CapCOG Board of Delegates

Monday, April 19, 2021 - 7:00 PM

M I N U T E S

**DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:**

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| East Pennsboro Township, Terry  Watts  Hampden Township, Al Bienstock  Harrisburg City, Hillary Greene  Highspire Borough, Mark Stonbraker  Lemoyne Borough, Gale Gallo  Londonderry Township, Anna Dale  Lower Allen Township, Rick Schin | Lower Paxton Township, Norm  Zoumas, Robin Lindsey Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher  Monaghan Township, Vicki Aycock  Monroe Township, Carl Kuhl  New Cumberland Borough, Rob Kline  Royalton Borough, Terry Watts  South Hanover Township, Stephen Cordaro | South Middleton Township, Cory  Adams  Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin  West Hanover Township, Tom  Stewart  Wormleysburg Borough, Sue Stuart |

**MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

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| Annville Township  Camp Hill Borough  Carlisle Borough  Carroll Township  Conewago Township  Dauphin Borough  Derry Township  Dillsburg Borough  East Hanover Township | Fairview Township Goldsboro Borough  Hummelstown Borough  Lower Swatara Township  Marysville Borough  Mechanicsburg Borough  Middletown Borough  North Middleton Township  Paxtang Borough | Penbrook Borough  Shiremanstown Borough  Silver Spring Township  South Hanover Township  Steelton Borough  Susquehanna Township  Swatara Township |

**NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:**

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| Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County Commissioners  Doug Brown, Dauphin County, Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development  Jan Caron, Eckert Seamans, Presenter | CapCOG STAFF  Gary Myers, Executive Director  Rhonda Campbell, Administrative Assistant |

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Cory Adams, President. Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roundtable introductions were made.

**Presenter**

Jen Caron, Eckert Seamans

* Caron is a bond attorney; 13 years bond counsel across Commonwealth to municipal governments, school districts, authorities.
* Restructuring existing debt; issuers have been able to extend draw periods and other loan parameters. Governmental agencies (Pennvest, USDA) are also offering some deferment for three-year period (PennVEST - case by case) accommodated 33 recipients - 75 loans in PA. USDA also addressing borough needs on case-by-case basis.
* Refinancing Existing Debt - Have seen clients take advantage of historically low interest rates; great time for clients to borrow money and refinance. Bank loans and public bond issues outstanding.
* Bank loans - be sure not to have prepayment penalties; bond issues if you have $10 million or less in 2016; likely bond issue is callable - right for a refinance in 2021. Take a look at and see if option for your municipality.
* Consult bond attorney and solicitor before you speak with your bank to ensure you aren't violating state or federal law or IRS code.
* New borrowings to fund capital projects - You can use your own revenues/resources; or fund by borrowing. Enables you to not defer any essential capital improvements and not defer meeting regulatory requirements. Eases cash flow.
* Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note - Municipality can issue - borrow short term notes for 85% of expected tax revenue in current fiscal year (due in same year). If you can meet requirements you can have maturity extended for an additional year (e.g., 2022 vs. 2021). Can also issue as tax exempt or taxable obligation. This is for working capital vs. capital expenditures. Haven't seen a lot issued due to all the pandemic money being given out by federal government.
* Eckert Seamans can also help with best practices - strategic planning - communicate with own staff and advisors and projects/plans and reevaluating current outstanding debts. Procedures- ES provides clients with tax exempt policies and procedures to adopt to help them. Also prepare procedures with respect to securities law - continuing disclosure obligations to bond market for outstanding bonds. Consolation with professionals - strongly urge you to consult with bond counsel, financial advisors, bond underwriters to navigate the changing environment.

**Consent Agenda**

The February and March 2021 Minutes were reviewed. Motion by Al Bienstock. Seconded by Jim Fisher. Unanimously approved.

The March 2021Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. Motion by Bienstock. Seconded by Fisher. Unanimously approved.

**Executive Director’s Report – Gary Myers**

* Managers Meeting - April 13, 2021 at Lower Swatara Township. There were 18 managers in person/Zoom. Discussed issues from managers.
* One of the issues brought up was House Bll 667. If it was to be law would it would require municipalities to provide full medical benefits for part-time police officers and families. Impacts boroughs more than most municipalities and would be financially devastating to small boroughs. Wouldn't require any minimum number of hours of employment.
* Morton Salt issues discussed. We presented a 33-page matrix of issues with Morton. Discussed if we should prohibit them from bidding next year. Problem is we only get 2-3 bids a year. So it could limit the bidding pool if word gets out.
* Discussed fuel bids. Some municipalities on west shore part of a fuel cooperative that is going away. Waiting to hear from managers to let us know if they want us to bid fuel. It is an odd commodity to bid. Bid +/- weekly wholesale price.
* Annual Dinner - Quite a success with 70 people attending. $11,450 in sponsorships and resulted $7,401.12 profit. Ken Martin - complimented CapCOG staff and Radisson for their efforts - the event felt intimate and safe; program and food service was top notch.
* Auction - July 21 at South Middleton Township - Leaman Park. We encourage municipalities to participate. We realize quite a few big items are done online because you may get more money. But you do get 90% with us. Please bring the bicycles; they bring a lot of money. We negotiated a new auction contract this year and includes $1000 sponsorship to COG events. The forms will be emailed by mid-May.

**Legislative Updates – Nate Silcox**

* No report.

**County and Planning Commission Reports**

Cumberland County - Vince DiFilippo -

* 1st household hazardous waste disposal event on April 5 was successful. Future dates are June 5, August 21 and October28.
* 4/27 - 12-1 Planning Outreach Meeting. Location TBD
* Clinic for vaccine on Walnut Bottom Road is going well.
* Emergency Rental Assistance Program - 16.6M for rent/utility costs for Cumberland County residents affected by Covid. More information available from Housing and Redevelopment Authority.
* $2.9m in grants for hospitality businesses - mainly restaurants. CAEDC is handling applications.
* 15th straight year Cumberland County received EPA Energy Star award. One of few counties in country to receive. In last 15 years, County has saved $5m in energy costs and reduced carbon emissions by 35%.
* There are nine polling place changes for the May election.
* Sample Bridge Road Bridge will open 1st week in May
* Claremont Nursing home is in talks with Blair Health Services. Should wrap up the first week of May.

Dauphin county - Doug Brown

* Emergency Rental Assistance - $18M providing to tenants to rent assistance and utilities. Being handled by the Department of Human Services.
* $3.2 million Covid hospitality money. Covied hopsitality industry recovery program; hit very hard due to number of hospitality businesses in the county. Right now focus is on small business support.
* Gearing up for American Rescue Plan - $52m to municipalities.
* Community Development Block Grant - Qualifying application will be opening in September - municipalities or non profits providing projects to low moderate income families are eligible.
* CDBG Covid Recoveyr Funds - finishing up that program.
* Local Share Gaming Grant - Opens May 1 for municipalities, fire companies, non-profit, or for profit - applications accepted through September.
* Intermediate Units and School Districts are working on comprehensive broad band - especially in areas where infrastructure is lagging behind.

York County - No Report.

**PACOG** - Gary Myers

* The PACOG Annual Meeting will be held via ZOOM on Friday 4/23/21.
* We need a motion to appoint Gary Myers as Representative to PACOG - Fisher made motion. Sue Stuart seconded. Unanimously approved.

**UCC** – Terry Watts

* Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Penbrook v. Fritz - fire suppression system; they are having trouble meeting volume of water and flow time.

**Public Safety Committee – Myers**

* 2021 SAFER Grant submitted and under review.
* 21 fire departments participating.
* Jerry Ozog wrote the grant.
* Grant request was for $2.8M.
* We do not know when we will receive word.

**Good of the Order**

* Bienstock - Took part in a ZOOM meeting with representatives from US post office. The latest idea to "save money" is that any new residential developments would not have mail delivery to homes. Instead, 5 neighbors will have a box set up where you will get your mail. The hope is no one has to walk more than a block to get mail; no more than 2 blocks. They are mandating that one box has to be large enough to take parcels for all 5 homes. No idea how you protect the parcels from theft or what happens if there are multiple parcels on one day.
* Gale Gallo - Sue Yenchko was unable to make tonight's meeting so I am here representing Lemoyne Borough. Gallo thanked Commissioner DiFilippo for the update on activities in Cumberland County; we are grateful for the work being done. Gallo discussed Claremont sale and shared that Commissioner Foschi has already taken position that she is opposed to the sale at this point. She'd like to postpone the decision. Gallo expressed hope that other two Commissioners would also consider postponing. Gallo shared a study about the group that coordinated the sale of the Claremont Home.
* Fisher - Prevailing Wage - A couple of weeks ago, Patriot News had an article with information from the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy calling for prevailing wage act to be done away. A copy of the article is included with these minutes. Fisher believes there is legislation introduced again this year. We want to keep this in mind with our resolutions.
* Myers - Thank you to Sue Stuart for taking minutes at a previous Board meeting and for her help last month at the Annual Dinner.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. Martin Motioned. Watts seconded. Unanimously approved.