

President Bob Gordon called the April 26, 2012 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Biglerville, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown; **School Districts:** Bermudian Springs, Fairfield, Littlestown **Townships:** Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamilton, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Liberty, Menallen, Mt. Pleasant, Oxford, Straban and Tyrone. **County:** Adams County

Others present were: Andrew Merkel, Adams County Planning and Development Office; Mary Bowers and John Eline, Adams County Emergency Services Department and Dan Cohen; Cohen Law Group; Jess Haines, The Gettysburg Times.

Legislative Guests: Adams County Commissioners: Jim Martin, Marty Qually and Randy Phiel and Scot Pitzer, Staff for Senator Richard Alloway.

MEETING MINUTES: A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROCKEY (HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP) TO ADOPT THE MARCH 22, 2012 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer, Caroline Dean (FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT), reported that the account balance is \$4,647.94 and dues are being paid by the members so the balance will be higher next month.

SPEAKERS: President Gordon called on Mayor Ron Harris to introduce the speaker, Dan Cohen from Cohen Law Group, Pittsburgh, PA. Cohen was present to discuss Municipal Rights in Cable Franchising. He reviewed terms such as: Gross Revenues and Cash Franchise Grants. Cohen's Law Group is available to any municipalities for a free legal assessment of their franchise agreements and he may be reached by telephone at 412-447-0130 or the web site at www.cohenlawgroup.org. All agreements can be reviewed even if the municipality does not have a recent renewal date.

Additionally, John Eline and Mary Bowers, who are the Director and Deputy Director of the Adams County Emergency Services Department made some remarks regarding the county's purchase of a new radio system. Eline provided a brochure about radio systems upgrades and discussed the email that the department sent out to all municipalities asking for an exact count of radios needed and this does not include any police or fire radio count. Hard copies of the email were provided to all who requested them at this meeting by Eline.

Eline reported to the COG members that a Debris Management Plan is being developed by the Emergency Services Department. When this is approved by the county it will be given to the municipalities and county guidelines to follow regarding debris management.

OLD BUSINESS: President Gordon explained that the list of committees and members were distributed by email along with mission statements of each committee. He continued by asking each committee to give their reports as follows:

Barb Underwood (CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP) gave a report on the work that the Connecting Committee is doing on the Broadband issue for Adams County. Underwood reported that they have appeared before the commissioners and requested that this group be named as a Task Force so that they may have the credibility to deal with the KIMBER Group. This Task Force will be contacting municipalities to attempt to locate areas in the county where there is little or no high band internet.

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OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED): Sharon Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) updated the members on the Emergency Services committee. She announced that the committee has received a good response to the donation from each municipality for the EMS Study and the amount is now down to \$125 each since so many have agreed to join the study group. The outstanding item is the execution of the contract with the contractor. President Gordon thanked Hamm and her committee for their hard work in this effort.

President Gordon announced for the Legislative Committee that the Adams County COG Legislative Forum will be held on May 24, 2012 to discuss with the Legislators the COG's 2012-2013 priorities. Gordon reviewed the recommendations with the members and asked for any additions/changes. None were received.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY WHEELER (LITTLESTOWN BOROUGH) TO APPROVE THE 2012-2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES REPORT TO PRESENT TO THE LEGISLATORS NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Jim Martin announced a Clean and Green meeting with the legislators on May 15 at 10 a.m.

Mayor Ron Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) announced that the Cooperative Purchasing Committee has met twice since the last COG meeting. They are developing a White Paper to implement a strategy and overall approaches to this issue. More to come...

Emma Seibert (TYRONE TOWNSHIP) announced that the Public Works Committee has met and will be holding a round table event for the road employees of the municipalities on June 13 at Rosie's Restaurant in New Oxford on June 13 at 8:30 a.m. This breakfast will include a presentation and the committee is looking for a sponsor to pay for the breakfast at approximately \$7.00 per person. Seibert asked for more volunteers to join the committee. Further, there was a discussion on equipment availability and where to obtain that information.

President Gordon announced that the American Public Works Association annual conference is looking for a location to hold their 2013 event in Adams County.

