

January 25, 2018

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President Ferd Prehn called the January 25, 2018 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: ACOPD, County of Adams, Abbottstown, ACBO, Adams Economic Alliance, Arendtsville, Berwick, Biglerville, Butler, Conewago Valley SD, Cumberland, Fairfield SD, Franklin, Germany, Gettysburg, Gettysburg SD, Hamiltonban, Highland, Liberty, Littlestown Sd, Littlestown, Mt. Joy, Oxford, PA State Police, Rep Will Tallman's Office, Senator Alloway's Office, Steve Kelley, Straban and Union

Ferd introduced Danielle Helwig (Butler) as the new secretary for the COG meetings as Gus Fridenvalds (Huntington) has resigned.

A motion was made by George Mauser (Straban) 2nd by Terry Moser(Littlestown) to approve the December 2017 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

President Prehn asked for the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Pat Smith(Fairfield) reported that there was no activity since last month. The current check book balance is \$2397.81. To save paper she is not going to print a report when there is no activity and will just relay the balance at the meetings.

A motion was made by Bob Gordon(Hamiltonban) 2nd by George Mauser(Straban) to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Gordan wants to add Item C to new business: Resolution opposing SB 2

NEW BUSINESS:

President Prehn called for an introduction of COG delegates and their municipalities. Some elaborated on projects going on with in their municipality.

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE HB 1620: (An Act amending the act of October 24, 2012 (P.L.1501, No.191), known as the Wireless Broadband Collocation Act, further providing for short title, for definitions, for regulation of wireless support structures, for processing of applications, for enforcement and for preservation of local governing authority and providing for use of public rights-of-way, for access to municipal poles, for indemnification and for prohibitions.)

Bob Gordon (Hamiltonban) discussed how this bill is an attempt to get around municipal ordinances etc.: Giving the wireless community the right to basically do as they choose in our right-of-way's. There has been a lot of opposition and discussion. Marty Qually suggests this is not a good idea if this bill is taking away local control. George Mauser posed the question: Will this bill provide us with better broadband? Bob answered with a Yes, this is what we all hope for, but the opposition is more about how the bill is currently written. Per Bob, Gus Frivenvalds sent out two sample copies of the resolution asking for each Township to consider adopting. Scotty Bolton (Boroughs Association) sent info out to the boroughs. The Legislative Committee is asking for COG to also oppose the Bill and adopt the resolution.

A motion was made by Bob Gordon (Hamiltonban) 2nd by Marty Qually (AC Commissioner) to adopt the resolution to oppose HB 1620 as recommended by the Legislative Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

The resolution will be Sent to Legislators, PSATS, Boroughs Association.

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 2: (Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public-school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," providing for education savings account; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Education and the State Treasury.)

A motion was made by Bob Gordon (Hamiltonban) 2nd by Brad Hunt (Gettysburg School District) to adopt a resolution to oppose Senate Bill 2.

Bob reports that the Legislative Committee put this resolution in front of the COG. Bob apologizes for not getting this information out ahead of the meeting. Brad Hunt reports that this bill is important to all tax payers across the Commonwealth. Adams County does not have any underperforming schools therefore this bill will not provide funding for any schools within Adams County. This bill would provide vouchers for students in underperforming schools ONLY if they attend private schools. (private tutor). This bill provides \$5570.00 per student per school to attend a private school. This could result in lawsuits which in turn will cost the taxpayers. What does the bill do? Does not require any new program, does not require any new educational incentives. It simply allows for a student to relocate from an underperforming school to a private school. Does not require that other private education be adequate. No accountability provisions. Does not include public charter schools. Any of these schools that are under performing are not affected by this bill. So, if we are looking to help students in under performing schools, why are we excluding charter schools? It provides money for post-secondary education. Money would go into a state fund and the state would have to hire people to manage it, causing additional burden on the taxpayers. The money would continue even if that child's school improved. The student would continue to receive the subsidy until graduation. If the private education costs less than the voucher, they still have the money to use for post-secondary education. Provides funding for special education student based on a formula regardless of that child's needs and regardless of the services that child receives. We still have the responsibility of transportation of these students. All that money for these underperforming schools will go to private education schools somewhere. The pool of money is not going to go up. The money will come from us. Adams County tax payers will end up paying more in than we will get out.

The school districts feel that we should not force tax payers to pay for someone else's choice. This bill will affect everyone in Adams County.

The Adams County School districts are opposed to public tax payer's money to support private schools. Representative from Senator Alloway's office commends Adams County Schools for not having any underperforming schools. He commented on the numbers and feels this bill would reduce the School districts cost. There was opposition to this statement in the room stating that School costs will remain the same they will just get less money.

Bob Gordon stopped conversation to vote.

Motion carried with Gettysburg Borough and Arendtsville Mayor Dave Laughman abstaining from the vote.

Old Business:

Marty Qually: Election Board is dealing with the proposal of the map changes.

ACPO: Conservation district manager is being hired. Sherri Clayton wishes that this new hire will be welcomed at the COG meetings.

PSP: LT. Nickey: Shared some statistics regarding State police calls.

11217 calls for service (31 calls per day)

390 thefts, 87 burglaries, 115 drug incidents, 140 assaults, 59 sex offenses, 35 death investigations, 1131 crashes, 6796 traffic stops and 351 dui's and 658 Meghan law updates.

Township Officials- Bob Gordon- Township Association is up and running the executive committee has met. Gormont & Aldridge are President and Vice President, Beard is Treasurer, Boyer is Secretary.

Feb 13, 2018 Secretary get together July 25, official Secretary luncheon.

AEA – Robin Fitzpatrick-Thank you to all the municipalities for their support. Looks forward to helping those that have projects started. Cumberland County has reached out with regards to Solar Panels.

Penn State Extension: Feb 16 & 17 newly elected officials training at the Wyndham Hotel

AC Collaboration: Committee met and recommending the March program be a bridge engineer. Marty Qually discussed the idea of streamlining the process.

The committee is always looking for new members.

Legislative Committee: Met, continue with priorities. Following specific Bills such as Radar, recycling, medical assistance, etc. Looking at have round table sessions in 2018. The Goal is to try to educate the public. More to come.

EMS – Barb – 2017 total calls 5302.

Legislative Representatives: Thanks everyone for the efforts on HB 1620. Feb 6, the Governor will be meeting on the budget.

No Public Comment:

President Prehn discussed future speakers (State Police, Bridge Engineers, Steve Neibler. (Bill Gilmartin)

With no further business the meeting was adjourned by motion made by Marty Qually, 2nd by Barb Underwood. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Danielle Helwig, ACCOG Secretary

