**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of June 8, 2020**

**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 March 9, 2020 were approved on a Myers/Martin motion.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The May 31, 2020 bank balances were as follows: Checking $4,091.97 Savings $30,529.66 and Regional Code MMA $244,215.71. West Pennsboro Township earned $746.88, $546.20, and $650.76 for UCC building permit administration in March, April, and May respectively, the WCCOG earned $186.72, $136.55, and $162.69 for the same period. The April Bill List of $20,787.91 and the May Bill List of $14,269.77 were ratified on a Barrick/Myers motion which carried. The June Bill List of $23,073.67 was approved on a Barrick/Myers motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

No report.

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Brian Ochs, 199th District, reported that the Fire and EMS grants have been awarded. Pennsylvania’s short-term budget has been approved. He encouraged everyone to spread the word to their residents that if they have any concerns with unemployment, please send them to the district office.

Derek Snyder, 193rd District, very excitedly announced that Cumberland County is going GREEN on Saturday!!

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner, introduced herself to everyone. She is serving as the Commissioner’s liaison to the WCCOG this year. She encouraged everyone to reach out to her anytime with any problems or questions. She is also on the planning committee, the library board, the children and youth advisory board, HATS, and the drugs and alcohol commission. The first primary election with the new voting machines went well. The results were made public today.

Bob Shively, Cumberland County Public Safety, said the Emergency Operations Center is now open from 8 AM to 5 PM. Bob strongly encouraged all municipalities to complete PEMA’s 123 survey to file for COVID-19 reimbursement from the State and Federal Governments. The Public Safety Department provided communications assistance at the protests and rallies in New Cumberland, Carlisle, and Shippensburg. The Department plans to offer guidance to the County’s school districts as the new school year is quickly approaching. Larry Barrick thanked Bob for assistance to the local municipalities during the ongoing pandemic. Wayne Myers mentioned that Home Depot deserves a thank you as well for the supplies that gave freely to support the County.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight cautioned the members as we go green and begin to open the municipal parks, cleaning playground equipment and picnic tables is a huge concern. He also mentioned that if extra labor or materials are required for the cleaning, remember to include the costs in your PEMA reimbursement application.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Big Spring School District** – Madison Barrick said the District would like to thank all the folks in Newville who volunteered to support the graduation event, those who attended and the 90 virtual attendees. Congratulations to the graduates! The District is planning for several potential fall openings: a regular opening, a cyber opening, or perhaps a combination of the two in an A-B schedule where half catch a bus for the day and the other half connect remotely with the teachers broadcasting all day. The custodian and maintenance crews returned to work today to begin the process of cleaning, sanitizing, and rearranging classrooms to incorporate social distancing and central camera placement. The Board and administration are in the process of finalizing the budget of approximately $53 million with an anticipated tax increase of 2.5%. PA’s budget includes the same funding as last year. The District will receive about $680,000 in combined CARES money that will be used to support COVID-19 cleaning & screening along with more student devices and classroom equipment to support the online classrooms.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said that the BOS put the re-write of its Zoning Ordinance and SALDO on a temporary hold. The Township road crew has been replacing culvert pipes in preparation for the road projects. They did a huge bank removal project on North Dickinson School Road. The Township is looking to hire a new road crew worker. If you know any good candidates with a CDL, let know about the position.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman indicated that the road crew has been performing routine maintenance on the trucks and equipment. They have also been trimming trees and patching potholes. Schlusser’s Paving milled out and widened Pinedale Road.

**Mount Holly Borough** – Troy Russell said the road crew has been doing drainage work and patching on Mountain and E. Pine Street. New curbing will be starting today on E. Pine Street. They are installing piping under the railroad. They started well drilling on the property across from the paper mill. New playground equipment was purchased with a DCED Grant. They are upgrading the park’s pavilions. They are installing water and electric lines at the dog park. The codification process continues. Troy Russell thanked the local municipalities as well as the County for all of its love and support for Jerome Guise a fallen fire fighter. Honoring him was a real challenge with the COVID-19 restrictions.

**Newburg Borough** – Sara Rhine reported that the Borough is ready to start three street projects as soon as the paperwork is signed off on. South Hampton Township is generously providing help with their park demolition project. They purchased new playground equipment. The Borough is applying for a Cumberland County Plans Grant to re-write its zoning ordinance.

**Newville Borough** – Mike McKnight mentioned the Borough was awarded a $93,000 Community Block Grant for ramps, storm damage, and resurfacing of North Corporation Street. They also applied for a $75,000 COVID-19 Block Grant. If awarded funding, the plan is to redistribute the monies to small businesses in the Borough. Council recently revamped its 2020 budget and made $80,000 in cuts. They created its own economic development authority to help local small businesses. Big Spring’s Graduation Parade was a collaborative effort of Newville Borough, North Newton Township, Penn Township, South Newton Township, and West Pennsboro Township.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said the Township’s road crew began doing a lot of mowing and trimming along the roadways. They also have been cleaning up trees after storms. They have been replacing culvert pipes and crack sealing in preparation of the paving projects. They have installed dug-out at their baseball fields.

**Penn Township** – Gary Martin reported through his “This Sucks” mask that the road crew has been doing gutter work, mowing and storm clean up. The Township decided to remove and replace its parking lot. It ended up being a lot more work than anticipated. Schlusser’s Paving had to dig down and place a foot and a half of millings before replacing the black top. They are building a file room in the one garage bay. It will be temperature and moisture controlled.

**Shippensburg Township** – Steve Oldt mentioned that the construction projects for Dunkin Donuts and a Mexican Restaurant are full speed ahead.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the road crew has replaced fourteen drain tiles. They have been cleaning up after storms, trimming trees, and mowing along roadways. They have also been repairing picnic tables at the park.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Barrick, Mike Gutshall, and Marcus McKnight recommended jointly the cancelation of the April and May WCCOG meetings because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Wayne Myers made a motion to ratify the decision, second Gary Martin, the motion carried.

Marcus McKnight mentioned that the members might want to consider having a meeting in August since two of this year’s meetings were already cancelled. Larry Barrick said he believes that August is vacation time for most. Gary Martin made a motion to cancel August’s meeting, second by Wayne Myers, the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. on an Oldt/Gutshall motion.

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

June 8, 2020

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Derek Snyder, 193rd District

Brian Ochs, 199th District

Madison Barrick, Big Spring School District

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner

Bob Shively, Cumberland County Public Safety

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

David Bachman, Lower Frankford Township

Sara Rhine, Newburg Borough

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Troy Russell, Mount Holly Borough

Gary Martin, Penn Township

Steve Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator