**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of September 9, 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 July 8, 2019 were approved on a Sangialosi/Myers motion.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The August 31, 2019 bank balances were as follows: Checking $5,690.11, Savings $30,495.07 and Regional Code MMA $539,113.84. West Pennsboro Township earned $3,157.08 for UCC building permit administration in July and $2,862.96 in August, the WCCOG earned $789.27 and $715.74 for the same periods. The August and September Bill List of $128,203.15 was authorized on a Sangialosi/Oldt motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Representative Walsh introduced HB 1444 that would amend the PA Constitution and give the General Assembly the ability to pass a law creating methods for the removal from office for elected municipal officials.

Act 67 was signed into law by Governor Wolfe. The legislation corrects an oversight of Act 44 to allow sheriffs and deputy sheriffs to serve as school resource officers and it provides the choice to have armed school security guards. It also establishes a baseline of training for all school security personnel.

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Stephanie Williams mentioned that the Cumberland County Planning Department is looking for an Agriculture Land Board Member. The Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month as needed, usually eight times a year, at 7:30. Anyone interested needs to send a resume to Stephanie by September 30th.

There will be a municipal land preservation forum on Tuesday, September 10th from 3PM to 5PM at the South Middleton Township office.

Cumberland County Planning Department will be hosting a course on zoning. The PA Municipal Planning Education Institute will review the PA Municipal Planning Code authority and the fundamentals of zoning practices. The nine-hour course will take place on September 18th, September 25th, and October 2nd from 6PM to 9:20PM. The cost to register is $20.

Cumberland County Household Waste Program will hold its last collection day on September 19th from Noon to 6PM. The cost is $.30 per pound and appointments are required. There are about ten time slots remaining.

Fifteen applications were received for Cumberland County’s Land Partnership Grants. Award letters will be mailed out later this month.

Brian Oches reported that the House will be back in session next week. He questioned the members on their feelings about hunting being allowed on Sundays. Scott Mack said he wasn’t even in favor of hunting being allowed on Saturdays.

Derek Snyder mentioned there has been no movement on the sliding scale tax to pay for the PA State Police. Property taxes will once again be a topic of discussion this fall.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Big Spring School District** – Rick Kerr said the renovations on Mount Rock Elementary have been completed. The Middle School new auditorium project is almost finished. All three elementary schools and the middle school had new network wiring run over the summer. The District hired its second resource officer. Rick introduced Madison Barrick, she is the District’s public information officer and also works in the transportation department.

**Cooke Township** - Pat Sangialosi reported the Township had to do some road maintenance on several dirt roads. They successfully firmed up the bridge on Bendersville Road with volunteer labor. High Mountain Road continues to wash out*.*

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick mentioned that the Township’s road crew has been cutting shoulders. They are doing base repairs on several roads and plan to resurface one road. The BOS scheduled a public meeting about the zoning and SALDO ordinances to invite residents to voice concerns before the public hearing.

**Lower Frankford Township** – Karen Heishman indicated that the Township road crew has been trimming trees and mowing along the roadways. The BOS adopted its new zoning ordinance in August. Alpha Space was very prompt and did any excellent job with the line painting. Karen inquired if anyone has a trained person on their staff that could determine a speed limit for a local road in the Township. Jeff Gillaugh of Penn Township is certified.

**Mount Holly Borough –** Katie Daniels reported via email that the Borough has worked its chipper/shredder hard with all the cleanup from the freak storm in late August. Cleanup continues at Mt. Creek, where several large trees fell down across the road from the newly named Mountain Creek Tavern. The Dangerous Buildings ordinance enacted in 2019 has been used twice in the last week. The Borough and Police Department are doing what they can to help ease the effect of property condemnation on the young children who had been living in these buildings. We have requested additional grant funds from CDBG for the ADA crosswalk project at the Butler and Chestnut St. intersections of Baltimore Avenue. We have hired two new part-time police officers and are currently interviewing for a full-time water authority worker. Holly Days are planned for September 21, 2019. The Mt. Holly Springs Civic Association has taken on the Community Calendar project introduced to Council. The 2020 calendar will feature photos from a local nature artist, include ads from local businesses, and list dates for all borough meetings and community events. The calendar will be free to all Mt. Holly Residents and customers of ad sponsors to help encourage community engagement.

