

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
August 15, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, August 15, 2013, at 12 noon, at The Cottage Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

Russell Kiel  
Robert E. Fisher, Jr.  
Ronald Rovansek  
Toni Renee Anderson  
Tim Whited  
Sam Valenty  
David L. Belz

ABSENT

Nicholas Persio  
Joseph McAneny

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Whited, the minutes of the June 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 a payment to Stiffler McGraw Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$844 was listed for payment approval. He explained that this was the second invoice from the engineering firm for evaluation and repair prioritization of several county-owned bridges. Mr. Imhoff noted that \$5,000 was earmarked from the County liquid fuels allocation for this engineering service and since the total cost of the evaluation amounted to \$2919, the balance of \$2,081 will be used for staff time involved in the continued coordination of the county bridge inspection program on behalf of the County Commissioners. On a motion by Mr. Belz, seconded by Mr. Valenty, the August Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment were approved. The motion 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 the community forums held in July regarding the Route 219 Corridor Plan were well attended and garnered helpful information in developing local goals and objectives. Mr. Imhoff explained that staff is continuing to develop the plan, focusing on the implementation of specific projects which will assist in accomplishing the goals identified at the public forums. He indicated that he had contacted Penn State's School of Architecture in an effort to utilize student interns in developing visual sketches of how the local municipalities envision streetscaping along those sections of Route 219 which traverse through their respective municipalities.

Mr. Imhoff reminded those present of the Southern Alleghenies Greenway Mini Grant Program, which provides grants from \$1,000 - \$25,000 to organizations that implement bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects consistent with local greenways plans. He urged those present to refer interested organizations and/or candidate projects to him for further information and/or guidance, noting that the application deadline is October 11.

Mr. Imhoff reported that he attended a webinar about the 2013 update to the PA Long Range Transportation Plan and provided feedback about the plan updates at the quarterly PA County Planning Directors meeting. He also noted that, in preparation for the work activities associated with the 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program, he had reviewed draft guidance from PennDOT regarding the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program, past safety management plans, and a performance report on the Cambria County Transit Authority.

Mr. Imhoff noted that the CCPC's annual audit, performed by Barnes Saly & Company, LLC, is to be initiated next week. Upon final completion, copies of the audit will be provided to the board for their review and comment.

### Transportation

Mr. Allison stated that transportation planning activities have been initiated under the 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program. He indicated that he had participated in a conference call concerning the State Legislature's progress in drafting legislation to increase state funding for transportation projects. Mr. Allison noted that as of this date no additional funding has been approved, however, the Secretary of Transportation is hopeful that the issue will be revisited in October.

Mr. Allison reported on several web conferences in which he had participated during the past two months. He explained that the three conferences dealt with new features of PennDOT's MPMS IQ system, Linking Planning and NEPA efforts, and PennDOT's Share system. Mr. Allison further explained that PennDOT's share system allows for online sharing of GIS data, GIS analysis, and map creation, which will improve sharing of information between Cambria County and PennDOT.

Mr. Allison reported that he had attended a Planning Partners meeting in June. A main topic of discussion was the upcoming

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update, specifically changes to the public participation and input process.

Mr. Allison provided a brief report on interchange lighting coordination activities. He explained that after resolving an issue with Barclay Electric's initial invoice, the lighting contractor has been providing detailed invoices and efficient service. Mr. Allison explained that CCPC staff reviews invoices submitted by the lighting contractor prior to submission to the Commissioners for payment.

Regarding the County Bridge Inspection Program, Mr. Allison stated that the Wildwood Bridge Replacement Project had been awarded to The EADS Group, with construction anticipated in 2015. As a matter of clarification, Mr. Belz questioned the payment of invoices pertaining to the Wildwood Bridge Project. Mr. Allison explained that although the Commissioners have authorized CCPC staff as signatories to approve submitted invoices, actual payment will be made through the Commissioners and/or County Controller offices. Mr. Allison reported that staff had reviewed the Stiffler McGraw, Inc. bridge evaluation report, which outlined the condition and recommended repairs for several county-owned bridges. He stated that after meeting with the County Commissioners to review the report, the Commissioners decided to pursue replacement of the Carney's Crossing Bridge, identified as the most deteriorated bridge. Mr. Allison explained that the structure will be replaced using Act 13 funds and the project will have to be programmed on the TIP before the project can be initiated. A brief discussion concerning the status of the Hickory Street and the Maple Avenue Bridges was held.

#### Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that both office and fieldwork has been continuing on the local bridge data collection project. She explained that office work on this project utilizes the County's Geographic Information System and photos taken in the field and the fieldwork utilizes hand-held computer devices and measuring equipment. Ms. Murphy noted that data collection is nearly completed on this phase of the project, with only six municipalities left to visit.

Ms. Murphy stated that all municipal zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances on file at the CCPC office have been scanned and are now available in electronic format via the CCPC website. She noted that, as part of a project to create an interactive map tool, staff is coordinating with County GIS staff to create a table of these electronic ordinances.

Those present briefly reviewed a listing of project reviews completed by Commission staff during the past month. These reviews included a PennVest application for an upgrade and expansion of the Northern Cambria Municipal Authority water system; a PennVest application for installation of a new sewage system to separate storm/sanitary sewers in the Oakhurst section of the City of Johnstown; a surface mine permit application to change post mining land use; and an application for a natural gas line extension project in Sidman.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that, as discussed at the June meeting, he had spoken with PennDOT officials regarding Lower Yoder Township's use

of funds remaining from the Goucher Street safety improvement project to construct sidewalks along Goucher Street in the area locally referred to as "the dip." Mr. Imhoff apprised those present that, PennDOT will not pursue the sidewalk construction project because Lower Yoder Township has no interest in participating in the project and will not agree to maintain the sidewalk.

Mr. Imhoff noted that a brief discussion had been held at the June meeting regarding the CCPC pension plan options. At this time, he apprised the board of more detailed information regarding this matter and provided a cost comparison between the Commission's current plan and the proposed plan. The comparison presented is as follows:

Current Plan: The Principal Financial Group: defined contribution plan administered by Forney Financial Services; 4% employee/4% employer contribution; Annual administration fee - \$500

Proposed Plan: Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS): defined benefit plan; 5% employee/5% employer contribution; Annual Administration Fee - \$60.

Mr. Imhoff explained that the PMRS is not affiliated with the state and teachers pensions systems and is funded completely by member municipalities and other eligible governmental agencies and is financially sound. He further explained that the cost difference between the two plans, (based on current salaries of eligible participants) would amount to an increase of \$1,204 annually for the employee contributions as well as for the employer matching contribution. After a brief discussion regarding both plans, there was a general consensus among those present that since current staff members prefer the defined benefit plan and the budget can sustain the associated minimal cost increase, staff proceed with participation implementation in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kiel noted that there was no "New Business" to discuss at this meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kiel explained that there is currently a subdivision along Weaver Road in Adams Township, which was recorded at the Cambria County Recorder of Deeds office thirteen years ago. He further explained that at that time the subdivision was recorded with a signed "paper" map, not a signed mylar map. Mr. Kiel inquired whether or not the CCPC board has the authority to rule on the legitimacy of this subdivision. After discussion of this issue, there was a general consensus that the Solicitor for the Recorder of Deeds office would be the appropriate contact for this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Rovanseck. Motion passed unanimously.