

Central Lancaster County Council of Government
November 27, 2019 – 8:30 A.M. East Hempfield Township Municipal Building

The meeting of the Central Lancaster County Council of Government (CLCCOG) was called to order by Ralph Hutchison, Vice-Chair, at 8:30 a.m. In attendance: Andrew Stern, (WHT), Kent Gardner (WHT), Cindy Schweitzer (EHT), Douglas Brubaker (EHT), William Pfautz (EPB), Karen St Clair (EPB), Ralph Hutchison (ELT), and Tom O'Brien (MT).

Minutes of the September 25, 2019 Meeting

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pfautz. Motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Reports:

East Hempfield Township:

- 2020 budget, taxes remain unchanged but trash/recycling will see a 12% increase (\$47/qtr. To \$53/qtr).
- State Road bridge project is now 5 months behind but the contractor feels he can make up much of that time over the winter months. A projected opening date is June/2021.
- State Road widening (Yellow Goose-Harrisburg Pike) in connection with the Penn State hospital facility and the Brookside development will begin early in 2020 with a State Road closure of approximately 3 months to switch out a bridge culvert. The closure is anticipated sometime in forth quarter of 2020.
- Centerville Road widening (Marietta Ave to Columbia) is in the final design phase with right of way acquisition currently underway. Scheduled let and start dates are very sketchy at this point but listed let date is 2021 and the project is anticipated to be 3 construction seasons.
- Oak Leaf Manor received tax-exempt status from County assessment. Mentioned due to potential for a trend with other similar facilities.

East Lampeter Township:

- Stormwater Fee – Work continues with roll out anticipated for the 1st qtr/2020 and implementation by mid-year. Feedback from the public meeting held, about 35-40 residents attended. Good questions were asked and by the end of the meeting most seemed to understand the reasons why this is necessary and were accepting. Several did want to know why the Township was not subjecting themselves to the tax for the public road system. It was explained that the Township is run on tax dollars and if the Township were included, a tax levy would be necessary to cover this cost. The Township is working on developing a credit program to offset dollars charged.
- 2020 budget show no increase in taxes but the Stormwater Fee will be a new revenue generator.

- Lincoln Highway East various projects in this corridor. The adaptive signal project should be ready to go live soon and traffic flow improvements will be monitored.
- Eden Road bridge will be closed a bit longer.

East Petersburg Borough –

- 2020 budget hold the tax millage but water rates will increase by 5% and trash will be raised \$10/qtr (\$49.50 to \$59.50).
- Northern Regional Police Department will be taking over coverage of the Borough 1/1/2020.
- Robin Hemperly has reduced her hours to part-time and will be retiring at the end of the year. Karen St. Clair will be the manager for East Petersburg Borough.

Manheim Township:

- 2020 budget reflects no tax increase but it was noted includes \$1.2-\$1.5 million in storm water management projects.
- The Elections resulted in a change to the Board of Commissioners. Al Kling and Dave Heck will be replaced by Alice Troy and Barry Kauffman. Mr. Kauffman will most likely be the other representative on the COG and attended today's meeting. Sam Mecum is anticipated to be President of the Board of Commissioners.
- PennDOT has scheduled another public meeting to review the proposed improvements to Rt. 222/Rt. 30. The meeting is scheduled for the later half of February/2020.
- Mr. O'Brien wanted to note the ever-increasing cost of maintaining fire services. He noted PT staff is becoming more difficult to find and the Township will be hiring 6 FT fire fighters and a fire marshal in 2020. He feels the problem is or will be a county wide issue in a very short time frame as volunteers continue to dwindle. It would be wise to begin discussions now rather than later to see if we can work together with the County to find a solution. It was noted that Manheim, East Petersburg and West Hempfield all have a fire tax and all are collected by the County Treasurers Office who refuses to segregate the type of taxes on the annual billing they mail. It was suggested that an effort should be made to get the attention of the County Commissioners, that daytime drivers is becoming an immediate need and those volunteers left simply want to do fire related activities and not fundraisers or building maintenance.

West Hempfield Township:

- Hempfield Area Recreation Commission (HARC) and West Hempfield are entering their second year of Township park maintenance and now programming being done by HARC staff. Both Mr. Stern and Mr. Gardner feel the new arrangement is working out well and expanding further into programming. They have received many compliments about their park maintenance which is costing \$70K/year in addition to their usual contribution to HARC. It was explained that HARC is run by a Board which is comprised of municipal (WHT, EHT, EPB, MB), school district and at large members. The Township's and Borough's provide funding in addition to the annual membership charges and fundraising. West Hempfield would like other municipalities involved to consider allowing HARC to run their park maintenance and or programming.

Old Business:

Public Notices – Legal Advertising – As a follow up to Mr. Miranda visit at the last meeting, Mr. Hutchison provided an email from Mr. Miranda indicating that he checked with Central Penn Counsel and feels it would be fair for them to cover our legal fees if Central Penn were negligent or breached a term of a contract between us. They suggested an agreement be crafted. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of commitment in the email and what are potential next steps. Mr. Stern pointed out that a suit could be filed for monetary reasons or a resident could sue due to the appearance of lack of proper advertising. While there have been legislative initiatives for change in the past there is no pending legislation. When asked the LIMC group appeared interested so other County COG's might have similar interest. It did not make sense to develop an agreement with Central Penn given their email but would make sense to move forward with an agreement for the COG that would reflect if a suit were filed with one of us the others would assist in funding the defense. Mr. Hutchison agreed to reach out to the Township attorney to draft an agreement. East Hempfield who shares the same attorney agreed to assist in the expense.

New Business: none

Visitors and Public Comment – none

- The next meeting of the COG will be at East Lampeter Township on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- East Hempfield Township will develop the 2020 calendar (based on the 4th Wednesday meeting at 8:30AM with a rotating schedule for the location), distribute it for any conflicts and then add it to their annual calendar publication.

Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m. by the consent of the group.

Submitted by:

East Hempfield Township