

COG Minutes February 22, 2018

Ferd Called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Present: Adams County, Abbottstown, Arendtsville, Biglerville, Berwick, Butler, Conewago, Fairfield, Germany, Gettysburg, Hamiltonban, Highland, Littlestown, Mt. Joy, Oxford, Straban, Gettysburg School District, Upper Adams School District, Vanessa Pellechio/Gettysburg Times, Chris Kimple/Moul's Office, Bev Frey/ Alloway's office, Steve Kelley, ACOPD, David Bolton/ACBA & Comm Media, Bill Gilmartin/FairDistricts PA, Kay Macdonell/FairDistricts PA and Jacqueline King/FairDistricts PA.

On a motion made by Dave Bolton and 2nd by George Mauser, the minutes from the January 25, 2018 COG meeting were approved. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Pat reported that the treasury stands at \$2,397.81. The dues are starting to come in.

No Public Comment

Guest Speaker, Bill Gilmartin from Fair Districts Pa spoke on Gerrymandering. Mr. Gilmartin provided some background. Franklin Township resident. Retired from the Government in Washington where he worked for the House of Representatives. Fair Districts PA is a nonpartisan citizen-led, statewide coalition working to create a redistricting process that is transparent, impartial and fair. Gerrymandering is defined as the manipulation of electoral district line to benefit one political party or person. The current process can choose their own voters and guarantee the outcome of elections long before a vote is cast. Fair District PA is working hard to change this current process. The new process would create an independent commission who must satisfy certain criteria. It would consist of 11 members (4 registered with the largest political party based on registration numbers, 4 registered with the second largest and 3 registered voters not registered with any of the previous 2 parties). 7 members are considered a quorum. All meetings of this committee would be open to the public. Any preliminary plans would be available to the public. Final plans would be subject to 4 hearings. Final plans would need 1 yes vote from each of the 3 groups. No legislative or governor approval would be needed. Mr. Gilmartin provided the group with a few handouts. Fair Districts PA is hoping for COG support. There is a time line for this to be able to happen. If nothing is changed by the current census deadline, the next time the process could be changed would be 2030 census. Several comments were made from the audience.

New Business:

Adams County Commissioners: Commissioner Phiel spoke on redistricting and the impact it may have on the collaboration between York County and Adams County. Will redistricting have a significant impact on Adams County? Jim Martin – On redistricting he suggests we may be meddling where we don't need to. New Dam standards from DEP. Marty Qually – The County is in the final weeks of the building study on the Downtown County buildings. Looking at March for the final report. Finalizing the forum schedules for the year. MS4 has made the list, Cable franchise fees is on the list and the first forum will discuss the spotted lantern fly. (5 counties are being quarantined) LERTA (Local Economic Revitalizing Tax Assistance) process – Gettysburg Borough, Gettysburg School District and the County are working together to come up with an ordinance. All 3 entities must approve for the project to work.

ACOPD - Andrew Merkle mentioned that their office works with all the legislators equally. With regard to the municipalities and their community planning and development all municipalities have their own subdivision ordinances and most have zoning. The Planning Office is working with the last few municipalities to get their own zoning. The Planning office has worked over the past year to provide training to the municipalities. They are continuing to work on this and will finalize training for the coming months soon. Anyone who has any suggestions on what we would like to see, as far as training, should contact the planning office.

PSP – Nothing new to report.

TOA - President Gormont stated that the Budget is being prepared.

ACBA – Dave Bolton –The ACBA has signed a resolution to increase oversight at local elections, information regarding this resolution will be forwarded to the municipalities and they support opposing HB 1620. Thanked everyone for sending the resolutions to them.

School Districts – Brad Hunt thanked COG for the support on SB 2. Their Solicitors have issued a memo to update agreement with York Adams Tax Bureau so they continue collecting taxes. Briefly spoke about vocational education and future plans. Superintendent Wesley Dull: stated that the school districts are getting together to discuss topics for the upcoming COG meeting. President Prehn suggested June for the School Districts to speak.

AEA – Marty Qually mentioned the membership drive.

AC Collaboration – New Chairman, Marty Qually. The committee brainstorms issues that the County can work on with the Municipalities. The current project is bridge maintenance, which will be the topic at the next COG meeting. Sandi Vasquez is a new member.

Legislative Committee – Executed the resolutions for HB 1620 and SB 2. They have been forwarded to the proper parties. The next bill they are focusing on is SB 251 – Local Radar Bill. It has been approved by the Senate. Senator Alloway is a positive support of this bill. There is concern the bill will die in the House Transportation Committee. The committee will be looking at HB 653. This bill would speed up the foreclosure procedure.

Chris Kimple, Rep. Dan Moul - Last year The Tax Payers Caucus was formed. This group worked over the summer to go over the budget items and found 400 plus savings accounts. This group has been renamed the Common Sense Caucus. They have expanded their ideas on what they want to occur in Harrisburg. Working hard to consolidate agencies, commissions, various departments etc. that perform some of the same functions.

Beverly, Senator Alloway – Happy “50th Birthday!! Opposing the \$25.00 per person fee for the State Police Coverage. HB 913-16 Authorizing Municipalities to charge fees for SWM has passed for 2nd class townships. HB 653 speeds up the foreclosure process.

Public Comment:

Dave Bolton – Community media, looking at 2018 budget and funding options. Working with the Commissioners to develop a forum and will be reaching out to municipalities with ideas and asks that the municipalities be receptive to their ideas.

Bob Gordon – Franchise Agreements. Cohen Group from Pittsburgh specializes in these agreements. Bob reached out to them regarding the renewal of the franchise agreements. Salzmann Hughes is local and working with a few municipalities to renegotiate their agreements. Contact Bob if anyone wants to talk more about this. George Mauser asked the question ... Does this give us leverage?

Terry Moser – Monday March 19, they will be ground breaking for the new fire station in Littlestown. We are all invited.

Announcements:

Speakers for the next meetings. Next Month – Bridge Maintenance.
April- Lt. Nickey, May – Adams County Historical Society

Motion to adjourn made by Marty Qually, 2nd by Dave Bolton. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Danielle Helwig, Secretary

