**Western Cumberland Council of Governments**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes of March 11, 2024**

**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 February 12, 2024 were approved on a Barrick/Plasterer motion which carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The February 28, 2024 bank balances were as follows: Checking $7,524.23 Savings $30,768.97 and Regional Code MMA $274,471.10 West Pennsboro Township earned $991.70 for UCC building permit administration in February, the WCCOG earned $247.92 in the same period. The Bill List of $14,217.09 was approved on a Plasterer/Mack motion which carried. Karen double checked the donation to the West Pennsboro Volunteer Fire Company for the use of its firehall for flagger training in 2021, it was $150. Increasing the 2024 donation from $100.00 to $150.00 was ratified on a Barrick/Fealtman motion which carried.

The 2023 auditors report was approved on a Wadel/Barrick motion which carried. Karen thanked Kevin Plasterer and Evelyn Swartz for auditing the WCCOG bank accounts for 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

COUNTY & STATE REPORTS

Nancy Bull from Representative Dr. John Joyce, 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, reported The Laken Riley Act overwhelmingly passes U.S. House with bipartisan support.The Laken Riley Act does three things: It condemns President Joe Biden's border policies, including catch and release, and calls on him to reinstate "Remain in Mexico." It would amend federal law to require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to issue detainers and take custody of illegal aliens who commit theft-related crimes, such as shoplifting, as defined by state and local law. It allows state Attorneys General to sue the Secretary of Homeland Security for injunctive relief if immigration actions such as parole, violation of detention requirements, or other policy failures harm that state or its citizens. Representative Joyce voted in favor of this act as an effort to secure the border. Representative Joyce is also in support of H.R. 7521: Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. It will protect the national security of the United States from the threat posed by foreign adversary controlled applications, such as TikTok and any successor application or service and any other application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Ltd. or an entity under the control of ByteDance Ltd. Representative Joyce voted in favor of H.R. 1061 The Consolidated Appropriations Act which would cut funding for weaponized government agencies, while fully funding Veterans healthcare and supporting farmers, and many other community funded projects across the District. The 2024 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) for volunteer fire companies opens on March 11th and closes on April 12th.

Representative Torren Ecker, 193rd District, mentioned that the budget hearings are wrapping up, revenues still appear to be high because of COVID monies that are still available in Harrisburg. The representatives will be back in session next week. He introduced Meagan Boushell who is now working in his Shippensburg Office.

Representative Barb Gleim, 199th District, reported that the Food Processing Residual Resolutions (FPR) work group has been making great strides. The first step is to update the FPR manual. The FPRs will be divided into two categories, good and bad. More stringent guidelines, similar to bio-solids regulations, will be placed on the bad FPRs. The haulers will be required to have a nutrient management plan. They will also be required to inject into the ground and only apply at certain times. County Conservation Districts will be charged with the permitting and oversight of FPRs. There is also digester legislation in the House. The FPRs will be placed in a digester and the liquid gas and methane would be pumped off of the top. The bi-partisan bill should be written by the end of this month. Barb was questioned who is responsible for any FPRs spilled on the roadways. The hauler is responsible. Barb also mentioned that there is a bi-partisan bill that will protect PA Farmlands from foreign adversaries. Over thirty states have already adopted this legislation. Barb said that Cumberland County’s intellectually disabled waivers were approved. We will be getting twenty-four new consolidated waivers and twelve non-consolidated waivers.

Jean Foschi mentioned there will be a round of recruiting incentive grants for law enforcement in the near future. She also said the Commissioners will be reviewing the scope of work for the FPR Coalition that was formed by South Middleton Township. The County is not in a position to write a blank check, a cap will be put on the funding.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Marcus McKnight reported that Newville Borough is having additional legal issues. A petition has been filed in an attempt to remove three members from borough council. The basis being the new council members were not sworn in and failed to submit an affidavit of residency. As the Borough’s solicitor it is Marcus’s job to respond to the petition. The law is very clear, there is only a vacancy if a council member dies while serving, death before the term begins, or by resignation.

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

**Cooke Township** – Pat Sangialosi said that the road crew has been working on the roads. Penn Township Fire Chief told the Township that there will be several races held in the Park this summer. The October Festival is scheduled for October 29th. The Park hired a new ranger.

**Dickinson Township** – Larry Barrick mentioned the road crew finished up the walking trail at Stuart Park utilizing some Cumberland County Grant Funds. A field day is planned for April 3rd to highlight the native plant restoration project as well as the stream bank restoration project. This year’s road project will be a total reconstruction of Peach Glen Road. There are twenty-three culvert pipes that need to be replaced as part of this project.

**Lower Frankford Township** – David Bachman said the road crew has been cleaning up downed trees and performing maintenance on the equipment. They will soon be putting the docks in at Opossum Lake. David and the code enforcement officer made a second visit to Jones Harvesting LLC Hog Mulching. It smells no different than walking through a barn yard.

**Lower Mifflin Township** – Jake Fealtman reported the road crew attended flagger training. They have been cleaning up downed trees from the windstorm. They cleaned the salt off of the trucks.

**Newville Borough** – Ed Sinkovitz reiterated what Marcus McKnight said about the Borough having legal issues with the November election.

**North Newton Township** – Mike Gutshall said that the old Oakville Elementary School has been completely torn down. Bricks are for sale at the Township office. The road crew attended flagger training. They have been doing truck maintenance, trimming trees, and cold patching. They had to deal with flooding and mud issues at the produce auction’s equipment sale.

**Penn Township** – Corrie Wadel mentioned that the road crew has been doing routine road maintenance. They are ramping up for the 2024 road projects. The Township has been making improvements at the Park utilizing DCNR Grant Monies. Corrie recently met with Kirk Stoner from Cumberland County and Steve from HATS, they are trying to come up with a long term plan for exit 37 off Interstate 81 prior to meeting with PennDOT.

**Shippensburg Borough** – Kevin Plasterer said the flagger training went well and he would like to see it placed on the calendar for 2027. He also mentioned he noticed the line painting prices actually went down this year.

**Shippensburg Township** – Steve Oldt reported Parx Casino is doing well and considering an expansion. The Township is currently reviewing paperwork for: Arby’s, Popeyes, Chipotle, Jersey Mikes, Wawa, a Cyberschool, CVS, and Rutters. Bear Oldt was too sleepy to give a report, he had an exhausting trip from Florida to his new home with the Oldts.

**Southampton Township** – Scott Mack introduced Steve O’Donnell. He is a Township Supervisor and the WCCOG alternate representative. Scott mentioned that he is excited to see movement on the FPR issue, but he is not in favor of the Township writing a blank check to join the coalition. He brought up that the State needs to find a way to get monies from the electric cars and bikes that are utilizing township roads. Scott is hopeful that the Township will be applying for a DCNR Grant for the park soon.

**West Pennsboro Township** – Evelyn Swartz reported the Township road crew has been trimming trees after the wind storm. They are getting the park and pavilions ready for the summer. They have been picking up trash along the roadways and sweeping up the anti-skid at intersections. The Board is looking to hire a wastewater treatment operator and a township manager.

OLD BUSINESS

LTAP Classes have been scheduled Drainage: The Key to Road that Last 3/13/2024, and Traffic Signs Basics 3/14/2024.

Flagger Training was held on 3/7/2024. Forty-nine municipal staff and school district employees attended the training. A big thank you to Zac Zook from Middlesex Township and West Pennsboro Volunteer Firehall.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen distributed the 2024 Road Materials and Line Painting Results. Each municipality was asked to be sure to read the supporting documents from the participating vendors, not just the summary spreadsheet. Please let Karen know as soon as your board/council awards the bids. The new contract pricing will begin on May 1st.

Karen mentioned that in addition to the four LTAP classes that were held this winter, several municipalities expressed interest in Roadside Safety Features V, Stop Signs & Intersection Traffic Controls, and Temporary Traffic Controls. These classes could be scheduled for next fall or early winter if there is enough interest. Kevin said he would prefer delaying until early 2025, everyone else will check with their road crews and report back at the next meeting.

Shippensburg District is eligible to be an associate member of the WCCOG. Several District employees attended the flagger training. Karen was instructed to send the District a letter asking if they would be interested in being an associate member on a Barrick/Mack motion which carried.

Orrstown Bank sent the WCCOG an email offering “Positive Pay” services that would flag suspicious checks, provide emails and online alerts of suspicious check activity, and present suspicious checks for review and payment decisions online. Karen was instructed to forward the email to the members for consideration. A decision was tabled on a Mack/Barrick motion which carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. on a Mack/Fealtman motion which carried.

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

March 11, 2024

WCCOG Attendance Record:

PA 13th District, Nancy Bull

193rd District, Representative Torren Ecker

193rd District, Meagan Boushell

199th District, Representative Barbara Gleim

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

Kevin Plasterer, Shippensburg Borough

Steve Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Bear Oldt, Shippensburg Township

Scott Mack, Southamption Township

Steve O’Donnell, Southampton Township

Evelyn Swartz, West Pennsboro Township

Peter Conlow, MDIA

Marcus McKnight, WCCOG Solicitor

Karen M. Heishman, WCCOG Administrator