

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
February 20, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014, at 12 noon, at The Cottage Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz
Tim Whited
Ronald Rovansek
Toni Renee Anderson
Joseph McAneny
Eric Wolf
Lonnie Batdorf

ABSENT

Russell Kiel
Robert E. Fisher, Jr.

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. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Anderson, the minutes of the January meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. There being no questions on the report, Mr. Rovansek made a motion that the February Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wolf and passed unanimously.

In related financial business, Mr. Imhoff presented a resolution from Ameriserv Financial authorizing the following signatories on the CCPC checking account: Ethan Imhoff as Executive Director; Lonnie Batdorf as Treasurer; and David Belz as Chair. Mr. Imhoff explained that two signatures are required on all payroll and expense checks. At least one of the signatures must be an original and a facsimile stamp can be used with the Treasurer's consent. The resolution was approved on a motion by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Rovansek. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Imhoff stated that, as discussed at the December CCPC meeting and upon receipt of the County's final 2013 allocation, the Commission would consider the establishment of a reserve account for income not necessary for the day-to-day operations of the CCPC. After a brief discussion on the issue, Mr. Whited made a motion that a reserve account be established with an initial transfer of \$20,000 from the regular CCPC checking account. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wolf and passed unanimously. Mr. Imhoff noted that a meeting of the Finance Committee would be arranged prior to the March meeting to discuss the particulars of the reserve account as well as other financial matters.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that he had met with the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce Regional Transportation Committee to discuss the state transportation bill and strategies to obtain funding for county projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan. He noted that the Commission's municipal outreach effort has proven successful in that Geistown Borough, Richland Township, Stonycreek Township, and Upper Yoder Township have all expressed interest in obtaining CCPC input with regard to digital signage amendments to their respective zoning ordinances. Mr. Imhoff stated that CCPC staff has been contacted by Westmont Borough officials regarding a proposed update to the borough's comprehensive plan, as well as review of zoning and land development regulations near the intersection of Goucher Street and Menoher Boulevard.

With regard to the Route 219 Growth Area Plan, Mr. Imhoff reported that he met with the principal of Cambria Heights Elementary School to solicit input for the Carrolltown portion of the Plan. He noted that a meeting will be held with Northern Cambria School officials as well. Mr. Imhoff stated that a data drop box has been created which facilitates the transfer of county and Planning Commission GIS data to Chatham University students working on the corridor plan.

Mr. Imhoff stated that, at the request of the County Commissioners, staff continued to research the collection of fees for vehicle registrations authorized by the new transportation bill. Also on behalf of the Commissioners, staff researched environmental compliance measures for mushroom farming, as requested by a potential developer. Mr. Imhoff reported that he had reviewed and provided comments on an Agricultural Security Area application for approximately 700 acres in Elder Township.

Mr. Imhoff stated that he had attended a webinar about the impacts of the Biggert-Waters Act. He briefly explained to those present that this Act phases out subsidies in the National Flood Insurance Program, precipitated by the financial impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. Mr. Imhoff noted that due to this legislation, flood insurance premiums have increased sharply, affecting many Cambria County residents.

Transportation

Mr. Allison reported that, during the past month, he continued to coordinate with the Planning Commission, the County Commissioners, the JATS committees, and PennDOT on the update of the Major Highway Action Plan for Cambria County. Mr. Allison noted that although members of the Planning Commission would like to see improvements to Route 56 East and West remain as the County's #1 priority, the current top priority has shifted to the US Route 219 North Corridor, particularly improvements to State Route 4013, which will provide a connecting route from Route 219N in Carrolltown to Route 36 in Elder Township. He explained that further discussion of priorities and updates to the Action Plan would take place at the JATS meeting on February 21, 2014, and that members of the Planning Commission will attend the meeting and present their ideas.

Mr. Allison stated that staff has prioritized highway and bridge projects submitted for the 2015 Twelve-Year Program update. He explained that municipal surveys and PennDOT bridge risk assessment tools were utilized in the prioritization process.

With regard to the field data verification of forty-seven HPMS sample sections through the County, Mr. Allison indicated that twenty-two sections required editing. He noted that HPMS work tasks for the current work program are now complete.

Mr. Allison noted that the County Commissioners have renewed a one-year contract with Barclay Electric for maintenance and repair of the County's interchange lighting system. A brief discussion ensued concerning county and municipal responsibility for annual energy and maintenance costs at various interchanges throughout the county.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that work has been continuing on the local roads data inventory as well as the 2012-2013 Public Participation Plan (PPP). She explained that the PPP will provide data regarding the disabled population at the municipal and county level, as well as for the various census tracts in the City of Johnstown.

Ms. Murphy stated that during the past month she compiled GIS data layers for tax parcels, municipal boundaries, streets, census data, and land use information for municipalities located along the Route 219N corridor. She explained that this geo-database will assist the Chatham University students with their efforts in Carrolltown Borough, part of the Route 219 Growth Area Plan.

Ms. Murphy noted that the 2013 CCPC Annual Report is currently being prepared. The report will provide a synopsis of the activities undertaken by the CCPC during the past year.

Those present briefly reviewed a listing of project reviews completed by Commission staff during the past month.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted that since the creation of a reserve account had been discussed previously, there was no additional "Old Business" to review at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allison provided a brief overview of the 2014-2016 Unified Planning Work Program initiatives and funding scenarios. He explained that the work program tasks have been prepared for a two-year period, with the budget and related financial data reflecting anticipated costs for 2014-2015 and 2015-16 on a fiscal year basis. On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Whited, the 2014-2016 Unified Planning Work Program, as prepared by CCPC staff, was approved. The motion was passed unanimously. In a related matter, Mr. Batdorf made a motion that the Executive Director be authorized to submit a funding application for the 2014-2016 Unified Planning Work Program and to execute a contract with PennDOT for this transportation initiative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff noted that Mr. Frederick McFadden, Jr., a charter member of the CCPC, had recently passed away at the age of 97. A brief discussion was held and there was a general consensus among those present that a memorial contribution of \$50 be submitted to Holy Name School, as requested by the McFadden family.

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