

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission

May 19, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

PRESENT

David L. Belz
Toni Renee Anderson
Tim Whited
Lonnie Batdorf
Russell Kiel
Eric Wolf
James White

ABSENT

Ronald M. Rovanseck
William Trevorrow

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Dennis Govachini, Solicitor
Northern Cambria Municipal Auth.
John Rouse, NCMA
Paul Weaver, NCMA
John Clabaugh, Stiffler McGraw Engineers

Mr. Belz suggested that the "New Business" portion of this agenda be presented at this time. Attorney Govachini stated that, as outlined in a letter dated May 9, 2016 to the CCPC, his attendance at this meeting was to solicit the support of the Cambria County Planning Commission for a water supply project being proposed by the Northern Cambria Municipal Authority (NCMA). He explained that the NCMA is attempting to fulfill a water supply obligation under a DEP Amended Consent Order and Agreement dated September 22, 2013 directing the Authority to replace its abandoned mine water sources with an alternate safe water supply and to obtain a 300,000 gallon per day redundancy capacity/source. Attorney Govachini stated that after reviewing all viable options and the Authority's concern about meeting the DEP redundancy capacity requirement, the NCMA has opted to undertake the construction of a ten-mile water transmission main line from Ebensburg Borough to the NCMA facility to solve immediate needs for water supply in Northern Cambria Borough. He indicated that construction of this transmission line will then enable the NCMA to purchase water from the Ebensburg Borough Municipal Authority as well as from the Greater Johnstown Water Authority if necessary.

Noting that the Authority's attempts to develop additional wells in the Northern Cambria area has met with limited success, Mr. Clabaugh, NCMA engineer, outlined the scope of the proposed project. He indicated that construction of the main line to Ebensburg also provides the potential to meet the needs of several other smaller, failing systems in the northern part of the County. In response to several questions concerning possible connections to the Carrolltown Municipal Authority system, Mr. Clabaugh stated that the Carrolltown system does not currently have the capacity to provide the mandated redundancy capacity.

After reviewing the scope of the proposed project, Attorney Govachini stated that the NCMA is currently in the process of investigating potential sources, i.e, PennVest grants and loans, to finance the project. In response to several questions regarding the anticipated cost of the project, Attorney Govachini stated that capital expenditures for the project are estimated to be between \$11 and \$20 million.

After the NCMA presentation, a discussion was held regarding the proposed NCMA project and the Authority's request for written support of the project. Several members expressed concern about the cost of implementing the project and the competitive nature of obtaining a statewide grant to help finance the project. Mr. Batdorf stated that over the past year, the NMCA and the Carrolltown Borough Municipal Authority (CBMA) discussed the possibility of Northern Cambria connecting to and purchasing water from Carrolltown; however, discussions and agreements are currently at a standstill. He stated that the estimated cost of this alternative would be considerably less expensive than the project currently being proposed by the NCMA. Mr. Batdorf also commented that Carrolltown is in the process of developing another well as an additional water source.

Based on the information presented at the meeting, there was a general consensus among those present that no action be taken to endorse/oppose the Northern Cambria Municipal Authority water supply project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. White. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

After Board review of the Financial Statement, Mr. Wolf made a motion that the May Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. White and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff presented a brochure detailing an upcoming zoning workshop sponsored by the Governor's Center for Local Government. Any member interested in attending the workshop was requested to notify the Executive Director.

Mr. Imhoff stated that he had received an e-mail from William Trevorrow indicating his resignation from the Commission. Noting that the individual appointed to fill this vacancy must live in the Johnstown region, Mr. Imhoff requested that possible candidate suggestions be provided to him as soon as possible. Names of suggested candidates will then be forwarded to the County Commissioners for their consideration.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff reported that eleven individuals attended the first steering committee for the Admiral Peary Highway Corridor Study. Topics of discussion at the meeting included the lack of sidewalks between the Mt. Aloysius campus and downtown Cresson, the status of the former prison property, traffic and business access throughout the corridor, and trail connections from the Allegheny Portage Railroad Historic site. Mr. Imhoff stated that the first public meeting regarding the plan is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8th, at the Cresson Fire Hill.

Providing a brief update on the Carney's Bridge project, Mr. Imhoff indicated that bids for replacement of the structure will be advertised in May, with bid opening scheduled for June 6th. He noted that agreements had been reached with two property owners to acquire small pieces of property needed to begin the project.

Transportation Planning

Mr. Allison stated that after CCPC staff coordination and input regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan projects, a draft of the air quality conformity analysis was prepared by the PA DOT consultant. He noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan will be presented at an Agency Coordination meeting later this month.

Mr. Allison reported that final design plans for the Carney's Bridge replacement project have been approved by the County Commissioners. Mr. Allison noted that CCPC staff provided technical support for this project and presented a brief summary of the project for those attending the April 28th Commissioners' meeting. Mr. Allison also apprised those present of several other coordination meetings he had attended during the past month.

Community Development

Due to time constraints, Ms. Murphy provided an abbreviated status report. She updated those in attendance on the Carrolltown Borough Sign Inventory and apprised them of the upcoming "Traffic Signs" LTAP class. Ms. Murphy stated that in addition to promoting scheduled LTAP classes, she also assisted in setting up a "road show" style LTAP class for Geistown Borough road crew workers.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Noting that there were no "Old Business" items on the agenda and the "New Business" agenda item had already been discussed, Mr. Belz inquired if there were any additional topics of discussion. Mr. White stated that the City of Johnstown Planning Commission has expressed interest in establishing a collaborative relationship with other agencies such as the CCPC to foster future development in Johnstown and surrounding areas of the County. He noted that more information will be forthcoming.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Kiel, seconded by Mr. Whited. Motion passed unanimously.