**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of July 13, 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 June 8, 2020 were approved on a Myers/Croutch motion.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The June 30, 2020 bank balances were as follows: Checking $3,551.40 Savings $30,541.05 and Regional Code MMA $231,043.36. West Pennsboro Township earned $1,497.24 for UCC building permit administration in June, the WCCOG earned $374.31 for the same period. The July Bill List of $35,049.81 approved on a Sangialosi/Martin motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

No report.

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Derek Snyder, 193rd District, mentioned that the House is in session this week. The biggest concern right now is obtaining clear guidance on how to safely get the students back to school. Busing is a major concern, as is how to maintain social distancing and safely use masks. Karen Heishman questioned if the office would provide help with the grant writing process to the local volunteer fire companies. Derek and Shane both said that help was available. Marcus McKnight mentioned that Fred Potzer from Newville Borough thought it may be beneficial for the local fire companies to work collaboratively on the grant application process and he offered to aid.

Shane Shuma, 199th District, reported that HB 836 The Disaster Declaration Order was sent back to Governor Wolf for approval. Representative Gleim’s office has been offering many residents support with trying to obtain unemployment compensation during these trying times.

Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning, mentioned that Cumberland County received $22.9 million in CARES Act Funding which will be distributed in the form of block grants. Kirk encouraged the municipalities to apply. Emails will be coming soon with more details.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight said that he received an email from Peter Conlow concerning the WCCOG’s two-year contract with MDIA expiring in September. MDIA would like to make two changes to the non-residential fee schedule. Accessibility plan review would be increased by $50 and accessibility building inspection would also be increased by $50. Larry Barrick made a motion to accept the new fee schedule and authorize Peter and Marcus to finalize a new two-year agreement, second by Gary Martin and the motion carried.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Big Spring School District** – Madison Barrick said the District will be voting on its Health and Safety Plan as well as the 2020-2021 alternative school calendar. The options that will be voted on are 1) fully remote 2) hybrid A/B schedule including two face to face days and three online days 3) all students back with restrictive social distancing and masks required. No matter which option is selected, masks and social distancing will be a must. Temperature scanning of all staff and students will take place at the beginning of each day. Transportation is the biggest challenge as the District has over 2600 students spread out over 200 square miles. Bus routes are already long for many students. Tax bills went out July 1st. Big Spring’s tax increase was again the lowest in Cumberland County of those school districts located solely in Cumberland County.

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi mentioned that with the assistance of Cumberland County Planning Commission the BOS was able to adopt an updated comprehensive plan. They also adopted a solicitation policy and a personnel policy. The road crew has been performing summer maintenance. They purchased a dump truck from Southampton Township.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said that the BOS will be holding a public hearing on August 3rd to FINALLY adopt its new Zoning Ordinance and SALDO. The Township road crew has been finalizing pipe replacements in preparation of the 2021 road projects. The Township is still looking to hire a new road crew worker. If you know anyone good candidates with a CDL let them know about the position.

**Lower Frankford Township** – Karen Heishman reported that the Township awarded the seal coating of a portion of Ponderosa Road to Wilson Paving at its last BOS meeting.

**Newburg Borough** – Sara Rhine had no report.

**Newville Borough** – Mike Croutch mentioned the Borough is having the park resurfaced next week. Anyone that would like to observe the process is welcome. Council will soon be opening the bids for the ADA access at the trail head. North Corporation Street will be getting handicapped ramps and sidewalks with grant monies. They have begun the process of re-writing their Zoning Ordinance. The Public Works Department has been working one staff member short in hopes of closing the budget deficit gap caused by COVID-19. They are interested in purchasing a mid-sized truck to mount their leaf blower on.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said the Township’s road crew has been mowing, trimming trees, cold patching and replacing culvert pipes. Schlusser’s Paving has been paving this week. The next project they hope to work on is the connector trail which connects the Township Park to the Rail Trail, but they are having trouble getting in touch with PennDOT.

**Penn Township** – Gary Martin reported the Township utilized a Cumberland County Grant to update its Zoning Ordinance and SALDO, the drafts are now ready for public viewing. They tarred and chipped four roads. The road crew is working on the base of several other roads. Plans for a subdivision on the Gettle Property have been submitted.

**South Newton Township** – Marcus McKnight said the BOS continues to hold its meeting in the garage. The Township’s trash contract is up for renewal next fall. Scott Mack, Southampton Township, has begun the process of outlining specs for the new contract which will be go out for bid.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the road crew has been working at the park painting picnic tables and pavilions. They have been cleaning up downed trees after storms. Three roads had to be temporarily closed by one storm and four roads were closed by another.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Barrick mentioned that the planning committee for the Cumberland County Association of Township Officials Convention would like to have input from the members as to whether the convention should be held this year. Larry said the vendor participation in the event is minimal. Marcus (South Newton Township) thought it would be best to skip a year. Gary (Penn Township), Wayne (West Pennsboro Township), and Pat (Cooke Township) all agreed skipping a year would be for the best, especially if we would be required to wear masks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m. on a Myers/Sangialosi motion.

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

July 13, 2020

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Derek Snyder, 193rd District

Shane Shuma, 199th District

Madison Barrick, Big Spring School District

Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

Sara Rhine, Newburg Borough

Mike Croutch, Newville Borough

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Gary Martin, Penn Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Ron Yoffee, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator