

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Oxford Township Board of Trustees
Held November 19, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., Page 625

For the Purpose of: Consideration of a notification to residents of Oxford Township and conduct any other township business if necessary of the Oxford Township Board of Trustees.

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Oxford Township was called to order by Chairman Hatten.

Roll call: James Hatten, present; Craig Pittman, present; Steve Lewis, present. Also present: Jim Viers and a conference call with Anthony Turowski, Planning Engineer with ODOT District 6 and R. Bush with MS Consultants.

Trustees would like more information on ODOT's Route 23 Connect project and how to get the information out to the residents of Oxford Township. The Route 23 Connect project includes evaluation of improvements to Route 23 and/or new connection options to the east and/or west of Route 23's current path through Delaware County. Discussion with Anthony Turowski went as follows:

Trustees questioned the timeline involved with the project. Trustees were not aware of some previous meetings and feel it is moving very quickly with the public survey ending on December 13, 2021. Residents of Oxford Township have also reached out with the same concerns.

- Anthony stated that they will still accept public comments and concerns after December 13, 2021. The final decision will not be made until the summer of 2022. They will be having another public meeting in April. They put the deadline as December 13, 2021 so they could start looking at the responses. There is a lot involved in the decision; travel times, landscapes as in the reservoir, etc. They will be measuring all possibilities.

Trustees ask if there was money already earmarked for this project and did it come from the Federal Infrastructure grant.

- Anthony stated that the infrastructure grant money has not been earmarked for this project. ODOT has received some grant money for the detailed study involved for the project.

Trustees were concerned with ODOT's communication with local officials and why they were not invited or aware of the steering committee meetings. And is ODOT informing other local agencies that could be impacted by the decision. Example; The Elm Valley Joint Fire District.

- ODOT is trying to go to municipality meetings to answer any questions and yes, they would like to reach out to the Elm Valley Joint Fire District. To his knowledge all trustees in the county were invited to the steering committee meetings and was not aware that the trustees in Oxford Township did not get an invite. He will double check and make sure they are on the invite list. The steering committee does not get to vote on any decisions it is informational only.

Trustees wanted to know what they can do to get more information and get this information out to the residents of Oxford Township as they feel we were not aware of the extent of this project. As residents see a sign on 23 regarding the project they probably do not realize this could affect their area.

- Tony stated number one is to attend the rest of the meetings. Also, ODOT is planning on putting up signs on St. Rt. 229 and U.S. Highway 42 to help inform residents. He stated there has not been a lot of comments from our area and a please feel free to send a mailing to the residents. He said he would be happy to help organize a meeting after the first of the year with Oxford Township.

Trustees asked if the project is decided upon to go either east or west will there still be improvements made to 23.

- Anthony stated they will probably do some but will not have the funding to do everything.

Trustees stated that Interstate 71 is already overcrowded and is it logical to divert all the traffic on to Interstate 71.

- Anthony said they do recognize the situation and will have to do improvements on Interstate 71. They are definitely studying the situation.

Trustees wanted to know if there were any cost estimates on going east or west with the connection.

- Anthony said they are still working on the estimates.

Anthony said he will update ODOT's website stating they will still receive comments after December 13, 2021 and will send some materials to the trustees. He also said he will make sure the trustees are aware of the next steering committee meeting in March and the next public meeting in April.

Trustees also wanted to know when U.S. Highway 42 will reopen from the culvert replacement closure. Anthony said it should open this afternoon, Friday, November 19, 2021. This ended the phone conference with Anthony Turowski.

After further discussion a motion was made by Lewis and seconded by Pittman to approve a resident communication mailing in regard to ODOT's Route 23 Connect project for up to \$1,000.00. Vote: All yeas. Motion carried.

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There was discussion regarding the year-end meeting and organizational meeting for the Oxford Township Board of Trustees. After discussion a motion was made by Lewis and seconded by Pittman to have the year-end meeting on December 28, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. and to have the organizational meeting on January 11, 2022 at 8:00 P.M.

Vote: All yeas. Motion carried.

This concluded the business for the meeting and a motion was made by Lewis and seconded by Pittman to adjourn.

Vote: All yeas. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 A.M.

Approved: _____ Chairman

Attest: _____ Fiscal Officer