



**Steel Valley
Authority**

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM Zoom Meeting



SEWN

ATTENDANCE

Board:

Clairton	
Duquesne	Eric Ewell
East Pittsburgh	Tom Michlovic
Glassport	
Homestead	Charles Bennett
McKeesport	Lori Schmidt – Patrick Bendel
Munhall	Tyler Gellasch
Pittsburgh	Sabina Dietrick – Rob Witherell
Rankin	
Swissvale	Chris Casavale – Amy Starrett
Turtle Creek	
West Homestead	

Proxy Votes: East Pittsburgh Dave Perla (Chair)

Staff: Tom Croft; Bob Value; Carrie Mihalko; Kristen Estell; Deb Lutz; Anita Prizio

Solicitor: Jay Hornack

Guests: Jennifer Nestor (DLI Oversight); Michael Carvalho (Heartland Fellow)

Chairwoman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. allowing all members to login.

PROXY VOTE REVIEW – CHAIRWOMAN LORI SCHMIDT

Staff member Carrie Mihalko conducted roll call. Quorum was met and proxy votes acknowledged.

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were made available in member packets.

The minutes of the November 2020 meeting were approved on motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Christ Casavale. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chris Casavale reviewed the financial statements and noted the small deficit was due to timing on the state invoices.

The Finance Committee report was approved on a motion by Amy Starrett and seconded by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

SECRETARY REPORT

Amy Starrett highlighted correspondence which was provided in advance to all members. Tom Croft noted the articles on the Marshall Plan which will potentially bring projects into the Mon Valley Region.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tom Michlovic gave a report on the staff evaluations that were conducted in 2021. Raises were proposed for all staff effective March 1 in addition to the regular cost of living increases received January 1. Bob noted that the salary changes make us more competitive when the time comes to hire new field directors.

The Personnel Committee report was approved on a motion from Chris Casavale and seconded by Rob Witherell. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

No new developments – tabled to next meeting.

PROGRAM/TECH REVIEW COMMITTEE

Rob Witherell shared the proposed changes to the by-laws as discussed at previous meetings. The ability to reduce the number of board seats is contingent on a two-step process involving the Municipal Authorities Act and the SVA's Article of Incorporation. The changes must be put into a resolution that each participating municipality must pass at a council meeting. The municipalities will also be asked to allow for representatives statewide along with their "resident" appointments.

The minor changes in the bylaws can be sent to the municipalities through the usual process.

Rob Witherell made a motion to adopt the minor changes to the bylaws with a second by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

Rob Witherell made a second motion to adopt the membership requirements in the bylaws after municipality approvals are obtained with a second by Chris Casavale. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

STAFF REPORTS

Tom Croft provided the Executive Director Report noting the following highlights:

- Continuing work with the Mayors of the Ohio Valley to stand up an initiative to revive manufacturing with the Marshall Plan and Reimagine Appalachia.

- Tyler Gellasch has continued to work with SVA on the sustainable investing legislation with Congressman Andy Levin's office.
- Tyler also acknowledged the Fellowship Program and the overall efforts of Heartland and the SVA.

Bob Value provided the following highlights on SEWN:

- The companies SEWN is working with right now represents roughly 1300 Pennsylvania manufacturing jobs.
- SVA is still awaiting word from DLI regarding potential funding for a COVID Recovery program statewide.
- SEWN launched a video series with the first one garnering 25+ participants on SBA programs.

Carrie Mihalko covered the programs SVA is working on that were not previously mentioned by Tom and Bob.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 21-01 To retain Jay Hornack as solicitor for the SVA from February 2021 through January 2022.

Resolution 21-01 was approved on a motion from Tom Michlovic and seconded by Chris Casavale. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

Resolution 21-02 Grants permission of the solicitor and SVA staff to request an amendment of the Authority's Articles of Incorporation from participating municipalities.

Resolution 21-01 was approved on a motion from Rob Witherell and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by members Witherell, Ewell, Casavale, Schmidt, Michlovic, Starrett, Bendel, Bennett & Gellasch with no abstentions.

The formal meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.