**Newburg Borough** – Sara Rhine mentioned that the Borough is ready to start its street projects, the bids came in with really good prices. They have an inlet box that needs repaired, there is a sink hole forming around it. The State Police is planning to set up a weight and measure station in the Borough as they have been experiencing a lot of large trash trucks speeding on the local roadways. They have completed two CDBG Grant applications in hopes to obtain funds to be able to put in a playground.

**Newville Borough –** Mike Fry indicated that the Borough hired a new secretary/treasurer as well as a new assistant water/sewer plant operator. They rebuilt the second filter in the water treatment plant. The library will be hosting a fall fest on September 21st. The Wounded Warriors car show that day will also take place down by the baseball field.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said the Township’s road crew has been replacing culvert pipes, trimming trees, and mowing along roadways. They are sealing cracks in the roads in preparation for tarring and chipping. They paved Fairview Road. A sink hole has developed on private property at the bridge on Steelstown Road. The Township is working with PennDOT to come up with a solution.

**Penn Township** – Gary Martin reported that two sink holes have developed in the retention ponds at one of the warehouses and one on the Vic Barrick property. The warehouse paid for the repair of all three. The Smith Road project is complete. The Township plans to use monies obtained from a dirt and gravel grant to install a culvert pipe on Beetom Hollow Road. The air conditioning in the municipal office is broken. The Huntsdale Fair profited the most money ever. Representative Torren Ecker attended and even joined in the ice cream eating contest.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer mentioned that the Borough completed its 2019 paving projects. Alpha Space did a great job with the line painting. Unfortunately, the Borough continues to have complaints from residents concerning storm water issues. A new water line will be installed on King Street. The $3.1 million-dollar project will be starting soon and lasting about 9 months.

**Shippensburg Township –** Steve Oldt said the students are back on campus at Shippensburg University. The State Police had to send six policemen on horses to Richard Avenue over Labor Day weekend. Cramer Road now has three functioning red lights. There are still some timing issues to work out to ensure traffic does not back up on Interstate 81. The Township has many large projects in the works, but the casino does not seem to be in a hurry to find a new location.

**Southampton Township** – Scott Mack indicated the Township is interested in adopting an ordinance and using the WCCOG’s UCC Appeals Board. Matt McKnight will see that he gets a draft copy of the necessary ordinance. The road crew is pulling shoulder, mowing along the roadways, and constructing ball fields.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township’s road crew has been tarring and chipping, mowing along the roadways, and performing maintenance on the equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Barrick made a motion to adopt the cancellation policy as presented by Karen Heishman, second by Wayne Myers and approved with an all-in-favor vote.

There is some interest in holding a Uniform Construction Code Round Table to bring everyone up to date with all the UCC guidelines. Peter Conlow will double check with Paul Rampula and Ron Yoffee as to their availability and get a couple of dates to Karen to email to the members.

Wayne Myers mentioned that he and Paul Rampula visited a warehouse in West Pennsboro Township and discovered a lot of code violations. Wayne questioned whether annual inspections of the local warehouses could be scheduled. Scott Mack mentioned that probable cause would be needed to enter the property. Gary Martin said that Penn Township is including annual inspections as part of the buyer’s agreement when warehouses are first constructed in the Township.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. on a Myers/Sangialosi motion.

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

September 9, 2019

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Rick Kerr, Big Spring School District

Madison Barrick, Big Spring School District

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

Sara Rhine, Newburg Borough

Mike Fry, Newville Borough

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Gary Martin, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Steve Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Scott Mack, Southampton Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Derek Snyder, 193RD District

Brian Oches, 199TH District

Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Planning

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Matthew McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator