

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

April 18, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 18, 2013, at 12 noon, at The Cottage Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mr. Kiel.

PRESENT

Russell Kiel
Tim Whited
Toni Renee Anderson
David L. Belz
Ronald Rovansek
Nicholas Persio

ABSENT

Sam Valenty
Joseph McAneny
Robert E. Fisher, Jr.

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff
Christopher D. Allison
Shanna M. Murphy
Colleen A. Bukowski

GUESTS

Randy Griffith,
Tribune Democrat Reporter

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Persio made a motion that the current slate of officers, namely Russell Keil - Chair; Tim Whited - Vice-Chair; Robert E. Fisher, Jr. - Treasurer; David L. Belz - Secretary, be retained for 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovansek and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Persio, seconded by Mr. Whited, the minutes of the March meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. Mr. Imhoff noted that due to an adjustment in the timing of the County's disbursement of the CCPC yearly allocation (tri-annual vs. quarterly), the projected balance for May 1, 2013 appears as a deficit on the financial

statement. He explained that the Commission is anticipating a payment from PennDOT in late April, which will ensure the Commission's cash flow situation until the County allocation is disbursed. On a motion by Mr. Whited, the April Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment were approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Belz and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no significant correspondence to be read at this meeting.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that there has been little feedback regarding the Commission's Act 247 Fee Schedule since the March workshop held with several township supervisors and local surveyors and contractors. He noted that this issue would be discussed in further detail under "Old Business."

Mr. Imhoff reported that, as per the Commission's agreement with the County Commissioners, CCPC staff conducted field visits to three of the most deteriorated County bridges. He stated that he sought professional engineering services to provide cost estimates for the repair or replacement of six of the most deteriorated bridges. The Executive Director's conversations with several engineering firms resulted in Stiffler McGraw Engineers agreeing to provide the cost estimates at a price not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Imhoff noted that the contract for services had been provided to the board members prior to this meeting and the proposed contract would be discussed under "New Business."

Mr. Imhoff indicated that CCPC staff is in the process of developing a website. He explained that although the Commission has access to space on the County's website, the amount of information that can be posted is limited. Mr. Imhoff noted that the CCPC 2012 Annual Report is available for viewing on the County's website.

Transportation

Mr. Allison provided a report on transportation planning activities undertaken during March. He explained that as a result of the 2010 Census, the boundary of the Johnstown Urbanized Area was changed. In cooperation with PennDOT staff and Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) staff, the CCPC staff reviewed the new urban boundary and made suggestions on smoothing the boundary in two areas near

Windber. He noted that a GIS shape file incorporating the suggested changes was created and forwarded to PennDOT.

Mr. Allison stated that CCPC staff and SAPDC prepared a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Johnstown MPO and the Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO). He explained that the purpose of the MOU is to establish the MPO and RPO boundaries and transportation planning and programming responsibilities as they relate to portions of the Johnstown Urbanized Area that extend into Somerset County. Mr. Allison noted that the JATS committees approved the MOU.

Mr. Allison reported that staff attended a meeting with PennDOT staff concerning PennDOT's Corridor Modernization Plan. He apprised the board that the plan proposes to group roadways into a hierarchy scheme in order to streamline various efforts including maintenance, incident response, and congestion mitigation. Mr. Allison noted that Commission staff will continue to participate and provide input to PennDOT as the corridor modernization process proceeds.

Reporting on several meetings he had attended in March, Mr. Allison updated those present on upcoming roadway construction and maintenance projects. He noted that he attended a plans display for the Route 3002 (Southmont Boulevard) culvert project, slated for construction in 2015. Mr. Allison explained that the culvert under the Southmont Boulevard/ Franklin Street intersection will be replaced and a temporary roadway will be built during construction so as to avoid a detour along those heavily traveled roadways.

Regarding the County's interchange lighting system, Mr. Allison stated that staff coordinated with Barclay Electric, Inc. to address ongoing interchange lighting issues. He provided a brief update of the work which was completed along the PA 56 Expressway; the PA 56/US 219 interchange; the US 22 Gallitzin interchange; and the US 219/PA (South Fork) interchange.

Mr. Allison briefly updated the board on the County bridge coordination activities undertaken by the staff during the past month. He stated that staff compiled the following list of six of the most deteriorated bridges in the County: Carneys Bridge; Red Mill Bridge; Allport Bridge; Chest Creek Bridge; Van Ormer Bridge; and Maple Street Bridge. Mr. Allison noted that local property owners are concerned about the closure of the Red Mill Bridge and would like the County to use Act 13 funds to repair or replace it. CCPC staff conducted a field view of the bridge and provided a briefing to the Commissioners on the status of the bridge. Mr. Allison reported that staff coordinated with PennDOT District 9-0 staff to advertise for statements of interest from qualified contractors for the design and construction of the Wildwood Bridge Replacement project.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy stated that GIS mapping of CamTran's fourteen urban bus routes had been updated. She reported that the demographic profiles of those municipalities currently served by CamTran urban routes had been updated to include renter and owner occupied housing and vehicle ownership data.

Ms. Murphy reported that staff continues to coordinate activities and workshops funded by the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP). She noted that she had recently attended an Equipment and Worker Safety course and was currently organizing an asphalt maintenance workshop to be held in May.

Ms. Murphy stated that collection of demographic data for the six municipalities involved in the Route 219 Corridor Growth Plan had been initiated. She explained that these six municipal governments had been requested to appoint members to serve on a steering committee so that local concerns and priorities can be incorporated into the development of the plan. Mr. Imhoff invited interested board members to attend the first meeting of this advisory committee, which is scheduled for April 30, 2013.

Ms. Murphy noted that the FHWA/PennDOT Functional Classification System bridge inventory had been completed. She also briefly apprised those present of several application and project reviews that had been completed by the staff during the past month.

As noted by the Executive Director, Ms. Murphy explained that she is in the process of developing a new website for the CCPC. She explained that this website will provide a user-friendly resource for the general public to view planning documents prepared by the Planning Commission and to garner general municipal planning and zoning information, i.e., which municipalities in the County have adopted and enacted land use planning and zoning documents.

OLD BUSINESS

Referring to the synopsis of the March workshop session regarding the CCPC Act 247 fee schedule, which had been provided to each board member, Mr. Kiel briefly apprised those present of the main concerns expressed at this workshop session. He noted that prior to the adoption of the Act 247 fee schedule, the CCPC was the only planning commission in either a 4th or 5th class county within Pennsylvania that did not impose a fee to developers, engineers, and municipalities for Act 247 review services. Mr. Imhoff also noted that although some individuals expressed concern about possible delays in review time, Commission staff has completed in-house reviews in a timely and

efficient manner and will continue to do so. In response to the request of several municipal officials and local developers to reduce the fee for non-building land merger reviews, Mr. Kiel suggested that a committee be formed to discuss this revision and provide a recommendation to the board at the May meeting. He requested those interested in serving on the committee to contact the Executive Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allison explained that Planning Commission staff coordinated with PennDOT Central Office Staff to draft Title VI policy and complaint procedures for the Johnstown Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He stated that these documents, which are included as a part of the Public Participation Plan, outline the procedures for logging a discrimination complaint relating to any program or activity administered by the CCPC and the process by which the CCPC investigates such complaints. It was noted that the Title VI documents had recently been approved by the Johnstown Area Transportation Study (JATS) committees. On a motion Mr. Persio, seconded by Mr. Whited, the CCPC Title VI policy and complaint procedures were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Having previously discussed the Engineering Services Agreement between the CCPC and Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc., Mr. Imhoff presented the document for official execution. He reiterated that the contract is not to exceed \$5,000 for professional design services to evaluate the condition of and prioritize six County-owned bridges and to provide cost estimates to repair, replace and/or close those bridges. On a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Mr. Persio, the Engineering Services Agreement between the CCPC and Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc. was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rovansek stated that the Planning Commission had presented a Public Participation Plan at the April JATS meeting. He noted that the City of Johnstown demographic data presented in the report, particularly the "poverty" and "language spoken at home" information, was very interesting. He requested Mr. Allison to share this data at the May CCPC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Belz, seconded by Mr. Whited. Motion carried.