**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of September 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 10, 2023 were approved on a motion which Wadel/Plasterer carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The August 31, 2023 bank balances were as follows: Checking $7,124.92 Savings $30,715.37 and Regional Code MMA $260,394.76. West Pennsboro Township earned $1,837.35 for UCC building permit administration in July and $1,837.35 in August, the WCCOG earned $430.52 and $459.34 in the same time periods. The Bill List of $34,538.34 was approved on a Barrick/Myers motion which carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Ryan Albert from Representative Barb Gleim’s office reported that the House will be going back in session on September 25th. The budget will be before them at that point. The hunters are very disappointed by the $115M reappropriation of funds in the 2024-2025 State budget. The hunters feel that allowing this transfer of monies from the Game Fund to the State treasury would set a very bad precedence, and also violates the trust of the hunters and trappers in the Commonwealth. The Game Fund is to be used for the benefit of the Commonwealth’s wildlife, wildlife habitats and the administration of the agency responsible for our wildlife, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). If these raids are allowed to take place, the Commission’s ability to carry out its mission will be gravely affected in the coming years.

Representative Gleim attended a Board of Supervisors meeting at Lower Frankford Township. Barb stressed that there were two issues in Lower Frankford Township. One, being a farm on Old Mill Road obtained a dead animal composting license. The other being many farmers allowing the application of FPRs.

Representative Gleim will host:

Farmer’s Breakfast on September 29th from 9AM to 11AM at West Pennsboro Fire Company.

Cumberland County 50+ Expo on October 11th from 9AM to 2PM at Carlisle Expo Center.

Hunter Safety Seminar & Outdoor Expo on October 19th from 5PM to 7PM at Newville Lions Fairgrounds.

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast on November 2nd from 9AM to 11AM at U. S. Army Heritage & Education Center.

Brooke Bashore from Torren Ecker’s office said there are no updates at this time. Torren is ready to go back to work and finalize the PA Budget.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight presented a draft letter for approval that he plans to send to representatives from Zito, Comcast, and Brightspeed, inviting them to a future WCCOG meeting to discuss the internet services that they provide. The members approved the letter so it will be sent today.

Marcus mentioned that the CapCOG has been informed that we will be discontinuing our membership. He thanked Larry Barrick for filing a right to know request and getting the CapCOG’s vendor packet for salt bidding.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the Township road grader has been repaired. The road crew has been mowing along the roadways. The road master found an issue on Michaux Road, he plans to ask the property owner for permission to repair it. The bridge on Quarry Road has been slated for replacement with some of the Cumberland County $5 registration funding. The total cost of the project is $1,141,200. The 2024 budget planning meeting is scheduled in October.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick said the Township road crew is now fully staffed with five full time workers. They have been finishing up the cul-de-sac project. Paving the cul-de-sac will be the last step. Weather permitting, the seal coat project will be done on Wednesday. The line painting will be scheduled when all the 2023 projects are completed.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman reported that the Township Board meeting had over fifty people in attendance, normally less than ten people attend. Representative Barb Gleim gave a presentation on animal composting and FPRs. She also answered many questions. The Board was very grateful for her attendance. The 2023 road projects and the line painting are both complete.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Brandi Lay reported via email that the box culvert has been set on Pipeline Road. The road crew will be finishing up the remainder of the project. The BOS wrote a letter to Sunoco Pipeline requesting a donation toward the Pipeline Road Project and Sunoco complied and mailed them a check.

**Newville Borough** – The experts hired to review the Borough’s finances determined that there was only enough money to last until the end of August. DCED granted the Borough an emergency $500,000 interest free loan. DCED will be issuing a second $300,000 interest free loan to help the Borough continue to pay its bills. It was devastating to learn that previous audits were falsified. Monies were transferred from the water and sewer authority to the general fund. The Halloween Parade Committee disbanded. A meeting is planned for new volunteers.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the Township purchased the school house. The next step will be applying for two grants. One would provide funding to remove asbestos from the building. The second one would provide funding to demolish the building. Then the park expansion can begin. The 2023 tar and chip project is complete. The line painting is done. The road crew is currently working on pulling shoulders on several roads.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel reported the Township’s 2023 tar and chip project is complete. The line painting is also complete. The road crew has been working at the park. The Board will be opening bids for park improvements. The improvements are being funded by a DCNR Grant. The Township continues to work with the PUC concerning Sheaffer Drive and Station Road. The 2024 budget meeting is planned for October 10th. Representative Eckerd will be hosting a meeting about Worker’s Compensation Insurance for firefighters at the Penn Township Firehall on September 21st. The CCATO Convention is October 5th.

A meeting is set with the Township Traffic Engineer to discuss a proposal of an I-81 Northbound red light.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer said the Borough hired a Police Chief. The Borough has started the 2024 budget. Kevin has been working on a $4.2 million road project. He is working with Southampton Cumberland as well as other PA Agencies in an effort to obtain funding. If monies become available, the project will create a Dikeman Road connector from Baltimore Road and Mainsville Road.

**Shippensburg Township** – Steve Oldt mentioned that a pickle ball court has been added to the park. They are considering a second one. The University students are back. The PA State Police have already responded to one party at Madison Court and one at Maverick Apartments.

**South Newtown Township** - Marcus McKnight mentioned the Township held an appreciation dinner for the employees and solicitor at TJ Rockwells.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Wayne Myers reported the Township road crew has been working on the concrete pads at each disc golf location at the park. They also installed a net at the pickle ball court. The 2023 road projects are all winding down. Wayne introduced West Pennsboro new administrative assistance Joyce Stone. She previously worked at Carlisle Borough.

OLD BUSINESS

Karen Heishman thanked Larry Barrick for getting her a copy of the salt bidding documents from the CapCOG and him also working with her to tweak the document to conform to the WCCOG requirements. Karen mailed invitations to bid to five salt vendors. She also ran the advertisement to The Sentinel and The Valley Times Star. The bids are due on Friday, October 6th and the bids will be publicly opened at the October 9th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Plasterer mentioned that the new FEMA maps for Flood Insurance Rates was adopted on September 7, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on a Plasterer/Myers motion which carried.

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

September 11, 2023

WCCOG Attendance Record:

Brooke Basehore, 193rd District

Ryan Albert, 199th District

Pat Sangialosi, Cooke Township

Larry Barrick, Dickinson Township

David Bachman, Lower Frankford Township

Mike Gutshall, North Newton Township

Corrie Wadel, Penn Township

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Steve Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Wayne Myers, West Pennsboro Township

Joyce Stone, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator