

President Coleen Reamer called the April 27, 2017 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Biglerville, Fairfield, and Littlestown. **Townships:** Berwick, Butler, Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamilton, Hamiltonban, Huntington, and Straban. **School Districts:** Bermudian Springs, Conewago, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown, and Upper Adams.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY VAZQUEZ (BIGLERVILLE) AND SECONDED BY PHIEL TO APPROVE THE MARCH 23, 2017 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLEY**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Pat Smith presented the Treasurer's Report which showed an ending balance of \$7,625.91 with one check written to PACOG for \$200.00 for dues.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GORDON (HAMILTONBAN) AND SECONDED BY C. SMITH (FAIRFIELD) TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT TO AUDIT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLEY.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Reamer introduced our speaker, Dr. Russell Greenholt, Supt. of the Conewago Valley School District who spoke on the "Impact of HB 76, Property Tax Elimination". Putting politics aside, Dr. Greenholt addressed how this bill would impact his School District. Last year the vote on the Bill was a tie and therefore defeated. After the defeat, ran the numbers on the impact. The State wants to eliminate \$14 billion in property tax. The alternative proposal is to increase Personal Income Tax (PIT) from 3.07% to 4.95%, raise the Sales and Use tax (SUT) from 6% to 7%, and increase the number of items covered by the tax, to make up the \$14 billion. In 1990, the State funded schools at certain level- what you get is what you got. The percentage of funding remained the same no matter what the enrollment. 40% of school districts have more student today than back in 1990 but funding remains at the same level. 60% of districts have decreased in enrollment, level of funding remains the same. This Bill diminishes local control- the State will control what money the school districts get. Building improvements would go to referendum. Would teachers go to statewide bargaining?

Businesses would not have to pay property tax, that burden shifts to workers. "Businesses are paying \$3 billion school property taxes but they will only be paying about \$ 1 billion in PIT and SUT- shifting the remaining \$2 billion to individual taxpayers." No one is going to guarantee the money or when the school districts will get it. Income from PIT is down 9%, SUT is down 6%.

The impact on Conewago Valley? \$27 million local tax, school district must get 27 million. Local taxpayers would have to make that up in PIT and SUT. Conewago Valley receives \$5 million from commercial and industrial properties, "each 2-person household would have to absorb an additional \$540.00 for the district to make up for the elimination of school property taxes on commercial and industrial properties. If fair funding goes away, money that goes to the State does not always come back to Adams County. And local taxpayers would continue to pay district imposed tax to retire debt. And there remains the issue of unfunded mandates. The new funding formula only applies to new money. While it is difficult, Adams County Schools do an excellent job educating students with limited resources. Attracting our own students back to our own cyber schools would bring money back to the district.

"One the biggest challenges to education today is that we might become irrelevant". The world uses technology, our kids use google and in school we are still trying to teach 30 students at a time. When we get a few dollars ahead, something else gets cut like transportation funding. We do the best we can.

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**BYLAWS:** Barbara Underwood reported that the Bylaws Committee has met and is proposing changes to the bylaws to reflect how we function. Copies have been emailed to everyone, we are looking for comments today on the proposed changes so we can vote next time. There were some verbiage changes, the vote on the budget is being moved to December. The Bylaws refer to the “management committee” but it is the Executive Committee made up of past presidents that meets quarterly to decide on speakers etc., so let’s change the name to “executive committee”. There being no comments, please review the bylaws and be ready to vote at the next meeting. President Reamer thanked the Committee for their work especially Sandi Vazquez for all her typing and redlining the changes.

