**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of December 11, 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

Mike Hartman, MDIA Senior Inspector/Camp Hill Office Manager, spoke to the members about MDIA regrouping after Paul Rampula’s resignation. He personally does approximately 8,000 residential inspections per year for MDIA primarily in Adams County. To streamline the building permit process, he developed an applicant responsibility list to become part of the building permit application. One of the requirements to be eligible for a building permit inspection, the applicant must have a stamped plan and proof of payment must be on site. Applicants are encouraged to text the building inspector to schedule an inspection. Most inspections take place within one business day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 13, 2023 were approved on a Barrick/Myers motion which carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The November 30, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $5,185.96 Savings $30,742.18 and Regional Code MMA $250,245.17. West Pennsboro Township earned $4,542.28 for UCC building permit administration in November, the WCCOG earned $1,135.57 in the same period. The Bill List of $38,924.25 was approved on a Barrick/Fealtman motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Brooke Bashore from the 193rd District mentioned that Representative Ecker, Representative Gleim, and Senator Rothman met with the acting Secretary of DEP concerning Food Processing Residuals. There is finally movement on this. Representative Ecker has been tasked with tightening up the legislation for the use of FPRs. Harrisburg is currently in session, wrapping up loose ends in the budget. The much needed 911 funding should be reauthorized by the end of the week.

Nancy Bull from the 13th Congressional District said that Representative John Joyce supports:

H. R. 5933 The bill would expand disclosure and reporting requirements for institutions of higher education that receive gifts from or enter into contracts with foreign countries or entities. Institutions that fail to meet the new requirements could be assessed civil penalties or lose eligibility for federal student financial aid.

H. R. 4468 The bill limits the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with regard to regulating emissions standards for new motor vehicles. Specifically, the EPA is prohibited from prescribing a regulation related to new motor vehicle emissions standards that (1) mandates the use of any specific technology, or (2) results in limited availability of new motor vehicles based on the type of new motor vehicle engine.

H. R. 5372 The bill would expand Seniors' Access to Lower Cost Medicines Act of 2023. It would amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate midyear formulary changes for biosimilars.

H. R. 5677 The bill will authorize the Federal Communications Commission to process applications for spectrum licenses from applicants who were successful bidders in an auction before the authority of the Commission to conduct auctions.

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 will be voting to approve its 2024 budget this week.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the Township road crew is getting ready for winter. The 2024 budget has been adopted with no tax increase. The Board signed the Cumberland County Local Bridge Program Intermunicipal Cost Sharing Agreement for the Quarry Bridge to secure the funds required to replace the bridge. The 2024 road project will be to tar and chip Michaex and Ridge Roads.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick mentioned the Township road crew has been cleaning out culvert pipes in preparation for winter. The plows and spreader are on the trucks. They have taken a few practice runs with the new drivers. The BOS passed the 2024 budget with no tax increase. A new supervisor will be starting in January, Jennifer DeGaetano.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman mentioned that the Township adopted its 2024 budget with no tax increase. The road crew has the trucks prepared for snow.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman reported the 2024 budget has been adopted. They sold their old truck on municibid. The road crew has been cleaning up dead trees that the wind has blown down.

**Newville Borough** – Marcus McKnight mentioned that the Borough has a $600,000 deficit for its 2024 budget. Marcus is petitioning the court to allow the Borough to increase the local taxes from 1.65% to 3.15%. That increase should cover $400,000. The other $200,000 could be covered by decreasing the police department from three officers to two officers. One of the valuable services that the police department provides is background checks on potential renters in the Borough.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the Township road crew has been doing winter maintenance. They have been trimming trees. They put the spreaders on the trucks. The asbestos will be removed from the school by Baxter Environmental Group and then the building will be demolished starting in January.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel mentioned that playground equipment is being installed at the Township Park with funds obtained from a DCNR Grant. The road crew has been doing winter maintenance and tree trimming. The roadmaster had some concerns about the 2023 tar and chip project completed by Russell Standard. Signs were not posted a few days before the road project started and extra loose stones were not broomed off of the road afterwards. The 2024 budget has been adopted. The Township has been super busy with a land development plan, an agricultural security addition, and a conditional use application all being filed within the same week. Ami Myers was hired as the new part time treasurer and administrative assistant.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer said the Borough has passed a balanced budget. The police force had several officers retire. Kevin asked the state and local representatives to let him know if any funding becomes available that would allow the Borough to increase it police force again. The Borough is having problems with the power company removing electric lines from utility poles and then cutting the old pole off and installing a new pole. The other utilities that have wires on the same pole are not coming to remove their lines, so the pole continues to hang there. Kevin questioned the members if anyone had issues with this year’s line painting.

**Shippensburg Township** – Steve Oldt reported the Township approved its 2024 budget. The University students are leaving campus for a month, so things will be quieter. The Rutters, Tru Hotel, Chipotle, Arbys, and the Cyber School are all still works in progress. Parx Casino is doing well. They plan to soon open a banquet room which will be available to private rentals. The pickle ball court has been installed at the park.

**South Newton Township** – Marcus McKnight mentioned the Township had a sad situation occur on Main Street involving Norfolk Southern Train Line. A toddler was killed on the railroad tracks. Many back yards in the Township abut Norfolk Southern’s right of way with no protective fence.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township road crew has been working on the Green Hill Road project that was partially funded by the Cumberland County Dirt and Gravel Grant Program. They raised the road eighteen inches, installed a drain tile, and milled the top off. The plan is to pave the base layer tomorrow. They removed dead trees along the roadways. The park is closed for the season.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Sangialosi was elected as the 2024 WCCOG President, Corrie Wadel was elected as the 2024 WCCOG Vice President on a Heishman/Fealtman motion which carried.

Karen Heishman presented a list of LTAP classes. Please take the list back to your road crew to prioritize which classes are the most important. Karen will then work with PSATS to schedule classes in 2024.

Kevin Plasterer asked if anyone needed to have employees attend flagger training. He has six people that need the training. Karen will email the membership to gauge interest. Zac Zook, Middlesex Township, is a certified trainer. He will likely be available to perform the training.

A draft Food Processing Residual Resolution was distributed. Members were encouraged to review the resolution and adjust it where appropriate. The goal is to have a final resolution prepared for adoption at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. on a Plasterer/Myers motion which carried.

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

December 11, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Brooke Bashore, 193rd District

Nancy Bull, 13th Congressional District

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

David Bachman, Lower Frankford Township

Jake Fealtman, Lower Mifflin Township

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Steve Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Mike Hartman, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator