



CapCOG Board of Delegates
Monday, November 20, 2023 - 7:00 PM

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE: 17

Camp Hill Borough - Michelle Forbes East Pennsboro Township, Terry Watts Hampden Township - Al Bienstock Harrisburg City , Hillary Green Highspire Borough, Mark Stonbraker Lower Allen Township - Dean Villone	Lower Paxton Township, Robin Lindsey, Norm Zoumas Marysville Borough - Brian Webster Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher Monaghan Township, Tracy Pawelski North Middleton Township, James Hare Royalton Borough, Terry Watts	Silver Spring Township, Harry Kotzmoyer South Hanover Township, Nora Blair Swatara Township - Michael Tuckey Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin Wormleysburg Borough, Sue Stuart and Margie Stuski
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MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE: 26

Annville Township Carlisle Borough Carroll Township Conewago Township Dauphin Borough Derry Township Dillsburg Borough East Hanover Township Fairview Township	Goldsboro Borough Hummelstown Borough Lemoyne Borough Londonderry Township Lower Swatara Mechanicsburg Borough Middletown Borough Monaghan Township Monroe Township	New Cumberland Borough Newberry Township Paxtang Borough Penbrook Borough Shiremanstown Borough South Middleton Township Steelton Borough Susquehanna Township West Hanover Township
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NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vince DiFilippo, Cumberland County• Rep. Justin Fleming, 105th Legislative District• Rep. Thomas Kutz, 87th Legislative District	<u>CapCOG STAFF</u> Gary Myers, Executive Director Rhonda Campbell, Program Director
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The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President Robin Lindsey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ken Martin.

Roundtable introductions were made.

Presentations

- Rep. Justin Fleming - District serves Lower Paxton Township, Susquehanna Township and Penbrook Borough.
- Was Commissioner in Susquehanna Township for 8 years.
- Thanked everyone for serving in local government.
- Local Government Committee - been busy this year.
 - House Rules Committee - Political Advertisements/Public Notice on websites allowed.
 - Flood hazard notification act (in the Senate local government committee now). FEMA has to inform counties within 90 days to inform of changes to special flood maps.
 - County Government: County retirement boards to grant COL to pensions can't exceed rate of inflation.
 - Senate Local Government Committee now: removes population cap for folks to serve as local govt. leader and employee (it was 3000).
 - Passed house - municipal grant assistance program; financial assistance for grant writing.
- Tracey Pawelski - My understanding is that the Local Government Committee voted out HB 223 to raise tipping fees on trash. I can't think of anytime that is good to raise the tipping fees; now is a horrible time. Trash contracts are doubling and tripling. Fleming: The increase goes from \$2 to \$5; more than 30 years since fee was increased. Hasn't kept up with rate of inflation. Increase is relatively small - \$1 a decade. Pawelski: \$5/ton (increase of \$3/ton). It will be passed onto residents. Fleming: I was a yes vote; it has been decades since we've had an increase. There is never a good time; but sometimes you have to pick a time.
- Harry Kotzmoyer- Bill on advertising; is the website in place of newspaper? Fleming: If I recall correctly, yes. The Brett Miller bill is simultaneous. Some proposals are in place of newspaper.
 - Jim Hare - Newspapers are horrendously high in price. Fleming: News media association is against this. But if our aim is to get people notice; newspapers don't have circulation. We aren't informing people well if only newspaper.
 - Stuski - State should establish one website and we could all login and post. Fleming: That would be my choice. I couldn't agree more.
 - Brian Webster - Membership dropped in newspapers, how many readers read the legal ads?
 - Dean Villone - We've been dancing with this advertising for a long time. Issue is we can't go to constituents anymore and explain the nutty ways of doing things. How do you feel about whether this is going to move? As each month passes, the demands from younger generations and having to explain to them, they don't understand. Fleming - I can't make predictions about what will happen with the bill. The news media association was one of first meetings I took; they were all over it. They seem to have a sense it is coming. My issue is are we informing people. Villone - this is a big priority; it is a big cost for little if no return.
 - Robin Lindsey - Is that bill still in the house or is it over in the senate? Fleming: In House rules. Need to kick it out of house rules before we can vote on it on the floor of the House.
 - Stuski - perhaps allowing newspapers to charge for PSAs.
- Vince DiFilippo - Thank you both for being here. Cumberland County is trying to finalize budget; 911 funding is missing piece. HB 1854 introduced 5 days ago; any feel on how that's going to go? Thomas Kutz - Maybe December; we added a session week in December which would be for the Fiscal Code (directs how government spends money). My guess is it gets done; bipartisan support. I think it's a priority for everyone. We voted on a separate bill earlier that passed the House.

