CapCOG Board of Delegates

Hampden Township Recreation Center - Community Room

Monday, August 17, 2020 - 7:00 PM

M I N U T E S

**DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:**

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| Conewago Township, Gary Painter  Dillsburg Borough, Mark Ryder  East Pennsboro Township, Joe Fidler  Goldsboro Borough, Robert Charles  Hampden Township, Nate Silcox  Harrisburg City, Hillary Greene  Highspire Borough, Mark Stonbraker  Hummelstown Borough, Brian Foster  Lemoyne Borough, Sue Yenchko | Londonderry Township, Anna Dale  Lower Allen Township, Rick Schin Lower Paxton Township, Robin  Lindsey and Norm Zoumas  Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher  Monroe Township, Carl Kuhl  New Cumberland Borough, Rob Kline  North Middleton Township, Harry Kelso | Royalton Borough, Terry Watts  Silver Spring Township, Harry Kotzmoyer South Hanover Township, Stephen Cordaro  Susquehanna Township, Tom Pyne  Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin  Wormleysburg Borough, Sue Stuart |

**MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

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| Annville Township  Camp Hill Borough  Carlisle Borough  Carroll Township  Dauphin Borough  Derry Township  East Hanover Township | Fairview Township Lower Swatara Township  Marysville Borough  Mechanicsburg Borough  Middletown Borough  Monaghan Township  Paxtang Borough | Penbrook Borough  Shiremanstown Borough  South Middleton Township  Steelton Borough  Swatara Township  West Hanover Township |

**NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:**

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| Representative Sheryl DeLozier, PA House District 88  Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County Commissioners | CapCOG STAFF  Gary Myers, Executive Director  Rhonda Campbell, Administrative Assistant |

Called to order at 7:00 PM by Anna Dale, President.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Dale.

Roundtable Introductions were made.

**Presentation**

Dale introduced Representative Sheryl DeLozier

* Delozier shared that the partnership among all levels of government is even more important than ever.
* Our responsibility was to respond to a pandemic. Since March, we've had our frustrations with the Governor. Nobody could have planned for the pandemic. There isn't a perfect response or reaction. I want to update you on what we've done and are doing in the legislature.
* Passed a partial budget of $25M through November which included education, debts and mandatory spending. Our ability to move forward not knowing what our CARES money would be is why we wanted to move the budget forward so we could make an informed decision. General Assembly passed it and it moved ahead. The gap will be $3-4 Billion dollars - questions will be where are cuts and where is revenue to meet that gap.
* The idea behind the shutdown was leveling the curve. Over 600 beds used statewide for Covid-related illness. The curve is leveled. We've asked a lot of our population. We passed a lot of legislation. We received a lot of calls regarding what is essential and non essential.
* Governor has made decisions unilaterally. This has not been a partnership between the Governor and the General Assembly.
* Waiver process was put into place and it wasn't fairly applied. A single person in a music store was denied a waiver. He didn't interact with anyone. Landscaping was a big issue as well; 2 of 3 landscapers got waivers and 1 didn't. Box stores were open but mom and pop businesses closed down. Inequity was the driving force of frustration.
* The Governor then moved into color schemes. Governor said they were going to use data. We've yet to see the data. We've been asking for an even playing field and we aren't getting that.
* We were passing bills in many cases to allow businesses to open. Real Estate was one. PA was the only state in nation that didn't allow real estate transactions. Governor vetoed it and then issued an executive order allowing it. Car sales were another issue; they weren't even allowed to do online. Passed bills to follow CDC guidelines and what other states were doing.
* Restaurants - Governor gave them eight hours notice to roll back to 25%. A lot of these decisions have happened on a Friday. The 25% includes employees. Restaurants buy everything for the weekend by Wednesday; so to cut business in half - that's a loss for the stock they purchased. We had a hearing and a lot of businesses said they sent food home with employees because it would have gone bad. Another example of the inconsistencies is the stipulation regarding food consumption in a bar but you can't sit at a bar. Ongoing issue is that the Governor won't provide data.
* The Legislature is working with PIAA currently as well to allow students to play their sports safely and for parents to be able to watch their children play.
* Seven counties received direct funding from Cares Act - other 60 counties got based on population. Cumberland County received $22.9M of Cares money. Working with CAEDC to determine who gets money- $10M to small business /tourism $5.65M to non-profits, $850,000 to municipalities, $195,000 to behavioral health, $5.7M with county agencies. $1/2M in adjustments for unallocated. Currently evaluating applications they are receiving.
* In Cumberland County 79 businesses got DCED grant funding. Delozier can provide details for all counties, if interested.
* Third grant for EMS/Firefighters is coming out.
* Lisburn had a drive through fair. A lot of groups are looking for creative ways to raise money.
* $3M unemployment applied. PUA stipulated in CARES act for people not normally eligible for unemployment (small business owners, contractors). Took a while to start since needed a new system. Unemployment Compensation -8% yet to be served - 90,000 people no check since March.
* Some people received 1 or 2 checks and then it stopped. Received back pay (big check) and then maybe another filing but now stalled and not knowing why. People can't get through on phone, chat, email to get answer. The only way to get answers is through legislators. Some have called hundreds of times.
* Shifted 70 PHEAA employees (call center) to Unemployment Comp and trained them to handle more calls. But people still can't get through.
* $115M set aside to update unemployment system from several years ago. Estimated to be completed by October.
* Fraud in system also. DeLozier received two checks. Eight states experienced this problem where criminals hacked systems and got information and waited for an opportunity to take advantage. PA Treasurer did hard checks for the first payment and that identified a lot of the fraud since criminals were expecting direct deposit. If the first checks were cashed, then all future payments go via direct deposit. They say criminals are foreign and not on American soil.
* All schools are funded through end of the year at level funding from last year. School Districts aren't sure what they are facing with lawsuits from parents who feel their children aren't getting a fair education. Decisions should be local. Areas are very different.