Sharon Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) announced that she attended the PA Association of Council of Governments in State College. The newsletter was sent via email to the members and our COG was featured in an article. The conference will be held in Gettysburg on September 7 through 9. The PACOG administrative costs are high and they get signification help from the PA State Association of Boroughs to help offset these expenses.

Tom Dick (BERMUDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT) announced that the April 30th YATB Board meeting was not cancelled but will be held on that date. (There was confusion with that announcement due to the York County TCC being cancelled on the same date.) The agenda includes an online filing agreement between YATB and West Shore and a clarification on costs. Also, they will discuss the location of the Gettysburg office. The TCC will meet on May 2 at the Emergency Services building. Wheeler (LITTLESTOWN BOROUGH) announced that all Ethics forms must be filed with him by May 1.

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NEW BUSINESS: President Gordon asked that the COG members approve Sharon Hamm as the Alternate Delegate to PA Association of Council of Governments.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GORDON (HAMBILTONBAN TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY UNDERWOOD (CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP) TO APPROVE SHARON HAMM AS THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE PA ASSOCIATION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Gordon asked the COG members if they wanted to revisit the By-Laws to make a few changes like a better definition for administrative costs and if there is a need for an Executive Committee. He suggested that the Finance and previous By-Laws committees meet to discuss these issues. The previous members of the By-Laws Committee (who were in attendance) concurred to meet. Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) will send out an email to set up a time for the meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Adams County Commissioners Phiel, Martin and Qually addressed the members and guests. The Commissioners reported on these items: (1) the commissioners commended Sharon Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) for the work that she has done on the EMS Study. (2) The working group on the upgrade of the radio system was explained and all contracts have been signed for the contractors. (3) Explanation of the reorganization of the court house departments with no hiring or firing of employees. (4) The current state budget reveals a 20% cut in Human Services which must be provided by the county and some Land Preservation cuts due to the elimination of the cigarette tax from their coffers and being moved to another location in the state budget. (5) The community forums continue and the next one is to be held at Littlestown Fire Company on May 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the discussion will be Water Quality and resources. There will be four more forums to come at various locations in the county. (6) The county is a member of an energy consortium which is a group that negotiates energy prices for groups such as municipalities or non-profits. The membership due is \$100 per year and is open to COG membership. (7) A report on the Prevailing Wage amendment was a few votes shy of passing the House. The emphasis is now on reducing the ceiling from \$185,000 to \$150,000.

Legislators: Scott Pitzer, Staff member from Senator Richard Alloway's office, reported on these items. (1) The State is working on budgets. (2) He reiterated what the commissioners reported on the Prevailing Wage bill. (3) The revised redistricting map keeps Adams County whole and has Alloway picking up Hanover Borough and losing some areas in Franklin County. (4) The pillow tax increase has some opposition because it is viewed as a tax and not a fee but is yet to be voted upon. Alloway has made it a priority when the Senate returns to session.

Penn State: Chambers had nothing to report at this time.

Boroughs Association: Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) reported that the next meeting is on May 21, 2012 at the Pike's Restaurant and the speaker will be Nick Colonna from Adams County Planning Department.

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Township Association: President Colleen Reamer (HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP) announced the Flagger's Training went well with 43 registrations. The State Convention will be held on May 6 through 9 in Hershey and Adams County Township Association will donate a basket of Adams County goodies. The June 20 municipal secretaries' lunch is being sponsored by the association. The newsletter will be mailed this week.

Schools: Tom Dick (BERMUDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT) reported that the schools have been meeting with our legislators and they are working on their budgets.

Announcements: President Gordon announced the following events: (1) TAKE BACK ADAMS COUNTY program on April 28 at various locations in the county. (2) Adams County COG Legislative Forum on May 24 (the next COG meeting). (3) South Central Assembly Summit on June 13 (information was provided to the members).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WHITTAKER (CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY HARRIS (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:02 A.M.

Next meeting – 5/24/12 at 8:30 am at Adams County Emergency Management Building, 230 Greenmyer Lane, Gettysburg.

Signed,

Sandra L. Vazquez
Secretary