**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of December 13, 2021**

**West Pennsboro Township Building**

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

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

SPEAKERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 8, 2021 were approved on a Sangialosi/Myers motion.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The November 30, 2021 bank balances were as follows: Checking $11,785.70 Savings $30,609.62 and Regional Code MMA $238,205.23. West Pennsboro Township earned $791.40 for UCC building permit administration in November, the WCCOG earned about $197.85 for the same period. The December Bill List of $16,936.21 approved on a Sangialosi/Myers motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning, said that Cumberland County has not raised taxes for its eighth year in a row. There is an opening on the Agricultural Preservation Board, anyone interested should contact Kirk ASAP. PennDOT is hosting a public meeting to discuss possible improvement strategies for Interstate 81 on December 14th and 15th at 7PM. For more information, visit <https://www.i81southcentralpa.com/>

There have been rumors about closing exit 45 College Street and also combining two exits: exit 48 York Road and exit 49 Trindle Road. Another topic mentioned every couple years is connecting I81 and the Turnpike in the Meadowbrook Road area. Township access crash data is on the PA State Police website.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight mentioned traffic issues around exit 37 of Interstate 81remains an issue. There are as many as five tractor trailers stopped on the off ramp at any given time. Waste Management is not fulfilling its service contract in Dickinson, North Middleton, and South Middleton Township. Some residents have gone three weeks without having their trash picked up. The training requirements for new CDL drivers will become more strict in February 2022, this will likely cause more issues in the trash hauling industry.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Big Spring School District** – Madison Sloop said that the District is updating its strategic plan. Everyone is welcome to complete the survey. Winter sports have started. The 2022-2023 budget process has begun. Staff and students are required to wear masks through January 10th, at which time the situation will be reevaluated.

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi mentioned the Township adopted its 2022 budget. They created an American Rescue Fund Plan Budget. They recently met with Lori Glace from Cumberland County to discuss drainage issues on Leper Farms Road. The road crew has been maintaining the roads.

**Dickinson Township** – Marge Bear said the Township road crew finished installing culvert pipes on Cold Springs Road. Next, they will be putting shale in place. One public works employee will be retiring at the end of this year. The Township will have one new supervisor taking office in 2022. They approved a site development plan for the parks. They approved a bid for a storage building which will include public restrooms at Stuart Park.

**Lower Frankford Township –** Karen Heishman reported that the Township has started to update its Comprehensive Plan with the assistance of Elizabeth Grant of the Cumberland County Planning Department.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman reported the Township road crew is preparing for winter. They have been cleaning up debris on the roads from recent windstorms. The Township received the drawings for the Hunter Road Project, the landowner agrees with the project and will sign off on it. They plan to apply for a dirt and gravel grant to replace a bridge on Pipeline Road.

**Newville Borough** – Mike Croutch mentioned that the road crew has been preparing for winter. The Borough’s 2022 budget has been adopted. Construction of a new borough office on South High Street will begin next year. The new police vehicle was finally delivered, nearly a year after it was ordered. Mold was discovered in the police station. A visit from Santa is planned for December 18th from 9AM to Noon at Zion Church. Mike will be sworn in as the mayor in 2022 so this may be his last WCCOG meeting.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said the Township received grant monies to connect the walking path at its park to the Rails to Trails. It took six weeks, but they finally received the salt they ordered. They have been replacing a lot of stop signs that were knocked down by a tractor over the weekend. The road crew has been cleaning up limbs on the roadways after the various windstorms.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel reported that Ken Sheaffer was reelected as Township Supervisor. She is preparing for the January reorganizational meeting. The Township has two vacancies on its Zoning Hearing Board. The Township is hiring Pixel & Hammer as its new website provider. They have an issue with the old website provider owning their domain name. Due to the transition, the Township may need to piggyback on the WCCOG website in order to comply with agenda posting requirements. The salt bins are full, and the road crew is prepared for winter. Toby Wolf has designed plans to incorporate a new air purification system for the municipal office. They also plan to enclose the front porch to promote social distancing. The Township plans to approach Comcast about servicing the entire Township. Kuhncom had an internet /cable contract including a 99 year lease for their poles, but Zito bought them out. The Park & Recreation Committee recently installed ADA swings and performed various other upgrades at the park. Next year, the BOS will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month and workshops will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month. The FedEx warehouse is operating at full capacity. The Executor (Smucker) warehouse has been sold to Pole One Land LLC

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer mentioned that the Borough road crew is ready for winter. The plows are on the trucks and the salt bin is full. They just finished six weeks of leaf clean up. Unfortunately, the Borough needs to dig up King Street that was just newly paved this summer to repair a water leak.

**Shippensburg Township –** Steve Oldt said the Township is loading up on salt. Shippensburg University winter graduation went well. Students started a fire while cooking on the stove in Maverick Apartments. All of the sprinklers on the first floor came on. Thankfully no one was hurt. The construction on the Rutters on Route 174 is progressing. The Rutters on Airport Road is adding a beer cave. The casino owners continue to work through the building permit application process. They are hoping for final approvals from the PA Gaming Commission in January and be open for business by late summer or early fall.

**Southampton Township –** Scott Mack reported that the Township recently hired a new zoning officer, Larry Hinkle. They have been discussing the possibilities of redoing roads, making new roads, and installing round abouts.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township road crew has been checking the road signs for reflectivity. They have been removing stumps and dead ash trees in the road right-a-way. They continue to service the Township equipment. They recently had a meeting with PPL and Centurylink concerning 21 places in the Township have double poles.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Gutshall was elected to be the president and Pat Sangialosi to be the vice-president for 2022 on a Mack/Plasterer motion which carried. Karen Heishman was elected to be the administrator for 2022 on a Myers/Sangialosi motion which carried.

The members (Mount Holly and Shippensburg Boroughs, Dickinson, Lower Frankford, North Newton, Penn, and West Pennsboro Townships) that participated with the 2021 line painting were polled. Everyone was extremely satisfied with the prompt response and overall performance of Alpha Space Control who was awarded the contract.

Karen mentioned that Jerry Schlusser owner of Schlusser’s Paving would like to see the WCCOG add equipment rentals to its annual bidding. Marcus agreed that would be okay. Karen will draft a document, get Marcus’s approval and share it with everyone.

Karen mentioned that the UCC Appeals Board Decision for Seneca Realty in Shippensburg Borough is not being adhered to. Marcus stated that the Board is advisory and has no enforcement authority.

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

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

December 13, 2021

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Madison Sloop, Big Spring School District

Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Marge Bear, Dickinson Township

Jake Fealtman, Lower Mifflin Township

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Mike Croutch, Newville Borough

Ron Tritt, Penn Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Steve Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Scott Mack, Southampton Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator