

Adams County Council of Governments  
March 23, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

1. President Scholle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call:  
Present: Arendtsville, Biglerville, Carroll Valley, East Berlin, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown, Butler, Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamilton, Hamiltonban, Highland, Mt. Joy, Oxford, Straban, Tyrone, Bermudian Springs Schools, Conewago Valley Schools, Upper Adams Schools and County of Adams  
  
Others Present: Vanessa Sanders (Gettysburg Times), Catherine Wallen (Rep Ecker), Nance Bull (Cong. Joyce), Stacey Rice (@Home Gettysburg), Chris Kimple (Rep Moul), Rep. Dan Moul, Karl Peterzak, (Destination Gettysburg,), Robin Fitzpatrick (AEA) and Judi Seniura, (Gettysburg Connection).
4. Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Phiel seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion carried
5. Treasurers Report: A motion was made by George Mauser (Straban) and seconded by Bob Gordon (Hamiltonban) to approve the Treasurers report as presented. Motion carried
6. Speaker: Mayor Ron Harris spoke on Cyber Security. Understanding the Cloud, the computer system and the Network (2 or more computers). What is Malware, Ransomware and Phishing? The importance of running security updates, providing for training sessions, have a data recovery plan, hold vendors accountable to high standards & have an insurance policy.
7. New Business
  - Committee members: Current members list attached to these minutes. Bylaws: (Good), Public Works: (status questionable), Legislative: add Dave Laughman and Justin Peart), Pa COG: remove George Mauser, Bob Gordon commented that PA COG is in limbo at this point, waiting to hear the future status), Nominating Committee: Add Judy Butterfield, Emergency Services: remove Terry Moser, Finance: (Good), AC collaboration: add Judy Butterfield. Please let the secretary aware of any other changes.
8. Regular Business
  - a. ACC: Commissioner Phiel commented the County is continuing to combat cyber attacks by changing policies for example multifactor authentication. CCAP has formed an insurance pool for cyber security. Com. Phiel also spoke on the County Awardees for the ARP funds. He also mentioned new legislation could provide municipalities the option to give some tax exemptions to first responders. The County is working on something. Commissioner Martin spoke about a budget proposal for emergency services to increase the 911 access fee. He feels the legislature should increase it a little higher to be sufficient. Com Martin also mentioned cyber security and what it could cost you to retrieve your data and the importance of Multifactor authentication etc. Steve Nevada mentioned the average ransom ware payment is 480,000.00.
  - b. Legislative Reps:  
Catherine Wallen (Rep Ecker): Working on Budget hearings. April 27 Townhall at Kings Gap, May 11 open house at Shippensburg, Derek Snyder (staffer) last is March 29 and they are hiring. They must live in Shippensburg.

- Rep. Dan Moul: Hero shout out to Catherine Wallen and another attendee for their quick response at providing care to a gentleman who had a heart attack at a recent meeting. Slow start to the year. One bill has been passed at this point. Rep. Moul is looking forward to working with Pa's new governor. Pa has a high avian influenza epidemic right now. Anything that can fly can carry it and it is a very serious matter. As Ag Chairman, he will have to fight the encouragement unions in the agricultural community. He mentioned differences in the opinions with the American Battlefield Trust regarding the purchase of buying and shutting down business' in Adams County.
- c. ACOPD: Andy Merkel: Mentioned the Jenna will be meeting with Municipalities regarding the Heritage Plan (re: Historical resources in your areas). There is also a PennDOT survey on the County Website. What are the transportation needs? GIS is working to provide better information on what is happening in the County, such as plan submissions, types of plans, locations of the plans, etc.
  - d. Township Association: No Report
  - e. Borough Association: Next meeting third Monday in May.
  - f. PSP: No Report
  - g. Destination Gettysburg: Karl mentioned the new meeting was held at the new Historical Museum. Honored Com. Phiel, with the Jim Getty Spirit of Gettysburg Award. Tourism percentages continue to increase
  - h. ACTCC: Next meeting for the YATB is April 24, 6:00 p.m. at the EMS building and by zoom. And the ACTCC will be held at 6:30 on the same date. Info will be sent out.
  - i. School Districts:  
Justin Peart (Bermudian) mentioned A funding law suit has been ruled upon. There was no resolution filed at this point. The Governors budget is very beneficial to public education as proposed.  
Matt Muller, (Conewago Valley) mentioned they have been looking into safety and have had the PSP out provide a risk and vulnerability assessment on all buildings to determine strengths and needed improvements. They are also looking into resource officers, and school security officers. They are working on a feasibility study.  
Joe Albin (Upper Adams) mentioned they are working on a budget to submit to state by June 30. This year is the largest class for kindergarten registrations in years. Shout out to our very own Levi Haines (former student) and his accomplishments with Penn State Wrestling.  
Bob Gordon: Has advocated for the school district members. Spoke with Justin Peart (Fairfield), that we want to have a presentation from the school districts on how the COG can work with them on their needs.
  - j. AEA: Robin Fitzpatrick mentioned they fund more ag and tourism projects more than anywhere else. there is a 90-acre manufacturing site in Oxford twp. 25-acre site in Huntington Twp. and working on expanding the tax base in Gettysburg Borough. With the help of the County, they Just acquired a property, 50 acres (a contaminated site) for redevelopment in Cumberland Township. Working with local businesses to create an industrial tech apprenticeship program. Working with the broadband committee. Awarded \$100,000.00 small business credit initiative. Received 300,000.00 from the County to be used towards a home ownership program. Commissioner Phiel mentioned that Robin is now on the Adams County Board of Elections.
9. Committee Reports:
- a. AC Collaboration: no report

- b. Legislative Committee: At the most recent meeting, they went over the Leg. Priorities that were adopted at the Feb. COG meeting. They will attempt to make the list a living document possibly a web page.
  - c. Emergency Services: No report
  - d. PA COG: Report earlier in the meeting
  - e. Brand Band Task Force: George Mauser met recently with Design Nine to go over the first part of the draft report. Next meeting, they will look at funding opportunities.
10. Public Comment: Dave Westcott, Littlestown borough to Dan Moul. Mentioned regulatory items need to be reviewed by the legislature. For example: issues with Led Pipes.  
Judy Butterfield mentioned that they are keeping a list of local municipal events to provide to any calls they may receive.  
Stacey Rice(@home) mentioned the next meeting will be Monday at HACC at 1:00 p.m.  
Bob Gordon Thanked everyone for the BIRTHDAY WISHES.
11. Announcements: No Report
12. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Helwig  
Butler Township