**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of November 13, 2023**

**West Pennsboro Township Building**

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

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

SPEAKERS

Kristen Ritchey, Comcast Senior Manager of Government Affairs, discussed Comcast’s plans for broadband expansion over the next three years. Some Comcast expansions are self-funded using private capital. There is currently a self-funded expansion in the initial design phase for 170 addresses on Walnut Bottom Road in Dickinson and Penn Townships. Unfortunately, expansions take between 12 and 18 months because Comcast must get permission to attach their cables to existing telephone and/or electric poles. Other Comcast expansions are funded by infrastructure grants. Grants are available at both the State and Federal levels. Comcast offers speeds up to 1.2 Gig per second. Kristen also mentioned that Comcast has an “Internet Essentials” program which offers low cost or even free internet to anyone that qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 9, 2023 were approved on a Myers/Fealtman motion which carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The October 31, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $5,091.48 Savings $30,733.34 and Regional Code MMA $259,027.83. West Pennsboro Township earned $3,871.33 for UCC building permit administration in October, the WCCOG earned $967.83 in the same period. The Bill List of $47,544.28 was approved on a Barrick/Fealtman motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Brooke Bashore from the 193rd District mentioned that the primary election date is not moving, the bills did not pass in time. Harrisburg is expecting a democratic member to resign soon, then there would be an equal number of democrats and republicans in the House so the speaker will not be calling a session until that seat is filled. Representative Torren Ecker is trying to get a meeting with DEP to discuss local municipalities concerns with Food Processing Residuals, unfortunately the DEP Secretary just resigned. Representative Ecker will be hosting a Holiday Open House on December 5th from 4:30 to 6:30 at his Shippensburg Office and December 7th 4:30 to 6:30 at his Abbottstown Office.

Cole Hasenbalg from the 199th District reported that Barb Gleim met with the Food Processing Residual Workgroup at the PA Department of Agriculture on October 25th. There are approximately twenty people in the workgroup. The purpose of the meeting was to reduce odor from application and storage, protect ground and surface water, provide compliance, clarity, and maintain soil and personal health. An overview was given of recent FPR compliance issues and compared our issues with surrounding states. A farmer who has been injecting FPRs in his area with no issues gave his perspective on how our regulations and guidelines could be changed. Barb received clarification at this meeting that FPRs are not considered hazardous waste. The next meeting will be held on November 28th.

Nancy Bull from the 13th Congressional District said that Representative John Joyce serves eight townships in Cumberland County. Representative Joyce would be willing to attend a meeting to discuss how he could help the townships and explain what assistance may be available at the Federal level, like community project funds. The Federal Government has no budget to date. There is hope of a possible budget by the end of the week. Rep Joyce will be holding a Veterans Event this Thursday in Adams County. Representative Joyce publishes a newsletter every Sunday with tons of great information in it. If you are not already receiving it, please contact Nancy (Nancy.Bull@mail.house.gov) to sign up.

Jean Foschi mentioned that Cumberland County is currently in budget season. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday. Jean shared that both she and Vince are both very opposed to an increase in Cumberland County taxes for 2024. Budgeting has been a difficult process without a current State or Federal budget in place. Larry Barrick questioned Jean whether or not the Commissioners are considering adopting a resolution concerning Food Processing Residuals. Jean said the commissioners were in discussions about it.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight congratulated Jean Foschi on her re-election to the Cumberland County Commissioners!

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the Township road crew has been blowing leaves out of gutters and placing 2A stone on various roads. The 2024 budget has been approved. The Board signed the Cumberland County Local Bridge Program Intermunicipal Cost Sharing Agreement for the Quarry Bridge. They will be going out for bid for a maintenance building that will simply be a roof with support poles. It will be used to store the salt and anti-skid.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick mentioned the Township road crew is packing up the pavement around the newly paved trail at the park. They are finishing up the road side mowing. The new equipment shed is under construction. The 2024 tentative budget has been advertised.

**Lower Frankford Township** – Karen Heishman mentioned that the Township road crew has been trimming with the boom mower. The 2024 budget is ready for adoption at the December meeting.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman reported the 2024 budget has been prepared. They recently purchased another dump truck and they are selling the old one on municibid. The road crew has been trimming trees and preparing for winter.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the Township road crew attended a winter maintenance program held by PennDOT. They have been trimming trees and getting the trucks ready for winter. The Township is accepting bids for the demolition of the school house. In 2024 the Township will have a new supervisor, Pete Trimble.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel mentioned the 2024 budget has been advertised for adoption. The road crew recently borrowed a boom mower from North Newton Township (thank you for sharing). They also borrowed a loader cage from West Pennsboro Township (thank you for sharing) for tree trimming. The road crew has been sealing cracks and performing winter maintenance on the equipment. The Township is working with Cooke Township trying to resolve a resident’s request to relocate a cul-de-sac on Beetom Hollow Road but if the Township moved it, the new cul-de-sac would have to be 80’. The existing cul-de-sac is only 40’ so they are looking into other options.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Wes Farner said the Borough is working on leaf collection. They are getting ready to put up the Christmas decorations and preparing for winter.

**South Newton Township** – Marcus McKnight mentioned the Township road crew is getting ready for winter.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township road crew closed the rest rooms at the park. They have been trimming trees and getting the equipment ready for salting and cindering the roadways. The Township has been working on the 2024 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Heishman presented the proposed 2024 budget. Larry Barrick made a motion to accept the budget with the collection of half dues from the WCCOG municipalities and a 3.2% cost of living adjustment to the administrator’s salary, second by Wayne Myers the motion carried.

Pat Sangiasoli was nominated as the 2024 WCCOG President, Corrie Wadel was nominated as the 2024 WCCOG Vice President on a Barrick/Fealtman motion which carried.

Karen Heishman presented the proposed 2024 meeting dates. It was suggested to assign a meeting date for August and decide whether or not to cancel it later. It was also suggested to hold the November meeting on the third Monday because the second Monday is Veteran’s Day. The meeting dates were agreed upon as January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 18, and December 9. Permission to advertise the 2024 WCCOG meetings was granted on a Myers/Wadel motion which carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. on a Myers/Fealtman motion which carried.

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

November 13, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Kristen Ritchey, Comcast

Brooke Bashore, 193rd District

Cole Hasenbalg, 199th District

Nancy Bull, 13th Congressional District

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

Jake Fealtman, Lower Mifflin Township

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Wes Farner, Shippensburg Borough

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator