

COG Minutes May 24 2018

(APPROVED JUNE 28, 2018)

Ferd called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M

Present: Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Berwick, Biglerville, Butler, Carroll Valley, Conewago, County of Adams, Cumberland, Fairfield, Germany, Gettysburg, Hamiltonban, Highland, Littlestown, Straban, Conewago Valley School District, Upper Adams School District, PSP, Planning Office, Bev from Sen. Alloway

On a motion made by George Mauser and 2nd by Dave Bolton the minutes from the April 2018 COG meeting were approved. Motion Carried.

Speaker: Ben Neeley (last name may not be spelled correctly) Adams County Historical Society

Mr. Neeley gave a short presentation on the history of the AC Historical Society, incorporated in 1940. They are developing a web site so that information can be researched digitally. The Historical Society is currently looking for a new home and always looking for new volunteers.

Resolution 2018-3 Radar Bill: Bob Gordon presented the group with the Local Radar SB 251, allowing for local police to use radar. The legislative committee is asking COG to support this bill. On a motion made by Dave Laughman, 2nd by Ron Harris ACCOG approved to adopt Resolution 2018-3. Motion carried. Berwick Township opposed and Highland Township abstained from voting. Ron, addressed House Bill 2148, which would cut items from the SB 251. He suggests that we contact Dan Moul for discussion. Dave Bolton texted Dan Moul.

Adams County Commissioners: Randy Phiel spoke on the status of offices and furniture for the Human Services building. Feels that all DJ offices will be relocated, Central Court and furniture will take place within two months. The County completed a space study. The current "new" courthouse is 40 years old. 3 options, 1-make necessary repairs that are needed immediately, 2-make renovations by floor, and 3- build a brand-new building. The building permit process is being reviewed. Randy will defer to Marty Qually on the subject.

Marty Qually - The new policy will require a copy of the municipality permit or a letter from the municipality stating a permit is not required prior to obtaining the County permit. Marty received a letter from Bicky Redman regarding recycling of glass. Waste Management will have problems with glass in the future states the current contract for recycling glass will be honored, however by these comments it is very possible that the next contract will not allow for the recycling of glass and it will go in the regular trash. Marty feels that it is possible that more haulers will follow suit. They are also addressing the issue of contaminants in the recycling such as trash, non-recyclables and dirty recyclables and for example plastic bags. China will be setting stricter recycling regulations and may not accept recyclables from the US

because of the contamination. This could become a huge issue! Hoping to come up with ideas with the Collaboration Committee. Storm Water review process will be reviewed.

Jim Martin- DEP is focusing on Adams County and developing a Tool Kit to improve water quality. On permitting, he feels the public is confused. The name of the permit may change to “property improvement permit”. Risk Management –Flood risk assessments- Seminar to reduce the Flood Risk Assessment. Jim feels this may be an important seminar to attend. May help reduce the cost for some resident’s flood insurance premiums.

Adams County Planning – Nothing to Report

PSP – Nothing to report

Township Officials Association – Nothing to Report

Boroughs Association – Ron Harris, September 17, 2018 and the topic will be assessment.

ACTCC- Ron Harris next meeting August 1, 2017.

School Districts – Wesley Doll- Upper Adams- stated that Graduations will be happening soon. Keystone Exams are being completed. 2 items – Reimbursement process for renovations and building is being discussed at the state level. SB 2 is Back Sen Alloway co-sponsor – a lot of concern on the affects of this bill to school districts across the state. Issues range from accountability on how funds will be spent, fraud & abuse of tax payer dollars possible, discrimination concerns etc. In Adams County approximately 60% of the funds come from the taxpayers through property taxes, if the property tax goes away... where will this money come from. This money follows the students through their high school career no matter if they stay in Adams County or move. Public schools take all children, where private schools can turn students away. The bill is for low performing schools but the money will come from all school districts throughout Pennsylvania. Colleen asked if he had an estimate on the loss Upper Adams would take... Mr. Doll did not have an answer at this time.

Conewago School District – Graduation will be tomorrow. The school is in the middle of upgrading their HVAC.

October COG meeting will be a school district round table.

AEA – Bob Gordon is frustrated and disappointed in the Townships for not investing in the Economic Development. No new investors were reported. Marty feels that this is a very important investment for the municipalities and requests that it be put on next year’s budgets.

Penn State Extension – Nothing to report

Legislative Committee – Bob Gordon heard that SB 2 came out of the education committee on Tuesday and will be headed for a house vote. Bob has a big passion on Emergency Services and wants to get the COG committee back up and running. PSATS passed a resolution asking the Governor to call special session to talk about the crisis in PA with regards to voluntary fire companies and emergency services. Bob has sent letter to representatives asking for their support in this effort. The SR 6 Commission is also looking into this.

Dave Bolton serves on the Governors Rural Development Council. Volunteer Fire Department and EMS is a top priority. Dave will bring up the request for special session at this meeting.

School Districts – Comments from UA and Conewago on the impact HB 2 would have on our school districts.

Public Works – Nothing to report

Emergency Services-Barb Underwood- There is a lack of volunteers in Adams County and it is becoming a crisis situation for all organizations. Randy Phiel talked about consolidation and collaboration of our emergency services so that we do not have to move toward paying for these services which will cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars. Bob Gordon talked about fire tax and ems tax. There have been no complaints regarding the tax that has been implemented in many of the municipalities. Some municipalities do not impose fire tax but they still provide the local fire company with funds.

Legislative Representatives- SB 22 redistricting. SB 801-804 allows municipalities to purchase used equipment without competitive bidding. SB 77 provide for requirements regarding precise publication of annual financial reporting information.

Dave Bolton update on Community Media – working on getting PEG language in the new contracts.

Next meeting June 28, 2018 County Bridge Engineer to speak

With no further business a motion was made by Randy Phiel, 2nd by Ron Harris to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Helwig

Secretary