

MINUTES

MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday – November 27, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. – MCRPC Offices

| MUNICIPALITY | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| FARRELL CITY | | Stephen Bennefield Kimberly Doss |
| HERMITAGE CITY | Jeremy Coxe | James Holl |
| SHARON CITY | Stephen Theiss | Frank Connelly |
| CLARK BOROUGH | | James Carucci, Sr. |
| FREDONIA BOROUGH | Patricia McAdams | Bob Reagle |
| GREENVILLE BOROUGH | Janet Earle | |
| GROVE CITY BOROUGH | | Shawn P. Myers |
| JACKSON CENTER BOROUGH | | Robert Egger |
| JAMESTOWN BOROUGH | | |
| MERCER BOROUGH | Caroline DaCosta | |
| NEW LEBANON BOROUGH | | |
| SANDY LAKE BOROUGH | Glenn Leech Donald Oakes | |
| SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH | | Alex Kovach Guy Moderelli |
| STONEBORO BOROUGH | John Sweet | |
| WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH | Maleia James Robert Lark | |
| WHEATLAND BOROUGH | Ron Viglio | Patricia Lewis |
| COOLSPRING TOWNSHIP | Robert L. McGhee | Don Blakesley |
| DELAWARE TOWNSHIP | William E. Anthony | |
| E. LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP | | William Hackwelder |
| FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP | | Mont Clark |
| FINDLEY TOWNSHIP | John B. Courtney | Steve Paxton |
| GREENE TOWNSHIP | | Ken Cowher Paul Csonka |
| HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP | Lisa Holm | Todd Hittle |
| JACKSON TOWNSHIP | | Robert W. Pizor |
| JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP | Garth Falkner | William Dunn |
| LAKE TOWNSHIP | | |
| LIBERTY TOWNSHIP | Dave Beatty | Ron Faull |
| NEW VERNON TOWNSHIP | | Daniel L. Patterson |
| OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP | Carl Swartz | Paulette Young |
| PERRY TOWNSHIP | | |

| MUNICIPALITY | PRESENT | ABSENT |
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| PINE TOWNSHIP | Fred Brenner | Richard Stachel |
| PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP | Gary R. Lowers David Gregory | |
| SANDY LAKE TOWNSHIP | | Raymond Scofield |
| SHENANGO TOWNSHIP | Dennis DeSilvey Matthew Stefanak | |
| S. PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP | Bill Klumph Don Morrow | |
| SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP | | Rick Dillaman |
| WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP | Diana Caiazza Bryan Cummings | |
| WOLF CREEK TOWNSHIP | | Gregory Chiappini Charles Weber |
| MERCER COUNTY | Jeff Fiedler Jeff Hoy James Hughes Larry McAdams | James L. Hogan Sheryl Kelly Patty McCluskey |
| <u>BOROUGH ASSOCIATION</u> | | |
| <u>SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION</u> | | |
| COUNTY COMMISSIONER | Matt McConnell | |

STAFF

Daniel Gracenin, Executive Director
Carmen Reichard, Assistant Director
Brian Barnhizer, Senior Planner
Chris Conti, Senior Planner
Matt Stewart, Senior Planner
Lisa Holm, Senior Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

James Nevant II, Solicitor
Norb Dietrich, Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jeremy Coxe, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dennis DeSilvey, Vice-Chairman, led the Commission in the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE SIGN IN

An attendance sign-in sheet was passed around and representatives present were asked to mark their attendance. **A quorum was present.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were no public comments.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Klumph to approve the Minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting with no additions, corrections or deletions. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Gary Lowers, Treasurer, presented the September and October 2018 Financial Statements. A motion was made by Mr. Falkner and seconded by Mr. Beatty to approve the September and October 2018 Financial Statements as presented. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Holm mentioned that we have good news regarding Tri-County Industries and Mr. Nevant will explain. Attorney Jim Nevant stated that after months of negotiations and litigation of this matter with Pine, Liberty, Tri-County as well as MCRPC have reached an agreement. They filed for a joint motion for approval of a consent order which essentially means that the parties compromised on how they were measuring the height and the definition of certain things. By this agreement, the two municipalities are going to issue the permits that MCRPC requires, which would indicate that it meets the zoning standards and permitting requirements. It was noted that from our perspective, we got everything we wanted.

Mr. Gracenin explained that at his last Planners meeting, Denny Puko, representing DCED, mentioned that he and the State are pushing a couple of programs. One is called the “Neighborhood Assistance Program” and the other is the “Neighborhood Partnership Program”. Mr. Puko stated that this is turning out to be the way the State is able to get dollars back into the community’s hands, even more than regular grants. It is a tax credit program. Communities that are looking for tax credits or that might have a business person who could donate dollars into a pot for a specific project in their community would benefit from these programs. It would have to be run through a non-profit 501c3 organization which, depending on which of the two programs they would chose, they can receive a 50% or up to 75% tax credit to put towards their program, which is pretty attractive for some communities that might have somebody that is doing things for a community. The first community Mr. Gracenin thought of right away was the City of Sharon since they have a person who is doing a lot of work and rehab on buildings throughout the downtown and it might be something that they are interested in. These programs are open to anyone throughout the State. He stated again that this is not a grant, this is a tax credit and the State has this pot of money funded at \$18 million.

Next, he noted that the MCRPC’s pension fund received 0.10110% excess interest award. It has been 11 years since the last time that has happened. The money is proportionately allocated into three groups; the employer, the retirees and active/deferred vested plan members. No motion is needed on this item.

FINANCE & PERRONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Fred Brenner, Committee Chairman, noted that the Committee met prior to tonight’s meeting, a quorum was present, and reviewed the following items:

1. 2019 Staff Salaries – Mr. Brenner noted that the Committee reviewed and recommended approval for staff salaries as presented at their Committee meeting. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Brenner to approve the 2019 staff salaries as presented. Ms. McAdams seconded. The motion passed with Ms. Lisa Holm abstaining.

2. MCRPC 2019 Preliminary/Final Budget – Mr. Brenner noted that the Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the 2019 preliminary/final budget for MCRPC. Mr. Gracenin noted that the Commission financially has been very stable. He noted that there was a 0% increase in our health insurance

plan for the coming year. The salaries for staff affected the budget the most this year. The Commission has a balance in their budget, which will help carry them over the years if revenue sources would decline. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Brenner to approve the 2019 Preliminary/Final Budget. Mr. Hoy seconded. The motion passed.

3. Rodent Control 2019 Preliminary/Final Budget – Mr. Brenner explained that the Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the Rodent Control 2019 Preliminary/Final Budget. Mr. Brenner noted that this program has been around for many years and is currently carried out through voluntary participation by communities in the County. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Brenner to approve the Rodent Control 2019 Preliminary/Final Budget. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion passed.

ZONING & SUBDIVISION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Larry McAdams, Committee Chairman, noted that the Committee met prior to tonight's meeting, a quorum was present, and reviewed the following item:

1. Delaware Township – Modification Request – Adventure Bound - Shenango RV Park – Mr. McAdams stated that the site is owned and managed by Adventure Bound Camping Resorts and is currently in its final review. They have requested a modification to Section 804.3.b. (Roadway Design Standards) for the required on-site private roadway widths to be narrowed, but similar to public roads in Delaware Township and to narrow paving to help minimize storm water run-off. The proposed width will include 18' paved area for 2-way and 10' for single lane and both would have 2' gravel shoulders for stability and storm water management. It was noted that due to the seasonal nature of the park, winter conditions would not be an issue on the private roads. A motion was made by Mr. McAdams that we approve the modification for the proposed 18' and 10' paved roadways with 2' gravel shoulders. Mr. Hughes seconded. In discussion, Mr. Courtney had concerns regarding the width for emergency services. Ms. Holm explained that the standard width in our ordinance is 22'. She noted that the final plan review is still ongoing and they are looking at where the path should be so the emergency services can get through the park. After discussion, the motion passed with 1 no vote.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – 2019 OFFICERS

Mr. Jeremy Coxe explained that the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 2019:

Dennis DeSilvey (Shenango Township) – Chairman
Carl Swartz (Otter Creek Township) – Vice-Chairman
Gary Lowers (Pymatuning Township) – Secretary
Robert Lark (West Middlesex Borough) – Treasurer

Mr. Coxe noted that the nominations will remain open until the December 18, 2018 meeting, with elections to follow at that time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Coxe noted that the next Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at which time the MCRPC will provide food at 6:30 p.m. (7:30 p.m. meeting) to celebrate the Christmas season.

Commissioner Matt McConnell noted that Mercer County's new Bridge Engineer recently met with PennDOT regarding bridge inspections in Mercer County. He noted that there are a lot of open grate bridges

that were constructed in the late 50s or early 60s and a fair amount of them were downgraded on the weight limit during these inspections. It is anticipated that we have about \$30 million in repairs given the current construction to do over the next 10 years; and that's in addition to the funds that is in the TIP for bridges. He noted that this is significant for Mercer County's perspective. They are working with the State to see if there is any other additional funding to offset these costs.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Morrow and seconded by Mr. Hoy to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted and Certified By:

Carl Swartz, Secretary – MCRPC

Date: _____