

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
December 18, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, December 18, 2014, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.  
Russell Kiel  
Joseph McAneny

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Bradford G. Beigay  
Gerald P. Parisi

After an executive session to discuss personnel matters, the Planning Commission was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Whited, seconded by Mr. Wolf, the minutes of the November CCPC were approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. Mr. Batdorf made a motion that the December Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whited and passed unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the 2015 budget was approved as presented at the November meeting, with the addition of a 2% salary increase for all employees, effective January 1, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

Reporting on staff activities regarding the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan, Mr. Imhoff stated that he had researched the requirements for the inclusion of Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) in federally funded projects. Based on his findings, Mr. Imhoff stated that due to the relatively low cost of the preparation of the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan, MBE and DBE participation is encouraged for the county LRTP, but not required. Noting that the status of the Long Range Plan was to be discussed in greater detail under "New Business," Mr. Imhoff explained that an amendment to the current Unified Planning Work Program will be required to fully fund this initiative.

Mr. Imhoff reported that he had contacted PA Department of Community and Economic Development representatives to discuss the availability of planning grant funds for a joint comprehensive plan with Westmont Borough and Upper Yoder Township. He indicated that both municipalities intend to apply for funding on the joint plan in 2015 and Planning Commission staff will assist with the grant application if requested.

The Executive Director stated that, at the request of the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority, he reviewed and submitted a letter of support for the Authority's request to the Environmental Protection Agency for funding targeted toward the redevelopment of the vacated historic CamTran facility in Moxham.

Mr. Imhoff stated that during the past month he had met with both the Carrolltown Borough Council and the Northern Cambria Borough Council regarding the implementation of the U.S. Route 219 Corridor Growth Area Plan. He further explained that PennDOT has retained a consultant to develop preliminary designs for improvements along the corridor in Carrolltown Borough, based on ideas presented by Chatham University students. He noted that Northern Cambria Borough Council members have expressed concern about the first priority of the Cambria County Highway Action Plan, namely improvements to Sunset Road, which connects Route 219 in Carrolltown to Route 36 in Elder Township. He explained that the concern is that placing a priority on the Sunset Road/Route 36 connection to Interstate 80, will divert traffic from the Borough, resulting in a negative impact on the local economy. At this time, a discussion was held concerning the Sunset Road improvements and the project's inclusion in the Decade of Investment, Act 89 transportation bill. Mr. Imhoff noted that the Sunset Road improvements project is a priority of both the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the County Commissioners.

### Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison stated that in regard to the upcoming update to the Long Range Transportation Plan, he coordinated with the PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity to ensure that the request for proposals had correct language regarding disadvantaged business enterprises. He noted that in addition to placing the current LRTP on the Commission's website, he also fielded questions from prospective consultants about the plan update.

Mr. Allison reported on transportation coordination activities undertaken by staff during November. He stated that he attended a meeting of the Forest Hills Regional Alliance to discuss the Transportation Alternatives program, prepared materials for a meeting of the JATS coordinating and technical committees, and met with Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission staff and representatives from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to discuss the proposal for a regional comprehensive plan update.

Mr. Allison reported that staff provided technical assistance to CamTran in support of their biannual review by the Federal Transit Authority, identified 35 HPMS sample sections for field view, and reviewed the invoice from Peggy Malone and Associates for traffic counting services. He noted that all 52 counts collected were approved by PennDOT and the invoice was submitted with the Planning Commission's November UPWP invoice. Upon payment of this invoice, payment will be forwarded to Peggy Malone and Associates.

Mr. Allison stated that he has begun discussions with PennDOT District office staff on updating the functional classifications of several roadways in Cambria County. He explained that because MAP-21 funding formulas are based on roadway classifications, staff is investigating the possibility of adding sections of Route 22, 219, and 271 to the National Highway System, providing they meet the criteria for this designation.

#### Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that in efforts to locate and develop a park-and-ride lot in the vicinity of Route 22 in the Cresson/Gallitzin area, she met with Gallitzin Borough, Cresson Borough, and Cresson Township officials to ascertain their level of interest in this initiative. She explained that although there is some agreement as to the maintaining of the lot, i.e., snowplowing, none of the three municipalities have expressed strong support of the project. In an effort to provide estimated lighting cost figures, Ms. Murphy contacted Antis Township officials in Blair County who shoulder the cost of two similar park-and-ride lots in their municipality. She noted that the annual lighting cost for these two lots is approximately \$600. Ms. Murphy noted that although the lighting costs are minimal, municipal sharing of the lighting costs seems to be the major drawback with all three municipalities. At Mr. Belz's suggestion, Ms. Murphy stated that she will investigate the possibility of using liquid fuels money to fund the lighting costs should development of a park-and-ride lot be pursued.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff informed the members that although he had discussed the possibility of either Brad Beigay or Gerald Parisi being appointed to serve on the Commission, the Commissioners preferred to appoint James White, former director of the City of Johnstown's community and economic development department. Mr. Imhoff noted that once final appointments are made to the Commission board, the "Who We Are and What We Do" CCPC publication will be updated.

Mr. Imhoff indicated that activities regarding the upcoming Long Range Transportation Plan had previously been discussed in staff status reports. Information regarding the consultant selection process and contract award will be discussed under "New Business".

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff reported that seven consulting/engineering firms had submitted proposals in response to the Commission's RFP, which was advertised in the Tribune Democrat and on planning websites. He stated that based on both CCPC staff review and JATS members' concurrence, the following proposals were ranked as the top three: Gannett Fleming; EADS/Parsons Brinkerhoff; and McCormick Taylor. Mr. Imhoff explained that all proposals were rated based on staff qualifications and experience in preparing similar transportation plans. A discussion concerning consultant rankings ensued, with Mr. Imhoff noting that in addition to being the lowest cost proposal by approximately \$20,000, the Gannett/Fleming proposal included good public participation and economic development components in addition to the transportation initiatives. Mr. Wolf cautioned that in order to avoid a "cookie cutter" type plan, Commission staff should remain actively involved in the plan development process ensuring that the plan be prepared specific to the goals and objectives of Cambria County. He also suggested that the Commission request copies of other area long range transportation plans prepared by Gannett Fleming. Mr. Batdorf expressed concern about the relatively large price difference between the Gannett-Fleming proposal and the other proposals and whether this would affect the quality of the final plan. He also noted that retaining a local firm for this project may be a preferred option. Mr. Imhoff and Mr. Allison both reiterated that based on the specifics of the proposals submitted, Gannett Fleming appeared to be the most qualified to prepare the study. After considerable discussion, Mr. Whited made a motion that Gannett Fleming be awarded the contract to prepare the Long Range Transportation Plan for Cambria County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff suggested that the Commission send flowers to Bob Fisher, who has been ill and is in the hospital. All those present agreed.

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