

President Reamer called the November 16, 2017 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 am.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Biglerville, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, and Littlestown. **Townships:** Butler, Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamilton, Hamitonban, Highland, Huntington, Liberty, and Straban. **School Districts:** Bermudian, Conewago and Gettysburg.

David Bolten made a correction to the minutes under the Boroughs Association report that “the Association may consider a resolution supporting legislation to require training for newly elected officials.”

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ARNDT (CONEWAGO) AND SECONDED BY SMITH (FAIRFIELD) TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 26, 2017 MINUTES AS CORRECTED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Pat Smith reported an opening Checkbook balance of \$2,536.27 with one check (#176) to Salzmann Hughes PC for \$57.50 leaving a closing Checkbook balance of \$2,478.77.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOLTON (ABBOTTSTOWN) AND SECONDED BY GORDON (HAMILTONBAN) TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT TO AUDIT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Reamer announced that there are copies of the 2018 Budget at the back of the room if you forgot your copy. Please note that we are reinstating our dues structure for 2018 and we are budgeting for a “recycling event”. We realize that many municipalities have electronic recycling in their new trash contracts but that is not universal, so we decided to include it in the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: President Reamer called for Vice President Prehn, Chair of the Nominations Committee to present the slate for 2018. Chairman Prehn reported that he will be a candidate for President, Dave Arndt (Conewago) for Vice President, Pat Smith for Treasurer and Gus Fridenvalds for Secretary. This will be the slate we will be voting on at the December meeting. If there are any additional nominations, please give them to the Nominations Committee.

Next item on the agenda is our Legislative Review. President Reamer thanked everyone for letting her serve as our president and giving her the opportunity to get to know all of us, she then called on Ben Thomas from Cumberland Township who will serve as our moderator today. Our moderator then called for a round of applause for our outgoing President.

Moderator Thomas then called upon Will Tallman, Dan Moul and Chad Reichard of Sen. Alloways’ Staff to the front asked them to smile, “we are being televised”.

Moderator Thomas introduced the event as an “interactive forum”, our seventh and started with a list of our Legislative Committees priorities which include:

- Local Radar
- Electronic Recycling
- Pennsylvania Construction Codes
- The Human Services Code HB 699
- Equitable school funding

Charter School reform
Prevailing Wage
Pension Reform
Fire and Ems Funding Options
Workforce Development

And our Secondary List:

The Uniform Construction Code
Right to Know Reform
Clean and Green reform
The Pennsylvania State Police Funding and Liquid Fuels.

First topic is Local Radar. Chad Reichard speaking on behalf of Sen. Alloway reported that the Senate did pass S.B. 251 which enables local police to use radar. There was concern in the Senate that local police would abuse Radar but “we trust them with Firearms, why not Radar?” If you don’t want a ticket, don’t speed. The Bill now goes to the House.

Rep. Dan Moul reported that when it comes to the House it is a slow process and when it does come to the floor (it might be spring before it comes out of the Transportation Committee) it might look quite different. Rep. Moul’s reported that the Houses’ appetite for the Radar bill is mixed. Rep. Tallman reported that he supports the Bill but does get opposition to it. Public comment was that the Borough’s Association Has passed resolutions supporting local radar twice. The methods for speed control that are available to Locals are antiquated and use too much man power. Some legislators are afraid that this could become a cash cow for municipalities and want to cap it at 20% of a Budget. Municipalities deserve the right to be able to enforce speed laws. Only about \$12 from a ticket goes to the municipality.

Second topic is Equitable School Funding. Rep. Tallman started by saying, we don’t have it. It only applies to new money which today amounts to about \$49.00. There is a school district in Beaver County that gets \$10,000.00 per student. Adams County gets about \$2,500.00. The problem is “hold Harmless” which says that a school district cannot receive less this year than it did last year. Representatives who are from those districts will not vote for a bill that will raise their taxes. The Property Tax Referendum that passed is a tax shift, if the money does not come from property tax, it must come from somewhere else- sales tax or P.I.T.

EMS Funding: Rep. Tallman reported that insurance companies do not want to increase reimbursements for BLS and ALS. They did get BLS increased to \$180 and ALS to \$300.00. Helicopter service is \$3325.00. The increase helps but it is not enough. Both Representatives commented that part of the problem is that insurance companies will reimburse the patient and the patient doesn’t pay the bill. Direct payment to the provider would solve that problem.

Uniform Construction Update: Chad Reichard reported that SB 663 has passed the Senate, its purpose is to increase competition in the inspection field. The Bill would require municipalities to offer a choice of Building Inspectors to contractors. While this sounds good, the discussion centered on the municipalities B.C.O. accepting inspections from unfamiliar inspectors.

This fall, Adams County had a very successful Electronics Recycling Event. Now some of the municipalities will have E-Cycling included with their trash service. Disposing of electronics is a problem, Moderator

Thomas invited comments on SB 800. Chad Reichard reported that Sen. Alloway supports this bill and has high hopes that this will be a long-term solution. When the Legislature passed the Recycling law 108 the intention was to make the manufactures responsible for the products they sell. The problem was that the old TVs and CRTs that need recycling weigh a lot more than the modern equipment that is being produced and quickly exceeded the weight of equipment sold today. Bill 800 has passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. Both Representative Tallman and Moul are in favor of this bill, "this Legislation needs to pass."

Next Moderator Thomas invited comments on Charter School Reform. Rep. Tallman responded that he is not as familiar with Brick and mortar Charter Schools as he is with Cyber Schools. There are between 14-16 Cyber Schools in Pennsylvania. There bills that are intended to address the problems but they are opposed by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Cyber Schools Association. At present there is no accountability and funding is all over the place. There should be accountability and funding should be at a cost per student. In Adams County where the cost is between \$3,000 to \$5,000 per student. We are paying \$8,000. In other places they are paying \$20,000. Rep. Moul commented that funding should be based on cost. Brick and Mortar schools cost more to operate than cyber schools, funding a Cyber School at 80 % is wrong. Several educators in the room responded by asking where the 80% figuring came from, they actually pay the tuition charge. Rep. Moul will check into that. Cyber Schools spend money on advertising, who pays for that? The performance level of Cyber schools is below that of brick and mortar schools. If they are below our schools, why do we let our kids go to them? It is the parent's choice.

Moderator Thomas announced it was 10 am and time for our rapid-fire round, four topics and one can respond. First, Pension Reform. Rep Moul responded that they did pass pension reform but that is not the solution because it only applies to new hires. As salaries increase, the pension burdens also grows. Second- Prevailing Wage Reform. Chad Reichard commented that Sen. Alloway supports reform but the reform of the prevailing wage would help rural central Pennsylvania, the rest of the State wants it. There are several proposals every year but it does not move, not enough votes.

Third- Support for Fire and Ems. There are no Volunteer Daytime Ambulance Companies in Adams County. Used to be 20 fire companies, now down to 8. It does not look good. Training is a big burden, time and expense wise. Suggestion would be to include fire training in the schools, then a junior fireman could get his training and be ready to go. Some of the tax money from the fireworks law does go to fire and ems grants.

Right- To- Know Reform- Chad reported that Senate Bill 187 would allow for reasonable charges for certain requests to allow municipalities to recoup the cost of fulfilling commercial RTK requests. No has a problem with a legitimate request, the commercial ones are the problem.

Last topic is Workforce Development- Driving around the region, Moderator Thomas noted the Help Wanted signs that you see or Now Hiring. Representative Tallman noted that several of our State Colleges are losing enrollment. The solution is vocational training in schools, vocational schools, Community Colleges and Apprentice programs.

Closing remarks- Rep. Tallman reminded Lt. Nickey that now fireworks are legal. Rep. Moul pointed out that when RTK requests were made to Sate Government concerning funds that they had, the responses were filled with redactions. Why? Also, that the workfare Bill that passed the House and was vetoed by the Gov. was really Bill Clinton's Bill that was praised at the time. He also pointed out that Pennsylvania will always have a problem as long as our spending exceeds our income.

Chad Reichard responded that he enjoys these forums because it creates an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to the people.

Several last comments-

Dave Bolen commented on the importance of support for Community Media.

Judy Chambers responded with two comments- The York Adams Committee on Substance Abuse has funding for Naloxone. And PSATS is having a Boot Camp for newly elected Supervisors.

President Reamer asked for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE PHIEL (ADAMS COUNTY) AND SECONDED BY ARNDT (CONEWAGO).
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Gus Fridenvalds