**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING:** The COG Collab Committee reported that since our last attempt at electronic recycling failed for lack of a recycler, that there is recycling occurring in Franklin County, in the home district of the Speaker of the Pa. House, Mike Turzi, in McSherrystown, why can they do it and not us. Commissioner Qually prodded by Mayor Harris contacted E- End, Frederick, Md. Recycler who handles electronics. For approximately \$6,000 they come to Adams County with two tractor trailers, staff and equipment to conduct a one-time “electronic drop off event”. The cost to drop off a TV-\$25, a computer monitor or CRT is \$10.00, other electronics are free. We have the perfect place to do the collect here at the Emergency Services Building with the cameras. The COG would have to provide volunteers to help. President Reamer asked for a motion that the COG pay \$3,000 toward the event with a request that the County Commissioners contribute a like amount.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MOSER (LITTLESTOWN) SECONDED BY VAZQUEZ (BIGLERVILLE) THAT THE ADAMS COUNTY COG FUND THE ELECTONIC DROP OFF WITH \$3,000 AND REQUEST THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONTRIBUTE A LIKE AMOUNT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLEY.**

Commissioner Phiel asked Rep. Moul if there was any movement in Harrisburg on a remedy, Rep. Moul responded that there is a bill but was not optimistic. There was more discussion on the subject, it will be open only to residents of Adams County and municipalities, no businesses. If this is event is successful, there will be time for municipalities to build a donation into their budgets in support of another event. Also, a possibility that the new trash contracts going out for bid might include electronics. The County Planning office with support the event with publicity and doing the pre-registration.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Commissioner Phiel explained his recent absences from our COG meetings as related to his involvement with the new Adams County Human Services Building. There is progress with Phase II but the COG May meeting that was scheduled for the site will have to be moved to June. The furniture has not arrived yet. Commissioner Phiel also reported on the Firing Range for Law Enforcement which is a Public- Private Partnership is closer to becoming a reality through the generous contribution of \$50,000 from the Gettysburg Eagles.

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Commissioner Martin reported that some of the polling places have changed in Littlestown and Carroll Valley. Also, the Office of Ageing is very appreciative of the many municipal donations they have received to support their work.

Commissioner Qually reported that when he was a kid he was happy when he got a new pair of socks. The County has a lot of furniture that basically has value as scrap but might be useful to some of the municipalities. The purpose of the Human Services Building was to get the County out of having to lease office space, now that some offices have moved, the new vacant space must be reallocated.

**DES:** no report.

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE:** Cpl. Keating reported that the PSP handled 83 car crashes, 14 burglaries and one fatal overdose from Heroin.

**ADAMS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS:** No report.

**BOROUGH ASSOCIATION:** No report.

**ACTCC:** No report.

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS:** Heard enough!

**LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES:** Rep. Moul reported that HB 144 has moved from the House to the Senate. This bill would let non-profit organizations that raise their own funds internally to audit their own books rather than requiring them to hire an outside audit firm that cost a lot of money. He also reminded us of the Drug Take-back. He is Vice Chair of the Children and Youth Comm. The death rate for addicted infants is increasing- 80% of drug use starts with prescription drugs. The new drug database is helping because it has eliminated shopping around for doctors to get prescriptions for opioids. He was very happy to report that he had been invited to the White House to witness the roll back of some federal regulations that affect local control of education.

**ACEDC:** Robin had left, Sherri Clayton-Wilcox reported that Robin had attended the Spring Conference where the subject was Workforce Development.

**PENN STATE EXTENSION:** No Report.

**AC COLLABORATION:** No report.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Bob Gordon reported that the committee has produced a list of priorities that are available in the back and will be voted on at the next meeting. Any comments should be addressed to Bob.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** No report.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Eric Zaney reported that fire and EMS training is moving forward with classes scheduled for fall and winter.

**FIRE STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE:** Chair Coleen reported that responsibility for training for Fire and EMS has been turned over to Warren and the Fire Chiefs, that the tower will be built and training is scheduled. She thanked the committee for their efforts.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Sherri reminded everyone of the Tire Drop Off that is coming up. Barb Underwood thank President Reamer for selling her Wacker, she sent it out to the COG and it is sold. If your municipality has something to sell, let the COG know.

**PRESIDENT REAMER ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADJURN AT 10 A.M. a MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY ARNDT (CONEWAGO), SECOND BY MAUSER (STRABAN). MOTION CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.**