

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

March 17, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, March 17, 2016, 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
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Toni Renee Anderson
Ronald M. Rovansek
James White
Russell Kiel
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

The minutes of the February 18, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Batdorf, seconded by Mr. Whited. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE

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

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that Commission staff reviewed four applications submitted by Cambria County entities for funding consideration under PA DOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund. He indicated that the application submitted by Portage Borough for funds to extend sidewalk improvements within the borough was given the first priority ranking,

however, final selection and funding is determined at the state level for this program. Mr. Imhoff briefly reviewed the remaining three applications which requested funds for the following projects: Lower Yoder Township - reopening of a bridge over Tremont Street; Crown Enterprises - sidewalk improvements, signage, new bus stop and electric car charging station for the Holiday Inn along Scalp Avenue in Richland Township; Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority - completion of a portion of the C & I trail extension in Blacklick Township.

Updating the members on staff coordination activities with the County Commissioners, Mr. Imhoff stated that the County Commissioners have officially adopted the vehicle registration local fee which will be used specifically for transportation related projects within the county. He noted that the Commissioners also requested CCPC staff to prepare a draft capital improvement program indicating what county bridge improvements can be accomplished utilizing the local fee.

Noting that staff continues to coordinate implementation of the Route 219 Corridor Plan in Carrolltown Borough, Mr. Imhoff stated that he recently attended a meeting with PennDOT and borough officials to present conceptual plans for the Carrolltown Improvement Project along Route 219. He explained that it appears that PennDOT is focusing on improving parking safety along the highways through the installation of back-in street parking. However, both the Borough and the Planning Commission are requesting that additional emphasis be placed on reducing vehicle speeds and improving aesthetics of the corridor within the borough.

Mr. Imhoff apprised the members of his involvement in various other activities during the past month, i.e., coordination of the Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan with the Cambria County Comprehensive Plan; review and approval of the Master Agreement between the Commission and PennDOT; and attendance at both the Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee meeting and the JATS MPO meeting. He also stated that the the 2015 CCPC Annual Report has been completed and is posted on the Commission's website.

Mr. Imhoff noted that discussion of the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan will take place under the "New Business" portion of the meeting.

Transportation Planning

Providing an update on the transportation-related activities since the February meeting, Mr. Allison stated that work continued on the 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Program, which was approved by both the CCPC and the Johnstown Transportation Study (JATS) committees. He noted that finalized documents will be forwarded to PennDOT for processing and approval. Mr. Allison also indicated that local bridge priorities were reviewed with three additional bridge projects selected for addition to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Allison apprised those present of meetings he had attended during the past month. These coordination meeting included a JATS meeting, the monthly meeting of the Johnstown transportation funding work group, and a meeting with Keller Engineers to discuss the Carney's bridge project and County bridge repair priorities.

Community Development

Ms. Murphy stated that she facilitated a meeting with representatives of Gannett-Fleming, Lift Johnstown, and the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority to discuss trail projects within Cambria County. She explained that the consultant requested the meeting so as to gain insight on the projects and ensure their inclusion in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Ms. Murphy noted that during the past month she continued to fine-tune the geodatabase of the sign inventory, maintain and update the Commission's website and Facebook, and promote scheduled LTAP courses.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Belz noted that there was no "Old Business" to discuss at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Imhoff stated that after considering all twelve proposals submitted for the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan, with special review and interview emphasis on the top five proposals, he would recommend that the Commission approve a contract with the The EADS Group for the project. He explained that in addition to being the most qualified firm, The EADS Groups was also the low bidder on the project, with a price of \$49,900. Mr. Wolf made a motion that the Commission enter into a contract with The EADS Group for the preparation of the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Plan at a cost of \$49,900. The motion was seconded by Mr. Batdorf and passed unanimously.

Mr. Imhoff briefed those present on topics of discussion at a recent meeting with the President of Mount Aloysius College regarding the upcoming corridor study. He stated that in addition to expressing congestion and safety issues encountered at the campus entrances along the corridor, President Foley indicated that a safe pedestrian connection to downtown Cresson is a priority for the college.

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