

President Bob Gordon called the May 24, 2012 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown; **School Districts:** Bermudian Springs, Fairfield, Gettysburg; **Townships:** Conewago, Cumberland, Franklin, Germany, Hamiltonban, Huntington, Liberty, Mt. Pleasant, Straban and Tyrone; **County:** Adams.

Others present were: Rich Farr, York Adams Transportation Authority; Jessica Haines, Gettysburg Times; Coleen Reamer, Adams County Assoc. of Township Officials; Judy Chambers, Penn State Extension; Representative Dan Moul; Chris Kimple (Rep Moul's office); Melissa Knepper (Senator Alloway); Yvonne Gibbs (Rep Tallman); Robin Fitzpatrick, ACEDC; Andrew Merkel, ACOPD.

MEETING MINUTES: A MOTION WAS MADE BY WHEELER (LITTLESTOWN BOROUGH) AND SECONDED BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP) TO ADOPT THE APRIL 26, 2012 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer, Caroline Dean, read the April 2012 financial report which showed the ending balance as of 4/30/12 of \$6,147.94. She noted that a few more dues payments are anticipated this month. The report was accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Emergency Services Funding Committee** -- Sharon Hamm (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) reported that 28 municipalities have agreed to participate in the fire and emergency services study by providing matching funds for a DCED grant application. President Gordon asked the Committee to look into recent legislation that will allow emergency services organizations to recoup expenses connected with accidents and other incidents, and report back to the COG.
- **Public Works Committee** – Emma Seibert (TYRONE TOWNSHIP) announced that 8 municipalities so far are planning to attend the Roadmaster's Roundtable on June 14 at Rosie's Restaurant, which is a very good turnout for this new effort. She will send a reminder to all COG members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Update on public transit** -- Rich Farr, York Adams Transportation Authority, gave a brief presentation on how the organization is providing public transportation services in the county. He noted that the Freedom Transit bus service to the National Park Service Visitor's Center has been popular, as has the student line to HACC. The 'community line' is still underused and may be discontinued if ridership does not increase this year. The new transit center in downtown Gettysburg is nearly complete, grand opening scheduled for June 14.
A parking management system will be launched soon for the NPS Visitors Center, and the Authority is also working with the county to find parking alternatives for county employees. Rabbitt Express service to Harrisburg has been operating for a year as a commuter service. Plans are underway to provide transportation for visitors from Harrisburg to Gettysburg and to investigate the development of park and rides.
- **Broadband initiative** – Barb Underwood (CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP) represents the COG at the Adams County Economic and Community Partnership which is working on broadband issues. She distributed copies of a survey to find out how local governments are using and would like to

use the internet, and noted that the survey can also be completed on line. She will email the survey link to all the municipalities.

- **ACTPO - Andrew Merkel**, Adams County Office of Planning and Development, announced that the Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO) will adopt the 12-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) at its meeting on June 27. There will be two general information meetings on Thursday May 31 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Information has been distributed to all municipal offices and officials are urged to attend to discuss potential projects.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM 2012-2013 PRIORITIES

Bob Gordon reminded members of last year's priorities: prevailing wage, bid limits and pillow tax. The COG has carried over prevailing wage and pillow tax reforms as priorities again this year. Other priorities for this year include unfunded mandates, amendments to clean and green, and amending school bus regulations for travelling out of district and state.

- **Representative Tallman** – Yvonne Gibbs said Representative Tallman was unable to attend but that she would report back to him on the discussion.
- **Senator Alloway** -- Melissa Knepper represented the Senator, and reported that he continues to work on the reforming prevailing wage bill and changing pillow tax in Adams County as a priorities.
- **Representative Moul** – The most likely prevailing wage bill to pass will raise limits to \$185,000, which he thinks will help municipalities but not school districts. He remains in favor of eliminating the prevailing wage regulations but doesn't think it's likely to happen. Rep. Moul is also working with Senator Alloway to try to get the pillow tax bill through the Senate.

New developments: Senator Mike Waugh has proposed a fair dealership bill that protects farm equipment dealerships and consumers from franchise limitations. Farm Bureau is in support of the bill. Rep. Moul has introduced a tort reform bill that protects landowners from liability for injuries to public who are utilizing the land, and a bill that would provide means testing for unemployment benefits.

- **Questions**
 - Will the implementation date for the school code bid limits be changed to July 1, 2012? Moul: yes, the date on the bill (July 1, 2013) was an error.
 - COG members urged Moul to focus on the pillow tax legislation rather than on issues such as means testing for unemployment, because the former is far more critical to Adams County.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- **Adams County Commissioners** – Randy Phiel discussed the newly-created broadband and internet connectivity task force and said the Commissioners will be appointing members soon. He encouraged COG members to continue working on the broadband initiative. He also reported on the County's effort to streamline department operations in planning and the tax offices, both of which should provide more efficient services for municipalities. The Commissioners held an outreach meeting earlier this week in Littlestown focusing on water resources. The Commissioners will continue to hold these topical meetings throughout the county. Finally, Randy noted that all 3 commissioners are sitting on the radio work group and that the project is in the construction review phase.
- **Township Officials** – Coleen Reamer reminded COG members that the Association's spring conference is May 30 at the Emergency Services Center, 6:30 p.m. meet and greet and 7 p.m. program.

- **School Districts** – Gettysburg Area School District is holding a surplus property auction on June 5th 4 p.m.
- **York Adams Tax Bureau Committee** – Tom Dick reported that the committee is meeting today to review proposals for a location for the Gettysburg Tax Office and to make a decision about whether or not to maintain an office in Gettysburg.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:00 A.M.

Next meeting – 6/28/12 at 8:30 am at Adams County Emergency Management Building, 230 Greenamyre Lane, Gettysburg

Signed,

Judy Chambers
Acting Secretary