Thomas Kutz -

- Was formerly Lower Allen Township commissioner for three years.
- A lot of what local government is non partisan. A lot of what we do in Harrisburg is bipartisan.
- Caucus of legislators under 45 is looking at issues 30-40 years out - bipartisan committee. Costs rising; we want to start to address now and work toward solutions.
- As many municipalities are growing, housing costs are prohibitive; infrastructure costs are rising.
- Effects of people moving out of PA for a long time; Cumberland and Dauphin not affected but rest of Commonwealth it is an issue.
- I have focus on home ownership. Getting renters to home ownership.
- Policies that help people encourage them to buy homes; create programs to make housing more attainable.
- A lot of us are having conversations about how do we redevelop properties and how do we grow responsibly? How do we address blight?
- Challenge is not everything is a priority for all areas (rural vs. city vs. suburbs). 70 out of 200 members of House represent Philadelphia/Pittsburgh. People in Philadelphia have a lot of different issues facing them than central PA.
- Local use of RADAR - it's a game of politics being paid. State police want moving radar. We can't set up speed zones. 80% of state is solely state police coverage.
- Body cameras not allowed for correction officers now and we think they should be.
- Housing - creating a designation Attainable Housing Community for municipalities. Address our lack of middle income housing. A lot of focus on lower income housing; not much on middle/workforce housing. Talking about allowing you to get extra points on state grant applications. In early stages. We have the boroughs, PSATS, municipal organizations involved in discussion. Amendment likely to add incentive points on grant application.
- Median housing cost - Cumberland District \$452,000.
- Feel free to reach out to us even if not in our District; we can connect with your local representative and have discussion. Use us as a resource.
- Jim Fisher - Are you both on bipartisan future caucus? Fleming and Kutz are co-chairs. We are focusing on the fact that our General Assembly has turned over; we are on appropriations committee and that didn't used to happen until served 10-15 years.
- Gary Myers - Just the fact that you work so well together, the civility and cooperation between the two of you is refreshing and encouraging.
- Lindsey - The energy that you have is awesome. Kutz - Anyone in local government knows it is the passion that keeps you going.

Consent Agenda

October 2023 Minutes - Stuski motioned. Fisher seconded. Unanimously approved.

November 2023 Treasurer's Report - Fisher motioned. Weaver seconded. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Managers' Holiday Luncheon

- December 5, 2023 @ Dillsburg Borough
- 24 Registered to date
- Roundtable Discussion

Annual Dinner

- Monday, January 15, 2024
- Best Western Premier - Union Deposit - Lower Paxton Township
- Speaker:
 - Lt. Col. George L. Bivens
 - Deputy Commissioner of Operations
 - Pennsylvania State Police
- Sponsorships: \$8950 to date

Joint Bids

- Forms to Members on 11/15/23
- Due back to CapCOG 12/11/23
- Vendor Packages out 1/4/2023
- Bid Opening: 1/23/23

UCC Participation

- 34 Members Participating for 2024
- Increased application fee to \$1000 (court reporter)

Budget - \$846,205 revenue; \$11,000 less in expenditures. 100% participating in dues; 100% UCC participation; 100% stormwater/MS4 ad.

Lindsey - Called for a motion to pass the 2024 budget. Pawelski motioned. Hillary Greene seconded. Unanimously approved. Budget is passed for 2024.

Annual Dinner - Lindsey announced keynote speaker - Lt. Col. George Bivens. Two episodes in last two months: Chester County and July trooper incident. Excited to have him join us. Chester County incident - all municipalities came together to resolve.

Lindsey entertained a motion to cancel December meeting: Fisher motioned. Pawelski seconded. Unanimously approved.

Legislative Report - Rhonda Campbell read report provided by Nate Silcox

- HB 1351 has been signed into law as Act 15 of 2023. It increased EMS reimbursement rates for services and ensures providers are compensated for all loaded miles. The changes will drive \$126 million of new revenue and new resources into the EMS network statewide. It requires that EMS providers be reimbursed for every loaded mile they drive. It also provides that, effective January 1, 2024, the Medicaid program will reimburse EMS providers at the greater of

1) the Medicare ambulance reimbursement rates for calendar year 2023, or 2) the current Medicaid EMS rates.

PACOG - No report

SAFER Grant - Ken Martin

- 2024 marks year 3 of the SAFER Grant. We are well on our way to reaching the goal of 200 new recruits by the end of the grant.
- An Annual Report will be issued by Program Manager, Scott Ryno, in January 2024.

Cumberland County Report - Vince DiFilippo

- Election is over. No voting misrepresentations or miscalculations.
- Cumberland County is not facing maximum deficits, not raising taxes in 2024. There are some numbers we can't finalize until the state gets back to us: 911 and MH.

Dauphin County Report - Provided by Doug Brown via Email

- Dauphin County Tourism Grant is now open.
- Eligible activities under this grant program are limited to the following:
- Marketing efforts to attract tourism
- Tourism enhancement programs
- Beautification projects
- Limited general operating expenses
- Municipalities, nonprofits, and most entities can apply for activities, events, or programs that will generate tourism.
- **All applicants must apply online. Applications received in the mail will not be accepted. Deadline to submit an application and required documentation is February 1, 2024.**
- Tourism Grant Program (dauphincounty.gov)
- **Opioid Remediation Grant Program Open Until January 31, 2024**
- Applications for grants awarded by Dauphin County must be submitted through the Opioid Remediation Grant process and include the project narrative. Applications must be delivered by the close of business at 4:30 p.m. EST on Wednesday, January 31st, 2024. If mailed, applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, January 31st, 2024.
- Municipalities, organizations, and other entities can apply for grants to support projects and programs that provide abatement strategies and related services to local communities to reduce and combat the use of opioids in the community.
- **Take the Community Needs Survey**
- To better evaluate substance use in Dauphin County and the attitudes around substances, the Dauphin County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services has developed a survey in which the public can weigh in on the issue affecting an estimated 36.4% of Pennsylvanians. We encourage all Dauphin County residents to take the quick and anonymous survey at <https://forms.office.com/g/XQpAsav1K8>.
- **Whole Home Repairs Program Closed Due to Overwhelming Demand**
- With over 115 applications, we have closed the Whole-Home Repairs Program in anticipation of fully expending our \$1.8 million allocated to repair activities. We are currently scoping the projects for the first batch of eligible homeowners with repair activities slated to begin after the holidays.

York County Report - No report

- Pawelski- Can't get reliable reporting out of the county. Will do my best to get information next year.

UCC Board of Appeals - Watts

- The C. George v. Susquehanna Township hearing is continued to next year to allow applicant to gather additional information.

Public Safety Committee - Ken martin

- Nothing in Addition to SAFER Report.
- PS Committee will meet 1Q 2024.

Good of the Order

Lindsey - recognized Jim Fisher and Vince DiFilippo who are retiring and will no longer be serving as Delegates/Representatives to CapCOG. Thank you for your service to the Middle Paxton Township and Cumberland County.

- Fisher - It has been a thrill to participate; you people are extraordinary. Happy to be a representative to BOD.
- DiFilippo - As county commissioners, we have different boards. This is my favorite meeting. Being a former township supervisor; this is a great group. I look forward to coming and I will miss being here.

The next Board of Delegates meeting will be the CapCOG Annual Dinner and Business Reorganization meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. Terry Watts motioned. Pawelski seconded. Unanimously approved.