**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of March 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

Michael Rinaldi, Candidate for the Magistral District Justice, Court 09-3-02 which covers North Newton, South Newton, Cooke, Penn, Upper Mifflin, Lower Mifflin, Upper Frankford, and West Pennsboro Townships as well as Newville Borough. He stopped by the meeting to introduce himself to the municipalities. He is a lifelong resident of the area and currently resides in Walnut Bottom. He has been on the Shippensburg Borough Police Force for twenty-five years which is the catalyst for his desire to become a MDJ. He is also a volunteer fireman at Walnut Bottom Fire House for the past thirty-five years.

SPEAKERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The February 28, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $9,808.34 Savings $30,674.88 and Regional Code MMA $248,567.71. West Pennsboro Township earned $941.64 for UCC building permit administration in February, the WCCOG earned $235.41 in the same time period. The Bill List of $11,232.33 was approved on a Barrick/Gutshall motion which carried. Karen mentioned for the sixth month in a row the Regional Code MMA has lost money since the credit card machines were installed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Derek Snyder said the House of Representatives picked committees. Governor Shapiro gave his budget address. The House will spend the next several weeks in budget hearings. Representative Ecker serves on the House Appropriations so he will be meeting with the various agencies to go over their budget concerns. Now is the time to ask for money, waiting until June when the budget is closer to being passed will be too late. Representative Ecker also serves on the policy, the judiciary, and the professional licensing committees. Derek announced that this would be his last WCCOG meeting as he will be starting a new job in Agricultural and Rural Affairs. Everyone thanked Derek for his attendance and wished him good luck in the future.

Jean Foschi reported that the Commissioners met with Annie Strite, the Mental Health Director. Cumberland County has a $2.5 million deficit in its mental health budget. Mental health has been flat funded by the State for the last thirteen years while at the same time Cumberland County is experiencing growth. The State Hospitals also closed thirteen years ago with no replacement offered for the much needed service. Other human services such as the County Prison, Children & Youth, Drug & Alcohol, and Juvenile Probation are also lacking funds.

All three Cumberland County Commissioners are up for re-election.

Jean mentioned that members of the WCCOG need to bring their concerns to a Cumberland County Commissioners finance meeting. The meetings are held every Wednesday at 1:30PM. Three days’ notice is required to be included on the agenda. Contact Stacy Snyder.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight suggested the WCCOG appoint several delegates to attend a County Commissioner’s Finance Meeting to express the memberships concern about the cost of the new P25 radios. Attending the meeting while prepared with figures concerning budget deficits and radio costs would be very beneficial. It doesn’t matter that the County gave municipalities ten years notice about the requirement to update the radio system, the municipalities still do not have the necessary funding. Municipalities are mandated to deliver public safety, so they are at the mercy of the County 911’s requirements for radio systems. The grant monies offered by the County are finite. Many municipalities already impose a fire tax on their residents. Cooke Township has serious concerns as to whether the radios will work in their municipality.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the Township road crew has been cleaning up the roads. Repairs to the top end of Bendersville Road will begin shortly. They are performing maintenance on the vehicles and they repaired the mower.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said the Township road crew has been hauling fill to create a flat area to construct a new equipment storage building. The bridge project is complete, now they just need to do some paving and install the guiderails. The bridge should be opened on April 2nd.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman reported the Township road crew has been doing winter maintenance. They put the docks in at Opossum Lake in preparation for trout season.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman mentioned that the Township will be having a pre-bid meeting on Wednesday to discuss the bridge and culvert replacement project.

**Newville Borough** – Ed Sinkovitz reported that the Borough is still at a standstill until they get a handle on its finances.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that Township road crew is servicing the tractors, cold patching, replacing signs, and trimming trees. The Board is still waiting for the appraisal for the school house property beside the Township Park to make a decision about making an offer to purchase it.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel reported the Township road crew has been preparing for spring and summer. They have been doing shoulder work on Hosfeld and Gettle Roads. They will be attending the Dirt & Gravel Certification Program as well as PA One Call Excavation Training. A Route 11 & 233 safety audit was performed. Everything went well. The Interstate 81 exit ramp intersection was also discussed. Phase two of the safety audit meeting will likely be scheduled in approximately two months. The PUC Hearing concerning Hayes Grove Road appears as though it will be settled with PennDOT and Norfolk Southern sharing the costs of the necessary repairs. The PUC Hearing for Sheaffer Drive has had no movement.

**Shippensburg Borough –** Wes Farner mentioned that the Borough road crew has been gearing up for spring, trimming trees, filling pot holes, and line painting.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Evelyn Swartz reported the Township road crew has been picking up trash along the roadways, trimming trees, general landscaping, and patching potholes. They recently opened the Township Park.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Karen distributed the 2023 Road Materials and Line Painting Bid Documents to the members that participated. She needs each Board/Council to award the materials and get her the results no later than Wednesday, April 5th. The goal is to have Pat sign the contracts at the April 10th meeting and the contract pricing will begin on May 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m. on a Myers/Fealtman motion.

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

March 13, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Derek Snyder, 193rd District

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

David Bachman, Lower Frankford Township

Jake Fealtman, Lower Mifflin Township

Ed Sinkovitz, Newville Borough

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Evelyn Swartz, West Pennsboro Township

Michael Rinaldi, District Justice Candidate

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator