

President Coleen Reamer called the December 21, 2017 Adams County COG Meeting to order at 8:30 am.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Gettysburg, and Littlestown. **Townships:** Berwick, Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Liberty, and Straban. **School Districts:** Gettysburg, and Littlestown.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAUSER (STRABAN) AND SECONDED BY BOLTEN (ABBOTTSTOWN) TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 16, 2017 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Reamer asked for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Pat reported that one check was written to Biglerville Borough for the refreshments for the Legislative Forum in the amount of \$80.96, leaving an ending balance of \$2,397.81.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HARRIS (CARROLL VALLEY) AND SECONDED BY MOSER (LITTLESTOWN) TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT TO AUDIT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Reamer asked for Public Comment on any of agenda items. Hearing none, she acknowledged several guest visitors in the audience including Kristen Ritchey from Comcast, Robert Witt, from the Youth Advocate Program, Steve Kelly, Sam Wiser from Salzmann Hughes PC, Mark Wherley, Raymond Gouker and Rex Walter from Community Media.

President Reamer then called upon the Chair of our Nominating Committee, Ferd Prehn to give the report of the Committee. Chairman Ferd read the slate for 2018: President- Ferd Prehn from Arendtsville, Vice President- Dave Arndt from Conewago Township, Treasurer- Pat Smith from Fairfield and Secretary- Gus Fridenvalds from Huntington Township. He then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, President Reamer asked for a motion to accept the Slate as presented.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SLATE AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BOLTEN (ABBOTTSTOWN) AND SECONDED BY HARRIS (CARROLL VALLEY). Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Reamer then called on Treasurer Pat Smith to present the 2018 Budget. The Budget was presented last month, Treasurer Pat reported that she did not receive any comments. This budget is based on Membership Dues of \$100.00 per municipality which would generate \$10,200.00. This budget includes a recycling event in case one is needed. President Reamer asked for a vote.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY BOLTEN (ABBOTTSTOWN) AND SECONDED BY GORDON (HAMILTONBAN). MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Reamer then introduced Kristen Ritchey from Comcast who will speak to us about a PEG(?) Channel. Ms. Ritchey is a manager in charge of External and Government Affairs for Comcast Cable for this area. A PEG Channel stand for "Public Education and Government Access". Peg Channels are authorized by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1984. This law gives communities the right to ask for access to the airwaves. Peg Channels have to be authorized by local governments through their franchise agreements. All municipalities collect fees through their franchise agreements up to 5%. A fee for a PEG channel can be added that is dedicated to support Community Media. A 10 cent per month PEG

Fee could very seriously increase support for Community Media. Comcast inherited Community Media when they bought out some local cable companies and has resisted funding a PEG Channel in the past. Now they would like to get with the program. One of our visitors spoke in support of Community Media as an important source of information to the community on the services that his agency provides as a Youth Advocate.

Basic cable includes Community Media. It was pointed out that in some areas the channel has a high number which makes less accessible. There are “templates” available for resolutions requesting a PEG Channel. Comcast also has other programs like free internet for families with children that receive reduced price lunches in schools.

At the end of the program, one of our visitors from Community Media thanked the COG and our member municipalities for their support, last year was the best year yet for Community Media.

President Reamer pointed out that the COG meeting dates for 2018 are in the back of the room to be picked up.

OLD BUSINESS:

ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Martin reported that a lot of thought and effort went into the County Budget. We are starting out with a small margin but we are in good shape, our bond reviews are excellent. A lot of credit goes to our Planning Department which has been working on economic development. We are also getting a grip on the problems with the Housing Authority and getting it turned around. Negotiations with Prison staff went well avoiding legal expenses. Also, The Office of Ageing appreciates the donations from the municipalities.

ADAMS COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE: Andrew Merkel reported that the County will be working on Address verification for the 2020 Census. The County has been working with the Ag Groups in the county and has completed the economic assessment of the Fruit belt and now it is time to look at the impact of some of the other Ag Sectors like live stock. The County Planning Office does reviews of Land Developments and Subdivisions and has a problem with storage. The St Francis Building has a whole classroom filled with storage boxes filled with plans. It is time to start moving toward electronic submission of plans. The Planning Office has been busy working on Zoning Ordinances and Regional Comprehensive Plans and we are not done but it is time to update the County Comp Plan. We are about half way done with the Economic Impact Reviews. President Reamer asked if there was anything new with ACTPO. This is also the year to update the TIP for 2019- 2022. Penndot also has a new program where they want public input before projects are started, it is called “Penndot Connect”.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE: Lt. Nickey reported that two of the biggest holidays of the year are upon us, Christmas and New Years- the PSP will be out in force to try and make this a safe holiday season. He also reported that KKK literature has been distributed in parts of the County and that he would appreciate a heads up if we encounter any. He will be back in the future to report the statistics on the County for 2017. As always, do not hesitate to call him with any problems.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION: Bob Gordon reported that the Association had a very successful 100th Anniversary Celebration in November.

BOROUGH ASSOCIATION: Ron Harris reported that the next meeting will be on January 15 at the Pike.

Guest speaker will be our own Rep. Dan Moul. Ron addressed the COG as President of Community Media

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and expressed his appreciation to the membership for their support. Broadcasting meetings of Councils and Boards as they meet is the best example of transparency in government.

ACTCC: Ron Harris reported the next meeting of the Tax Committee will be February and there will be more information at the January COG meeting.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: Supt. Bigger from Littlestown had no report at this time. Brad Hunt thanked the Road Crews for the great job keeping the roads open and safe. This Holiday season there are a lot of school programs and sporting events to attend and Brad extended an invitation to everyone to enjoy the activities. Supt. Bigger reported that Vocational Education is progressing with a commitment to double the number of vocational programs that are available to meet the needs of our students and the County. Scott Bolen commented that there is a lot of support in the County for Vocational Education.

A. E. A.: Bob Gordon reported that the Association is looking for members, the dues are \$200.00 to invest in the economic health of the County. Also, on January 17, Adams Advantage is sponsoring a program at the Ag Center.

PENN STATE EXTENSION: Judy Chambers reported three things. 1. The Heroin Task Force is busy confronting a serious problem. 2. There is a grant program to make Naloxone available, and 3. Don't forget the "Boot Camps" for newly elected officials.

A.C. COLLABORATION: Gus reported that Sherri Clayton- Williams attended the last meeting of the Committee and brought up the subject of the many Land Development and Subdivision Plans that are accepted by the municipalities and then submitted to the County that are incomplete- incomplete like missing information that is required by the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances of the accepting municipality. This means that the projects take longer to approve, it takes a lot of time to correct the deficiencies and it costs everybody money. Sherri suggested that we develop a punch list for the person accepting the plan so deficiencies can be corrected before the plan is accepted.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: The next meeting will be January 16 at senator Alloway's office.

PUBLIC WORKS: No report.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Barb Underwood reported that Adams Regional has taken delivery of a new ambulance that will increase dependability and have increased for employee benefits. No report from the Adams Coalition.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES: Rep. Dan Moul reported that the last time he was present that he promised to find out the reason for why he reported that schools were to pay 80% to charter schools and the School Districts said no, they pay the entire bill. Dan reported that in truth there is a formula (it sounded complicated) that is supposed to net out at 80%. He also reported that HB 544 which he has authored has passed. This bill would protect a landowner who makes his property available for public recreation, Free of Charge, that they cannot be sued if someone gets hurt. This would make more private land available for recreation. Rep. Moul reported that his office has returned over \$200,000.00 to Adams County residents from the State Treasury. These are funds that were turned to the State from old bank accounts etc. He also passed out several checks to those in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ron Harris expressed appreciation for the efforts of our President Reamer on behalf of the COG.

Ryman Fox expressed his appreciation for Community Media.

Commissioner Jim Martin mentioned the work of the Heroin Task Force and the “warm handoff” for addicts to get them help.

President Reamer asked for a motion to adjourn at 10 am.

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY ARNDT (CONEWAGO) AND SECONDED BY MAUSER (STRABAN).
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gus Fridenvalds
COG Secretary