

President Bob Gordon called the March 22, 2012 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Biglerville, Carroll Valley, East Berlin, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown, York Springs; **School Districts:** Bermudian Springs
Townships: Conewago, Franklin, Germany, Hamilton, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Menallen, Straban and Tyrone. **County:** Adams County

Others present were: John Senft, Consultant; Andrew Merkel, Adams County Planning and Development Office; Mary Bowers and John Eline, Adams County Emergency Services Department.

Legislative Guests: Adams County Commissioners: Jim Martin, Marty Qually and Randy Phiel and Scot Pitzer, Staff for Senator Richard Alloway.

MEETING MINUTES: A MOTION WAS MADE BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY WHEELER (LITTLESTOWN BOROUGH) TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 23, 2012 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer, Caroline Dean (FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT), was absent. President Gordon reported that no changes have been made to the account and it has a balance of \$3,515.94 and all invoices for the 2012 dues have been sent by the Vice President and Secretary.

SPEAKERS: President Gordon called on our speakers: John Eline and Mary Bowers, who are the Director and Deputy Director of the Adams County Emergency Services Department regarding the county's purchase of a new radio system. The radio contract has been let to Motorola Corporation and the county is working on possible tower sites. They did a study on the frequencies and found that they may have to replace or enhance certain tower locations depending on the current situations of other users on the same tower locations. Bowers explained the radio hardware that each municipality would receive. They are negotiating for discount pricing for more radios that may be needed. The numbers that the contract was based on was the previous information provided by each municipality but there may be some municipal changes. Eline asked if there are changes to contact the EMS Department. He stated that a time line will be provided later subsequent to gathering all the preliminary information. Eline will report back to the COG members on it. Eline discussed the need of the municipalities to discuss with technical contacts about the FCC license changes which include the narrow banding requirement by January 2013 since the radio system will not be up and running by that time. Bowers announced that the vehicle repeaters must be reprogrammed by January 1. Lastly, Eline discussed the coverage requirements and that the testing will be done at the end of the project when leaves are still on the trees in 2013.

OLD BUSINESS: President Gordon asked Sharon Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) to update the members on the Emergency Services committee. She announced that the amount which will be due by the participating Adams County COG members will be \$3,250. As of this date, the amount per municipality is projected to be a maximum of \$150 per member (however that could be adjusted based on the number of COG participants). Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) continued that this will be a county-wide study and will provide a tool to the municipalities and fire companies. John S. Senft, Training and Consulting was present to answer questions on the study for the members.

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President Gordon announced the Adams County COG Legislative Forum will be held on May 24, 2012 to discuss with the Legislators the COG's 2012-2013 Priorities. Any recommendations are asked to be submitted to the committee prior to the April 26, 2012 meeting and they asked for no federal issues to be included. A suggested priorities list and a committee members list were provided to all the members.

Mayor Ron Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) announced that the Cooperative Purchasing Committee has met twice and will visit the Lincoln Intermediate and the Western Cumberland COG on April 12 and 13 to get further information on this topic.

Emma Seibert (TYRONE TOWNSHIP) announced that the Public Works Committee has met and been discussing their path and including a plan for a round table event for the road employees of the municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS: President Gordon asked Mayor Ron Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) to address the COMCAST letters that were received from some of the municipalities on Petition for Special Relief. Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) provided copies of a Memorandum from Cohen Law Group to the members that recommended that this Petition would not make our contracts "Null and Void" but would remove the ability of the municipalities involved to set rates. This appears to be a mute point. Further, they provided a suggestion for a new municipal group called Adams County Cable Consortium to negotiate cable franchise renewal with Comcast which they would organize at Cohen Law Group. Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) suggested that anyone interested in joining this group should send him their franchise agreement or if you have questions they should contact him.

