed Mr. Kauffman he must acquire a building permit from Code Inspections and notify One Call before digging. A motion to accept the work was made by Pat Betz and seconded by Tom Barrett. Motion carried.

***Charles Ricketts** asked if any news regarding the small chicken processing plant has been forthcoming. Council has not heard anything in this regard.*

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Minutes were reviewed and will be voted to accept at next meeting.

FINANCIAL:

A review of the financial report with vote at next meeting.

Bills were reviewed and a vote will be taken at next meeting.

Council will proceed with their decision to take the upcoming CD that matures 4/3/24 and place \$50,000.00 of the funds into the equipment fund to purchase of a new skid steer; \$250,000.00 into a new CD and/or some into savings account; create a new savings account named "Borough Street Fund" and have the bank place the interest quarterly into this account.

Council will stay with QB and Intuit for our payroll needs.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Sen. Culver office contacted the borough about using our facility for once-a-month office hours. Council approved and is requesting Culver office present a former letter.

SOLICITOR:

Jonathan DeWald has advised council of some of the process needed to be adhered to regarding the solar farm. Council will review and contact solicitor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Progress Report

EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS & RECREATION:

Jeremy LeBarron is requesting approval to create two additional regular parking stalls at the tennis court area beside the two handicapped stalls. Council will discuss at next meeting.

STREETS/HIGHWAY:

Cheryl Delsite reports that the CFA will be meeting this week and we should hear within a week on our request for the multimodal grant for Paradies St. project.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

MEETING DATES:

COG:	COMMUNITY HALL:	TCC:	FIRE DEPT.:	CARNIVAL
Apr. 16	Apr. 16	Apr. 16	Apr. 11	Apr. 15

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee will begin working on selecting a sign design and get quotes from several sources for later discussion.

Several dates for the new door project have been submitted to Stanley Door.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR:

Suggests a possible one day “dumpster” collection date and possible chipper event to help residents spruce-up the appearance of the town. More details in the near future.

EMERGENCY MGT:

PERSONNEL:

ADJOURMENT: 8:14 p.m. by Betty Figels and seconded by Paul Franke. Motion carried.

Next meeting Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Building.