

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

February 18, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz
Ronald M. Rovanseck
Russell Kiel
Tim Whited
Lonnie Batdorf
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Toni Renee Anderson
James White
William Trevorrow

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Rovanseck, the minutes of the January 21, 2016 CCPC meeting were approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Imhoff read the February Financial Statement, noting that the Commission's final allocation from the County had been paid. He explained that the allocation was reduced by \$5,800 to cover postage and telephone expenses. In response to a question by Mr. Belz concerning the 2015 Liquid Fuels allocation, Mr. Allison stated that staff has requested that the remaining balance (approximately \$3,200) be transferred to the Commission's 2016 Liquid Fuels allocation. The Financial Statement was reviewed by those present and Mr. Wolf made a motion that the February Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batdorf and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that the Commission received a request from the PA Department of Transportation to execute a Master Agreement for the Unified Planning Work Program. He explained that the Master Agreement designates the CCPC as the entity responsible for developing and carrying out the

transportation planning process for the Johnstown Metropolitan Organization and provides funding for transportation planning and programming activities. Mr. Kiel made a motion that the Master Agreement between the Commission and the PA Department of Transportation be executed and the Executive Director be authorized to submit the associated funding application for the 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batdorf and passed unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Imhoff requested Mr. Allison to provide a brief overview of the 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) initiatives and funding scenarios. Mr. Allison 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 2016-17 and 2017-18 on a fiscal year basis. He further commented on the planning activities which will be undertaken for each of the work tasks of the UPWP. Mr. Batdorf inquired whether the Commissioners intended to allocate funds to maintain and upgrade the County's Geographic Information System. Mr. Imhoff explained that the County's GIS department is operated and funded independently of the CCPC, however, planning funds received through the UPWP could possibly be earmarked to financially assist in an air photo update project being considered by the GIS department. On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Batdorf, the 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Program, as prepared and presented by CCPC staff, was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Apprising those present of the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan initiative, Mr. Imhoff stated that after conducting interviews with five prospective consulting firms, four proposals are still being reviewed for consideration. He indicated that final selection and contract award will be discussed at the March CCPC meeting. Mr. Imhoff indicated that he met with the Cresson Township Supervisors and the Cresson Borough Council to provide an overview of the planning process for this study and both groups were receptive to the project. He stated that after a consultant is selected, a project steering committee will be organized which will include individuals from Cresson Borough, Cresson Township, Mount Aloysius, PennDOT, and other community groups.

Mr. Imhoff reported that all six counties in the Southern Alleghenies Region have agreed to participate and contribute financially in the development of a regional comprehensive plan. He explained that the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission will prepare and submit a grant application for \$180,000 to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. The grant application will be matched by contributions from the participating counties of Cambria, Bedford, Blair, Fulton, and Huntingdon, and Somerset.

With regard to the Long Range Transportation Plan, Mr. Imhoff stated that he and Mr. Allison continue to review and comment on draft chapters of the Plan which have been prepared by the consultant. He noted that the completed chapters of the plan discuss needs and opportunities, project selection prioritization, and financial analysis of plan goals.

Noting that Attorney William Barbin had been appointed as the County Solicitor, Mr. Imhoff stated that he met with Mr. Barbin to apprise

him of the Commission's role in overseeing the county-owned highway lighting system contract with Barclay Electric.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison provided additional information regarding development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. He stated that a meeting with the consultant and representatives from the County Conservation and Recreation Authority and Lift Johnstown was coordinated in an effort to garner additional input for the section of the LRTP pertaining to pedestrian trail projects and priorities.

Mr. Allison reported that staff continued to review project priorities for the 2017 Twelve Year Program (TYP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted that PennDOT has indicated that funding may be available to include additional local bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects on the TIP. Noting that the TYP and the TIP will be discussed at an upcoming JATS meeting, Mr. Allison stated that he would keep the members apprised of this planning initiative.

Noting his attendance at an information workshop on the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for the US Route 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project, Mr. Allison stated that funding is still needed to continue construction of the Route 219 corridor to the Maryland border.