**Questions**

* Mark Stonebraker - You mentioned 600 beds used for Covid. What percent is that of total beds? Delozier - It is less than 1%
* Robin Lindsey - Seven counties got money direct deposited? Delozier - Yes, based on population and population density - larger counties got money directly. Sheryl can get us the rubric. Each county is handling things differently.
* Nate Silcox - Status of RADAR Legislation which came out of House Transpiration Committee last year. Delozier - we've been asking for RADAR bill to come up. They've been talking about trying to find that common ground to move it forward. It's been asked for. I support the RADAR. At this point, leadership doesn't have a plan to bring it up.
* Tom Pyne - In Dauphin County, we receive a situation report on Covid - Covid deaths 90% were in LTC. Delozier - LTC facilities are encapsulated and closed so people inside are more susceptible. LTC are under DOH supervision. They are required to oversee them and in many cases, 95% of deaths are solely in LTC facilities. So, yes they are the most susceptible and have other have comorbitities so they are more at risk. Statewide, nursing home deaths represent 80% of deaths. Restricted visitor policies weren't popular, but that may have helped keep cases down in some facilities.
* Steve Cordaro - Are there any other medical institution in PA that have different opinions of the tactics and policies of the Governor and Secretary of Health? Delozier - There are differences of opinions in medical communities in what can and can't be done safely. It comes back to the numbers. The Governor shut down open records where we can get information that is public. We had to pass a bill to get Governor to open records. We still can't get the data that the state has been using. We are lucky to have so many medical institutions in our state. Many doctors and professionals have come out against what the Governor has said. We can't compare data cause the Governor and Secretary of Health won't provide it. There is no communication from the Governor. He hasn't listened to any input outside of his administration/Dr. Levine. If I were Governor, I'd be calling a lot of doctors in to discuss and get their input.
* Rhonda Campbell - Our schools were told they have local control. But how can you claim local control with PDE changing edicts based on Governor's orders? Delozier - Governor said he would let local districts make decisions, but he hasn't. He will make a "recommendation" and that causes havoc within our districts and for our superintendents.

Delozier - We will keep pushing forward to try to get voices heard from our constituents.

* Unknown - What about the Constitutional amendment ; any more thought to limiting a Governor's ability in an emergency management decision? Now total control is with the executive branch. Speaker, Pro-Tempe, and Governor should make decisions. This could happen again. Delozier - We did pass the constitutional change allowing for a 21-day state of emergency before it has to go back to legislature for renewal. During Covid, it is the second time that an emergency declaration has been renewed. The first is the Opioid emergency declaration which Governor Wolf has renewed 11 times. We tried terminating the state of emergency tried twice - Supreme Court voted with Governor both times. At this point we don't have alternative. The Governor is very good with the veto. The Constitutional Amendment passed this term. It has to pass in January and then will be on the ballot in May.

Delozier thanked everyone for their work on behalf of their communities.

**Consent Agenda**

The July 2020 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Jim Fisher; seconded by Bob Charles. Unanimously approved.

The July 2020 Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Motion to approve made by Rick Schin; seconded by Charles. Unanimously approved.

**Executive Director's Report-Gary Myers**

* 15th Annual Picnic and Golf Tournament is Monday, September 21 at Armitage Golf Course. Delegates, Alternates, and Managers are always free. $35 for other guests. All expenses are covered by sponsorships. We will follow CDC guidelines and the requirements of Hampden Township and Armitage. Invitations will be sent out this week.
* Salt bids estimates will also be sent this week to members. Remember that your salt estimate doesn't bind you to purchase that amount; you may purchase more or less. CoStars requires 60% of what you estimate. Our prices are usually lower than CoStars and were last year.
* All auction checks went out the last week of July. There was a 2% increase in income over last year. Same number of municipalities participated this year as last. Thank you for participating.

**Cumberland County Report-Vince DiFilippo**

* Bridges - four currently under construction; all will be done by mid 2021. Some will be done sooner. Orrs Bridge detour additional 5 weeks to construct the access points to new bridge. Sample Bridge - completed in early to mid 20-21. Wolf bridge in Middlesex and Kunkle in South Middleton is under constructions. There are three more in western part of Cumberland County that will start next year. By end of 2022 all obsolete bridges in the County will be replaced.
* Cares act money. We received just under $23M. Applications started July 16-30. 682 applications received; majority are for small business, non-profit, county and municipalities. 22 of 33 municipalities submitted applications.
* Jury trials resumed today.
* Voting - For the primary there were 31,000 mail in ballots (53% of vote cast). Estimating 80,000 mail in ballots for the November election. We are prepared to receive more.
  + Ken Martin - What happens if mail in ballots get lost. Is it possible to have a secure box in county that people could deposit them? DiFilippo - We have one at bureau of elections. We didn't think it would be safe to have more. Martin - I'm worried that people don't trust going to the polls, and won't trust the process of mail in. DiFilippo - We will take your suggestion under consideration.
* Schin -Will box be there again in November? DiFilippo - We believe so.

**Dauphin County Report-Dale**

* Cares act $25.1 M. Municipal applicants in the first round: 23 applications totaling $31M in requests. Will be reviewed this week. Small business grant program is now closed due to $800,000 in 75 small businesses to keep doors open. Potential for additional small business grant program. Steelton skate park phase 2 groundbreaking will be Friday.

**York County Report-Ryder**

* No report.

**Legislative Update-Silcox**

* Nothing to add. Except that we wish they would put up the RADAR Bill.

**Appeals/Act 45 - Terry Watts**

* Hearing closed out for Lower Paxton and Triple Crown. A report showed up that satisfied the Township that they could issue a certificate of occupancy for the pools.
* Tuesday we have a hearing with an auto parts dealer who wishes to expand warehouse by 66,000 SF = want unlimited floor area classification. There is a 60-foot right of way required around all four sides. They don't have that and are requesting variance.

**Public Safety -SAFER** - **Silcox**

* Nothing new. Waiting for response for our SAFER Grant Application. Jerry Ozog is helping to convene our Advisory Group meeting to make sure everything is in order should we get grant. We received three applications for the Program Coordinator position.

**Good of the Order**

Nothing.

Motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM made by Schin. Seconded by Martin. Unanimously approved.