**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of May 8, 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 April 10, 2023 were approved on a motion by Barrick/Wadel which carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The April 30, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $7,854.67 Savings $30,867.70 and Regional Code MMA $267,322.89. West Pennsboro Township earned $2,061.60 for UCC building permit administration in April, the WCCOG earned $515.40 in the same time period. The Bill List of $24,712.67 was approved on a Barrick/Plasterer motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Jean Foschi reported the Commissioners recently had an executive session concerning the P25 radios. Bob Shively will be reaching out to each municipality and fire company concerning what purchasing Harris brand radios means to each of you. It has been stated that Harris radios cost $2,500 each and will operate on all radio bands and will come with a five-year warranty. Jean would like to have assurances that this information is factual, and it isn’t a radio that will require add-ons or additional costly programming. The County spent $30 million on the installation of the Motorola towers. Originally, the County’s radio advisory board approved the choice of two radios, but now, Jean is unsure if the grant monies allocated for the P25 radios will be able to be spent on non-Motorola radios. One notable difference between the two radios is that Motorola radios will display the person’s name that is talking on the radio and Harris will display an identification number. The Harris radios will not work on Wi-Fi or with blue tooth.

Cumberland County has a $2.5 million deficit in its mental health budget. Cumberland County is experiencing a growth in population over the last thirteen years, yet the funding from the State remains the same.

Cumberland County will be hosting Hazardous Waste Days on June 17th, August 19th, and October 26th. It will also be hosting Tire Collection Days on May 15th, 16th, and 17th.

Governor Shapiro was recently in New Cumberland discussing the possible expansion of the rent rebate program for senior citizens from $650 to $1,000.

The primary election is next Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Barb Gleim, 199th District mentioned the 2023-2024 State Budget is moving very slowly. Discussions haven’t even started in the House yet. There is a real concern that the budget won’t be adopted on time.

Kim Morewood, formally from DEP, was hired as a new staff member for the 199th District. A meeting is scheduled with DEP to discuss her MS4 initiatives and animal water residuals. The hope is to test the waterways in all of Cumberland County Municipalities. It would be great to have DEP accept the data. This is the first step of MS4 waive out fees for the entire County.

Barb recently attended a meeting with PennDOT and learned that it has scheduled resurfacing road work this summer in Upper and Lower Mifflin Townships as well as Upper and Lower Frankford Townships. PennDOT is looking to hire seasonal workers.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the Township road crew has been blowing leaves out of ditches. The Bendersville Road project is complete. They purchased a new dump bed for their truck as well as a grader.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said the Stuart Road project is finally complete. The Township road crew has been working on the banks at the intersection of Route 11 and Burnt House Road to increase the sight distance. They recently hired two road crew members as well as an assistant zoning officer. The goal is for Glenn Kelso to transition to public works director.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman reported that Schlusser’s Paving widened Opossum Lake Road from Campground Road to Pinedale Road. The plan is to pave that same section of road next year. The Township purchased a new piece of playground equipment and had it professionally installed. The 2023 sealcoating project is out for bid.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman mentioned that the Township awarded the bridge replacement project to Gleim. The road crew has begun roadside mowing.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the Township recently purchased a new backhoe. Spring cleanup resulted in filling six thirty-yard dumpsters to the brim and overflowing. The road crew has begun its roadside mowing. Schlusser’s Paving finished the 2023 paving project.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel reported the Township road crew has been trimming trees, paving shoulders, and patching potholes. They plan to soon start the roadside mowing. The municipal office interior remodel as begun. Several BOS meetings will need to be held at the firehouse, but the hope is to be back to business has usual by August. The BOS recently held a conditional use hearing for an Air B & B. Corrie asked that anyone has a short term rental agreement to please share it with her. The Township had its second meeting with PennDOT concerning the Rte. 233 corridor. The hope is to upgrade the intersection with Rte. 11 as well as add turn lanes. Another area of concern is the intersection of Rte. 233 and Pine Road.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer said the Borough recently finished up “Ship Shape Day”. Many volunteers helped to pick up trash and help beautify the Borough. Bulk clean-up is taking place this week. They are looking to hire a part time zoning officer.

**Shippensburg Township** – Steve (and Ben) Oldt reported that Shippensburg University Graduation is DONE! The Rutters fueling station to be located at Interstate 81 interchange is ready to break ground. The plans for a new cyber school have been approved. A developer from Pittsburgh is interested in installing three convenience stores in the strip mall across from Walmart.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Evelyn Swartz reported the Township road crew is trimming trees, patching pot holes, and preparing to start road side mowing. The newest set of three small warehouses on Route 11 (across from Pennsy Supply) was approved at a recent conditional use hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

The acceptance of credit card payments was discussed again. Miriam DeFehr from F & M Bank stayed after the April WCCOG meeting and reviewed the charges with Pat, Corrie, and Karen. Before leaving last month Miriam basically said that we as a WCCOG need to decide if we are willing to absorb the costs necessary to offer the service to our customers. She also generously agreed to waive the $250 early termination fee. On average, approximately 2 or 3 customers out of a total of approximately 25 customers paying for a building permit are utilizing the credit card payment. In the seven months that the WCCOG offered credit cards as a payment option, we have lost approximately $200. Larry Barrick made a motion to discontinue the collection of credit card payments, second by Mike Gutshall, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. on a Barrick/Plasterer motion.

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

May 8, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

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

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Steve (and Ben) Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Evelyn Swartz, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Matthew McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator