**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of June 12, 2023**

**West Pennsboro Township Building**

Corrie Wadel called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

SPEAKERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of May 8, 2023 were approved on a motion which Barrick/Plasterer carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The May 30, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $7,354.32 Savings $30,689.22 and Regional Code MMA $291,454.63. West Pennsboro Township earned $5,019.60 for UCC building permit administration in May, the WCCOG earned $1,254.90 in the same time period. The Bill List of $67,551.86 was approved on a Barrick/Wadel motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Jean Foschi asked if everyone received Bob Shively’s email containing a power point presentation and recordings. She mentioned that a decision needs to be made soon concerning if the County will allow its American Rescue Plan monies to be used to purchase only Motorola P25 radios or if municipalities will be allowed to purchase Harris P25 radios. The County already spent $30 million on the installation of the infrastructure/towers. One advantage to the Motorola radio is program updates will be on-line, while Harris radios will require in person program updates. Municipalities have until the end of July to decide which radios and how many they plan to purchase. Jean encouraged the members of the WCCOG to attend a Commissioner’s Finance Meeting, held weekly on Wednesdays at 1:30 or the next Commissioner’s meeting on Thursday, June 22nd. Municipalities need to express the need for more funding to be made available for the purchase of the P25 radios.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight mentioned that he has been in contact with vendors that provide cable tv and internet services. He hopes to get a representative from Zito, Comcast, and Brightspeed to attend the July or September meeting.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Janet Frantz said that the Township purchased a grader. The road crew has been using it on the dirt roads. They have been mowing along the roadways. The Bendersville Road project is complete.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said the project at the intersection of Burnt House Road and Route 11 is complete. Wayne thanked him and said the crew did an awesome job. The road crew continues with road side mowing. They are also cleaning up weeds around signs and telephone poles to enhance sight distance at various intersections. Next will be the installation of some culvert pipes in preparation for the 2023 sealcoating projects.

**Lower Frankford Township** – Karen Heishman reported that the 2023 sealcoating project was awarded to Russell Standard. The road crew has been cleaning up dead trees along the roads.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman mentioned that the Township recently had Chemung Supply install some much needed guiderails. The BOS will be opening the bids for the base repair and sealcoating projects at its next meeting. They also hope to award the relocation of a portion of Hunters Road at that same meeting. The road crew has been roadside mowing and also performing routine maintenance on the roads.

**Newville Borough –** The Borough has started its search for a new manager. They may also consider hiring a finance manager for the water and sewer authority. The Borough hired a PFM Management Group to get them back on track financially. The Fountain Festival is June 17th.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the Township road crew has completed its first round of roadside mowing. They sealed all of the cracks in the parking lot in preparation for tarring and chipping it this fall. A blacktop overlay was done on the basketball court. They plan to erect bins for stone storage. The Township remains in negotiations with the school house property owner.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel reported the Township road crew has been working on the roads and preparing for the sealcoating project. They recently borrowed a truck from Dickinson Township. They continue to have issues with one of their mowers, it has been repaired three times. PennDOT sent the Township a packet of information concerning the upgrade to the Route 233 corridor. Corrie hasn’t had time to thoroughly review it, but it appears a lot the responsibility for updates and repairs will fall on the Township.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer said the Borough will be having its line painting done this week. Kevin got the surrounding municipalities (Southampton Franklin Township, Southampton Cumberland Township) to combine their park and recreation committees with the Borough. They can share resources, funding, and better and coordinate schedules so they are not having the same activities on the same days. It also should make applying for grants easier when the funds will be supporting 50,000 residents versus 10,000 residents. Kevin recently attended a seminar in Hershey and learned that use of local radar/lidar is currently in the House to be voted on. Another thing he learned concerning police departments, Pennsylvania is thinking about raising the number of police officers from three to ten for the civil service employee compliance rules. It is already extremely difficult to hire police officers and this would be an added burden.

**South Newtown Township** - Marcus McKnight mentioned the Township has had a supervisor ill for quite a while, the hope is he will be able to attend the next BOS meeting.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township road crew had to repair the one mower. The first phase of the Green Hill Road project, cutting back the bank and widening the shoulders, is complete. They are hoping to receive grant monies from Cumberland County to perform additional improvements. Pen Way Drive is being tarred and chipped. Creek Road will be widened from Old Mill Road to Route 641.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Plasterer mentioned that one of the purposes of the WCCOG is to work together and help each other. He would be happy to share some of the Borough’s equipment with an operator at a reduced rate. Shippensburg Borough has a portable vacuum truck, a full-size vacuum truck, and a camera system that can be used in the sewer line.

The WCCOG will be hosting an Asset Management class at West Pennsboro Township municipal office on Wednesday, July 26th from 8AM to Noon.  Donuts and coffee will be provided. However, attendees will be responsible for registering for the class on PSATS website. Borough members can contact Karen Heishman directly.

[ASSET MANAGEMENT](https://gis.penndot.gov/ltap/public/CourseInfo_GenInfo.aspx)
RS-M30-B1 ROADS SCHOLAR 1, ROADS SCHOLAR ADMINISTRATIVE

Many municipalities in Pennsylvania employ some sort of asset management, whether it is properly planning for road maintenance or using an advanced database system to manage signs, roads, bridges, and even park benches. This course will explore the variety of asset management systems and approaches used throughout Pennsylvania and help municipal officials determine the right level of asset management for their needs. Participants will enhance their knowledge of asset management systems and their benefits to municipalities. Intended Audience: Individuals responsible for asset management, budgeting/planning for maintenance activities, and/or managing public works activities, including public works managers, roadmasters, and street superintendents. Others who would benefit from this course include municipal management, employees, elected officials, and public works employees.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. on a Barrick/Plasterer motion.

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

June 12, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner

Janet Frantz, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

Jake Fealtman, Lower Mifflin Township

Ed Sinkovitz, Newville Borough

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator