**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of October 14, 2019**

**West Pennsboro Township Building**

Larry Barrick called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

SPEAKERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 9, 2019 were approved on a Myers/Martin motion.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The September 30,2019 bank balances were as follows: Checking $5,874.64, Savings $30,506.75 and Regional Code MMA $503,633.64. West Pennsboro Township earned $5,021.16 for UCC building permit administration in September, the WCCOG earned $1,255.29 for the same period. The October Bill List of $76,676.04 was authorized on a Sangialosi/Myers motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Senate Bill 607 has been passed. This legislation would permit all municipal police to use radar for speed enforcement. It is now before the House of Representatives.

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

The Municipal Advisory Board hosted a presentation on the 2020 census on September 24, 2019.

There are currently two openings on the Cumberland County Planning Commission for 2020. Both positions would help to review comprehensive plans, municipal ordinance amendments, and agriculture security area applications. Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 am. Anyone interested in servicing should contact Kirk Stoner by October 30, 2019.

The electronics recycling program recently hit the 850,000-pound mark.

Absentee ballots for the November 5th election are available online or at the bureau of elections office. All absentee ballots must be returned to the bureau of elections by Friday, November 1, 2019 at 5 pm.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight mentioned that he has been contacted by North Middleton Township expressing their interest in joining the WCCOG. Manager John Epley said that our dues are higher than other similar COGs in the area. Marcus reviewed the way the membership dues are calculated. It appears that larger municipalities are double charged. Their base fee is higher and they are still required to pay $.04 per capita based on the most recent census. Kevin Plasterer made a motion to set the base fee uniformly at $200 and retain the $.04 per capita, second by Gary Martin and the motion carried.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Big Spring School District** – Rick Kerr said the District is closing out the 2019 books and things are looking pretty good. They are actually a couple of million to the good. The 2020 budget cycle will be starting soon. They are finishing up the construction projects at Mount Rock Elementary and the Middle School. The library in the Middle School is now available for the students to use.

**Cooke Township** - Pat Sangialosi reported that PennDOT wants the Township to purchase a pipe for Leaf Road (near the Route 233 Bridge) and they will do the installation. They sold their 1999 GMC truck. October 29th is their budget meeting. They recently hired a part-time plow driver as well as a part-time road crew person.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick mentioned that the Township has tentatively approved its 2020 budget. They recently held an opening meeting concerning the zoning ordinance and SALDO rewrites. Approximately forty residents attended and offered comments. The road crew is finishing up the 2019 road projects.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman indicated that the Township road crew posted two bridges with weight limits. They continue to mow along the roadways and trim trees. They sold their 2002 Ford F550 on Munci-bid. They received a Cumberland County Land Partnership Grant that they plan to use to update their SALDO. The Township finally has a website: [www.lowerfrankfordtownship.com](http://www.lowerfrankfordtownship.com).

**Mount Holly Borough –** Katie Daniels reported that the Borough has been in the news a lot lately regarding condemned properties. It is very frustrating because they are trying hard to beautify the Borough. Southampton confirmed with her that a Dangerous Buildings ordinance is in place.  Both the codes officer and police department are doing a fantastic job working these cases. The Holly Days were a success. Katie questioned how other municipalities attempt to get their parks used by more people.  The Borough recently received a grant to improve one of its parks, but she relayed residents’ concerns about spending a large amount of money on one park.  Katie also questioned how other municipalities inform boards and council members about items on the meeting agenda, in advance of meetings. Newville Borough has two meetings per month, a working session and a normal session.  Dickinson Township hand delivers a packet, including a memo detailing every agenda item, to its board several days prior to the meeting.  Katie asked if anyone has done codification.  Southampton Township has hired E360 and is very pleased with their work.  The entire process takes approximately eighteen months.

**Newville Borough –** Mike Fry indicated that the Borough is gearing up for the Halloween Season. The parade will be held on October 28th and Trick or Treat on October 31st. There will also be a Halloween Party, sponsored by local churches at the municipal park. They filled their salt bin under the old contract pricing. They are preparing for leaf collection.

**North Newton Township** – Joel Keck said the Township’s road crew has been trimming tree branches. On Springfield Road there is a large tree with branches hanging over a stone wall onto the roadway. The Township will be sending letters to the residents to notify them they will be trimming the branches. The 2019 road projects are complete. They are finishing up the last round of mowing. Alpha Space has been contacted several times in an attempt to schedule the annual line painting.

**Penn Township** – Gary Martin reported the Township tentatively approved the 2020 budget. The two sink holes in the warehouse retention ponds have been repaired, however another depression has developed. The Township placed a 60-foot culvert pipe on Beetom Hollow Road with funding from a Low Volume Road Grant. It took three days for the job and required assistance from North Newton Township, Cooke Township, and Dickinson Township. They installed a new air conditioning system in the Township office. They are purchasing a new software system that will utilize cloud-based storage. The BOS received funding from the Cumberland County Land Partnership Grant to update all of its ordinances. The zoning officer made residents remove “Trump Signs” on their properties, because they were posted more than thirty days before the election. It turns out these signs are classified as freedom of speech, not election signs. The BOS will be updating its zoning ordinance in regards to this issue.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer mentioned that the Borough recently combined three of its fire companies into two. They purchased and received a new street sweeper. The old street sweeper is for sale. They will be performing leaf clean up the entire month of November. Ronca was awarded the $3.1 million-dollar water line project on King Street. The Borough will also be upgrading several things at its sewer plant.

**Southampton Township** – Scott Mack indicated the Township is trimming trees and preparing for winter. They were awarded a Cumberland County Land Partnership Grant which they plan to use for a parking lot extension. The codification process is going smoothly. After talking to Shippensburg Borough about the process, they plan to start accepting credit card payments in 2020 using the vendor Munci-Pay. Scott recently contacted Sue Pinti, Cumberland County Tax Collection Bureau, and received a list of all the Township’s EIT residents. There were approximately 100 addresses missing. Scott is scheduling a meeting with Sue to discuss “non-resident earned income tax collections”. He is willing to open up the meeting to all of the WCCOG members.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township’s road crew has been working on the basketball court at the park. They have also been sealing cracks in the municipal parking lot in preparation for it getting repaved. The Township plans to repave part, if not all, of Fickes Road.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Myers mentioned that West Pennsboro Township is interested in the “Road Crew Safety Review Training” offered by PSATS. This four-hour program provides updates and reviews the latest rules and regulations regarding commercial motor vehicles and CDL drivers and vehicles, work zone safety practices, personal protective equipment (PPE), hazardous materials marking standards, and general road and municipal garage safety procedures. The cost is $40 per participant with an $800 minimum to hold the class. If there is enough interest, Karen will schedule the class to be held at West Pennsboro Township municipal office.

MDIA will host a Uniform Construction Code Round Table on either November 20th or 21st. Paul Rampula and Ron Yoffee will offer updates on the UCC as well as answer questions. It will start at approximately 10 am and finish up with lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. on a Sangialosi/Martin motion.

Respectfully submitted by Karen M Heishman, Administrator/Secretary/Treasurer.

October 14, 2019

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Rick Kerr, Big Spring School District Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County Planning

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township Peter Conlow, MDIA

David Bachman, Lower Frankford Township Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Katie Daniels, Mount Holly Borough

Mike Fry, Newville Borough

Joel Keck, North Newton Township

Gary Martin, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Scott Mack, Southampton Township