Community Development

Updating the members on the efforts of Johnstown Vision 2025, Ms. Murphy stated that she attended a meeting in January which focused on the presentation of ideas formulated by sub-committees of this community-based organization. Ms. Murphy noted that those participating in Vision 2025 are very enthusiastic and seek to create sustainable strategies to improve the City of Johnstown. She stated that she will continue to participate with the Life Sustaining Landscapes focus group and keep the Commission members apprised of this initiative.

Ms. Murphy reported that staff has initiated the Carrolltown Borough Sign Inventory. She stated that this endeavor will collect and map all signs and poles within the Borough, providing a comprehensive geodatabase for the borough. Mr. Batdorf thanked Ms. Murphy for her work thus far and noted that the completed geodatabase will be very helpful when the borough implements a future sign replacement project.

Ms. Murphy stated that in addition to completing several PennVest application and DEP permit application reviews, she prepared a chart indicating the type and number of reviews completed by CCPC staff during the past year. She noted that this chart, as well as a map illustrating the number of subdivision and land development reviews completed during the past year for each municipality, is included in the CCPC's 2015 Annual Report.

Application and project reviews completed by the staff during the past month were reviewed by those present.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that at the request of the County Commissioners, CCPC staff prepared and presented an overview of the condition of the 26 county-owned bridges, replacement/rehabilitation/

maintenance costs, and a capital improvement plan with the implementation of a \$5.00 local use fee to the state's annual vehicle registration and without the fee (utilizing current liquid fuels funding alone). He explained that based on the estimated \$700,000 additional revenue that would be generated by the \$5.00 fee, the Commissioners' unanimously decided to approve the fee. At this time, Mr. Allison distributed and reviewed the Bridge Funding Analysis which was presented to the County Commissioners. He explained that of the 26 county-owned bridges, 11 have been classified as structurally deficient, 5 are weight-limit posted, and 1 is currently closed. He noted that the Wildwood Bridge in Allegheny Township and the Carney's Crossing Bridge in Washington Township are scheduled to be replaced in 2016. The Bridge Funding Analysis indicated that based on current liquid fuels funding levels, it would take approximately thirty years to address all current bridge needs. Mr. Allison stated that the Analysis also outlines what type of activities can be funded by the local use fee, i.e., county-owned bridge maintenance/replacement; municipal-owned bridge maintenance/replacement; municipal-owned road paving; and sidewalks/streetscapes, in conjunction with paving.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that the Commission received a request from the Jackson Township Supervisors to review preliminary land development plans submitted by Competitive Power Ventures. He reminded the members that the plans were for the natural gas fired combined cycle electric generating facility being proposed near the Village of Vinco in Jackson Township. Mr. Imhoff stated that he had reviewed the plan and prepared draft correspondence detailing comments and recommendations regarding the project. He also noted that a copy of the draft letter to the Jackson Township Supervisors had been provided to the Commission members in their meeting packet for their information and review, prior to this meeting. Mr. Imhoff briefly reviewed the draft letter explaining that most of the site is classified as Resource Production on the future land use map contained in the Cambria County Comprehensive Plan and that development should be accompanied by planning and resource management. He stated that the following two economic sustainability goals within the Cambria County Comprehensive Plan apply to the project: (1) Pursue a balanced developmental approach keyed to new development in growth areas, redevelopment, brownfield reclamation/reuse and agricultural preservation; and (2) Emerging industry emphasis such as energy -- ranging from "clean coal" to Marcellus Shale to wind energy, advanced-technology applications, agribusiness and tourism. Mr. Imhoff stated that sound studies have indicated that the facility may exceed decibel levels permitted for such operations as per the Jackson Township Zoning Ordinance. He noted that the developer has proposed to mitigate excessive noise by entering into private waiver agreements with adjacent property owners. Following a brief discussion regarding the proposed facility, Mr. Batdorf made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to submit the Competitive Power Ventures review letter as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whited and passed unanimously.

A copy of the CCPC 2015 Annual Report was provided to those present. Mr. Imhoff noted that the document is also posted on the Commission's website.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Whited. Motion carried.