President Gordon asked if the COG members would make a motion to approve a new committee. This committee was previously discussed and is called the Adams County Collaboration Committee. The stated purpose as read by Hamm: The AC Collaboration Committee provides opportunities for cooperation between Adams County and COG membership on relevant issues and decision-making. The goal is to help facilitate intergovernmental cooperation and to provide the municipal perspective on relevant issues. Areas of focus will be land planning and development, zoning, ordinances, water resources, and governmental operations.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAMM (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY REAMER (HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP) TO APPROVE A NEW COMMITTEE, ADAMS COUNTY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE OF THE ADAMS COUNTY COG. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Gordon asked the COG members if they wanted to make a motion to hire the EMS Committee's recommended Consultant for the EMS Study for a total cost of \$13,000 of which \$3,250 will be shared by municipality members of the COG.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SWALES (YORK SPRINGS BOROUGH) AND SECONDED BY PREHN (ARENDSVILLE BOROUGH) TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF THE JOHN S. SENFT TRAINING AND CONSULTING FIRM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,000 FOR THE EMS STUDY AND WHICH \$3250 WILL

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BE SHARED BY THE MUNICIPALITY MEMBERS OF THE ADAMS COUNTY COG. MOTION CARRIED. THOMAS DICK, BERMUDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COUNTY ABSTAINED.

Note: The Borough and Township Code require they provide emergency services. Schools and County are not legally obligated and therefore are not a part of this initiative.

President Gordon asked the COG members if they wanted to make a motion to open a bank account for the funds for the EMS Study since part of the funds will be provided through state funds and should be kept separate for auditing purposes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAMM (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY PREHN (ARENDSVILLE BOROUGH) TO APPROVE THE OPENING OF THE ACCOG FIREFUNDING PROJECT BANK ACCOUNT TO INCLUDE THE AUTHORIZATION OF TWO SIGNATURES FROM THE THREE OFFICERS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Adams County Commissioners Phiel, Martin and Qually addressed the members and guests. The Commissioners reported on three items: (1) The working group information on the upgrade of the radio system included the previous group of people that were working on this plan plus some technical and operations persons. (2) Reporting that the current state budget reveals a 20% cut in Human Services which must be provided by the county and some Land Preservation cuts which will be difficult to handle. Of particular concern is the Office of Aging and they have been appreciating any municipal donations made to their office. (3) The commissioners have been reorganizing some of the county departments but this does not include any layoffs.

Boroughs Association: Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) reported that the next meeting is on May 21, 2012. More information to follow.

Township Association: President Colleen Reamer (HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP) announced the Flagger's Training sign ups ends on 3/23/12.

Penn State: President Gordon announced for Judy Chambers (PENN STATE) their Broadband Initiative to be held on April 10, 2012 at 9am at the Adams County Ag Center. An information sheet was provided to the members.

Schools: Tom Dick (BERMUDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT) reported that the next TCC meeting will be held on May 1 at the EMS building at 7pm and all municipalities need to provide Ethics Statements to the TCC and the YATB. Dick followed up to say that the school districts are working on budgets and very busy during this part of the year.

Legislators: Scott Pitzer, Staff member from Senator Richard Alloway's office, reported on these items. (1)The State is working on budgets. (2) The Prevailing Wage bill is out of the committee in the House and will be voted on soon but it appears that they are short a few votes. (3) The redistricting map is still on hold but it appears that Adams County may be kept as a whole.

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Miscellaneous: President Gordon announced the TAKE BACK ADAMS COUNTY program and information will be provided to the members via email. Swales (YORK SPRINGS BOROUGH) suggested that the COG work on a joint advertisement of our Act 167 requirements. Gordon suggested that further discussion is needed on this and it will be placed on the agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAMM (STRABAN TOWNSHP) AND SECONDED BY PREHN (ARENDSVILLE BOROUGH) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:16 A.M.

Next meeting – 4/26/12 at 8:30 am at Adams County Emergency Management Building, 230 Greenamyre Lane, Gettysburg.

Signed,

Sandra L. Vazquez
Secretary