**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of February 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The January 31, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $11,757.56 Savings $30,669.00 and Regional Code MMA $270,299.70. West Pennsboro Township earned $1,296.24 for UCC building permit administration in January, the WCCOG earned $324.06 in the same time period. The Bill List of $39,656.74 was approved on a Barrick/Myers motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Jean Foschi reported she had no additional information above and beyond the February Cumberland County Packet that was distributed via email earlier today.

Barb Gleim mentioned the House of Representatives have not been in session. The goal is to go in session beginning February 21st to discuss and vote on the rules. The current distribution of the House is 102 Democrats and 99 Republicans. Typically the party with the majority gets to work on agenda items and develop committees. Barb said her office is getting a lot of complaints about farmers spreading food processing residual. Unfortunately, DEP is the one with the power to resolve this issue by updating farming guidelines. Farmers are not currently breaking any DEP laws when they spread the food processing residual nor when they composts a dead animal. Barb is currently working to change MS4 legislation. DEP’s stream information is antiquated. Townships should check the Chesapeake Monitoring System for more accurate stream information.

Derek Snyder said that Representative Ecker recently opened an office in Shippensburg at 68 West King Street where they are offering appointments two to three days each week. There is a Townhall planned for some time in April in Dickinson Township.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the Township road crew cleaned up after the snow storm. They have been trimming trees and performing maintenance of the back hoe and tractor. They placed additional stones on Peach Orchard, High Mountain, and Ridge Roads. The Township purchased some much needed small tools.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said the Township professional audit is being performed. They recently hired two new road crew workers. They are in the process of hiring a full-time assistant zoning officer. The road crew is preparing for construction of a building for equipment storage. The Peach Glen Road Bridge project will begin on February 16th. The project was awarded to JVI Group, Inc.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman reported the Township road crew took care of one snowstorm and they have been replacing damaged signs.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman mentioned that the Township road crew has been cleaning up down trees along the roadways. They plan to go out for bid on a bridge restoration project soon as well as get some other summer road work lined up.

**Newville Borough** – Ed Sinkovitz reported that the Borough hired a consulting firm to perform an internal audit.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the Township is still moving ahead with buying the school house beside the Township Park. They are having the property appraised. The road crew has been trimming trees, pulling ditches, and cold patching potholes.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel reported the Township road crew has been conducting business as usual. The bids for the township office renovation project will be opened this Thursday. The Township continues to work on the two PUC Hearings, one on Hayes Grove Road and other on Sheaffer Drive. The Recreation Board received a $400,000 DCNR grant that they plan to spend on new bathrooms, pickle ball courts, and another pavilion at the park.

**South Newton Township** – Marcus McKnight reported that the Township is maintaining business as usual.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township road crew is getting ready to start picking up trash along the roadways. They have been trimming trees, working on equipment, and patching potholes. They have a road project on Green Hill Road and one on Creek Road planned for 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Plasterer is concerned he may have to drop Shippensburg Borough’s Police Department and/or a fire company because lack of funding. Jean Foschi responded that Cumberland County voted to give $3,783,757 of its American Rescue Funds towards paying for P25 radios across the County. Additionally the County is using monies from its general fund to pay for all of the transmission towers that will be installed. The County is mandated to provide public safety and radios are a big part of the picture. This upgraded radio system has been in the planning stages for the past ten years. Jean is hearing from many municipalities, police departments, and fire companies that the cost of these radios is a big burden. Her recommendation is for the WCCOG to write a letter to the commissioners and also request to be put on a Commissioner’s Agenda to discuss the situation.

Wayne Myers mentioned that PennDOT hired a consulting firm to perform a traffic study at the intersection of Route 233 and Route 11, as well as the Interstate 81 Exit 37.

Karen emailed 2023 Road Materials and Line Painting Bid Documents to approximately fifteen companies and placed the advertisement in The Sentinel and The Valley Times Star.

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

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

February 13, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Derek Snyder, 193rd District

Barb Gleim, 199th District

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

David Bachman, Lower Frankford Township

Jake Fealtman, Lower Mifflin Township

Katherine Baker, Newburg Borough

Ed Sinkovitz, Newville Borough

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator