



CapCOG Board of Delegates
Monday, March 18, 2024 - 7:00 PM

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE: 15

Camp Hill Borough - Michele Forbes, Mercedes Evans East Pennsboro Township, Ed Diehl Hampden Township - Al Bienstock, Nate Silcox Highspire Borough, Mark Stonbraker Lemoyne Borough, Sue Yenchko Lower Paxton Township, Robin Lindsey, Norm Zoumas	Marysville Borough - Brian Webster Middle Paxton Township, Julie Seeds North Middleton Township, James Hare Royalton Borough, Terry Watts Silver Spring Township, Harry Kotzmoyer South Hanover Township, Kevin Stoehr	Susquehanna Township, Sean Sanderson Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin Wormleysburg Borough, Mike Rudy, Sue Stuart
---	--	---

MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE: 28

Annville Township Carlisle Borough Carroll Township Conewago Township Dauphin Borough Derry Township Dillsburg Borough East Hanover Township Fairview Township Monroe Township	Goldsboro Borough Hummelstown Borough Harrisburg City Londonderry Township Lower Allen Township Lower Swatara Mechanicsburg Borough Middletown Borough Monaghan Township New Cumberland Borough	Newberry Township Paxtang Borough Penbrook Borough Shiremanstown Borough South Middleton Township Steelton Borough Swatara Township West Hanover Township
---	--	--

NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:

• Shaun Davidson, RETTEW • Mary Kuna, Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority • Margie Stuski, General Public	CapCOG STAFF Gary Myers, Executive Director Rhonda Campbell, Program Director
---	--

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. President Robin Lindsey welcomed new Delegates and Alternates.

Presentations

Mary Kuna, Executive Director, Cumberland County Housing Redevelopment Authority

- Governed by state law. Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority is one of the biggest kept secrets. We have 54 employees. We are continuing to modernize our systems. We are responsible for Section 8 housing as well as other initiatives.
- Kuna shared that her passion is redevelopment.
- Formerly worked in Pittston PA; developed their blight policy. People sometimes don't think of Cumberland County having blight issues.

- Municipalities can cite a property, do code enforcement - then you can only do liens which can be costly.
- We are the last result -The Blight Board is the final tool a municipality has.
- The current blight process in Cumberland County gives people too many chances; the law doesn't require that. We took out steps the law doesn't require in Cumberland County. We are want to make it as easy for municipalities as we can.
- Kuna's goal is to make it easy for your staff. When you decide that you have done what you can, you can refer it to the Blight Board. Step one is a two-page document to complete. We send the templates to you.
- Once Blight Board takes over, municipality is protected by state law that has been legally tested.
- The goal of the process: voluntary compliance.
- Blight designation occurs if no one shows up to contest or clean up. We designate the property as blighted and can take action. When something is designated as blighted we can enact eminent domain or conservatorship - take control of the property. We have been more aggressive in Cumberland County. Kuna prefers conservatorship. The owner is given time and can come in front of the judge.
- We work through the court system to hold property owners' feet to the fire.
- Cumberland County has a demolition fund; and I think there is demo money in Dauphin county as well.
- Eminent Domain is an expensive process so we prefer to pursue other means.
- We want municipalities to know that they have a partner. Please reach out. We can walk you through a lot of it. Code enforcement officers are hard to find and can be expensive.
- Jim Hare - Do liens continue? Kuna - Yes. Even in conservatorship. CCRA also liens the process. Municipalities get to help us decide what happens. You get to say what you'd like to do. Deed restrictions are being used by some municipalities statewide (e.g., not rental property but owner occupied).
- Julie Ann Seeds - We have been dealing with a property for many years. Dauphin County says they won't let force someone to leave property. Kuna - By law, the Redevelopment Authority cannot remove someone. If it is vacant property that is allowed. You can make the property unfit which will require the person to move. Condemnation is more expensive. If it is unfit, it isn't safe for the person to stay even though that may be a difficult situation.
- Kuna - If you have questions, this is stuff I genuinely love and care about and want to help.
- There are older properties where family passes on, people move and ownership is blurred. Titles can be challenging to figure out.
- Cumberland County is also a land bank. We can expedite the title of the property, clear it, and get it moving. We can go in where some people cannot.
- When a Redevelopment Authority is thinking about buying a property, we will go in. Where your code officer can't enter, we can. We do invite Code officers to come (with homeowner permission). That's how we make the judgment call because we are able to get inside and look around.
- Redevelopment Conference on April 9, 8 AM to 4 PM. \$10 off for any municipal staff/official to attend.

- HB 299 - Jake's Law. Named for Jake Schwab who was killed in a workplace accident on November 4, 2014. He worked for Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA)
- Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed bill on May 2, 2023 (116 – 85) with bipartisan support.
- September 2023 – first public hearing on legislation
- Bill currently sits with the Pennsylvania Senate as SB 93 - OSHA Bill for PA. It is not on the docket for the next two months.
- Legislation titled “Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act”
- Institutes OSHA standards and regulations for public entities at state level and would include - public-sector workers, Public school teachers, local (township, borough, town, city, and county) workers, state government workers, and highway workers (PennDOT), etc.
- Would also apply to any employee of a public (government) agency and any other organization who obtains and uses state grant money.
- Non-profit organizations – shelters, pantries, donation centers, church organizations also affected .
- Cost to PA is estimated between \$4M and \$140M to get ready.
- There are a lot of things to still be hashed out.
- Cost will be different among municipalities.
- Municipalities need to consider how they handle training. How many trainings are word of mouth? You can't prove word of mouth in court. Need a sign in sheet showing training completed.
- Look at fall protection. Do they have harnesses? Are they nonconductive if they are electricians? Some people don't know there is a difference.
- Is respiratory protection provided.
- Ed Diehl - Are there any other states doing this? Davidson - CA, NY , MI, MD, CO, NV. Majority of those programs, apply to state employees. NV stopped it at state level (doesn't apply to local).
- Diehl - OSHA applies to everyone ethically. Davidson - OSHA, a lot of regulations say you have to do certain things that aren't an injury to someone. OSHA can't fine the federal government. States can follow federal or not; states could elect to participate in OSHA in the 70's. You can be held liable and face criminal charges by OSHA even if you aren't under OSHA.
- A copy of Davidson's are included with the minutes.
- CapCOG will host a ZOOM lunch and learn session in May on this topic.

Consent agenda

November 2023 and January 2024 minutes - Motion to approve: Sue Yenchko. Seconded: Brian Webster. Unanimously approved.

March 2024 Treasurers Report - Motion to approve: Jim Hare. Seconded: Michelle Forbes. Unanimously approved.

Exec Directors Report

Joint Bid Ratification

Gary Myers thanked Rhonda Campbell for her efforts in tabulating the joint bids; spending over 40 hours in the process. Myers called for a motion to ratify bids for nine categories and send contracts to successful vendors. Motion to approve: Jim Hare. Seconded: Julie Seeds. Unanimously approved.

Annual Dinner Report

- Monday, January 15, 2024
- Speaker:
 - Lt. Col. George L. Bivens, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Pennsylvania State Police
- 156 attendees (+4%)
- 22 municipalities represented
- Sponsorships: 19 sponsors (+19%)
 - \$16,425.00 (CapCOG record)
- CapCOG Profit: \$9,917.98

Exec Directors Report *(continued)*

York County Commissioners

- Myers and Campbell met with Commissioners Julie Wheeler and Scott Burford on March 8, 2024 to discuss CapCOG membership. If they join, they will be the fourth County to join CapCOG. Only Lebanon is not yet an Associate Member.

Auction - Campbell

- Wednesday, July 17, 2024
- Forms will go out in May
- Auctioneer: BAHZV - Todd Fisher
- We are offering the auction free to all associate members this year in the hopes that they will participate and will see the benefit of the Auction.
- We are asking Delegates and Alternates to discuss the auction with your managers and encourage them to participate.
- We recognize that bringing the items to the site can be an inconvenience, however, the in-person bidding typically brings excellent pricing (often exceeding online auctions). Additionally, this is one of three CapCOG fund raisers so participation impacts all of our members.

Training Updates - Rhonda

- We currently have the following trainings scheduled: April 9 - Crisis Communication and April 23 - Incident Command Training. These sessions are designed to complement one another and a discount is being offered for members who attend both.
- Mercedes Evans - Is there any way to move the April 23 session due to the primary election?
- Campbell will contact the speaker to determine if the date can be changed.
- 2024 Training Survey - sent out this week. Responses are due April 5. Once comments are received, we will flesh out the trainings for the remainder of 2024. It is our goal to offer a variety of training topics and work with our partners and sponsors whenever possible

Cumberland County Report - None

Dauphin County Report - Read by Campbell

Dauphin Count Local Government Forum is April 2nd

- 6PM at Dauphin County Conservation District.
- Municipal officials encouraged to attend.
- Light dinner and refreshments will be served.
- Forum is opportunity to share information about county programs and initiatives and discuss local issues.

Gaming Grant Awards:

- \$9.1 million in gaming dollars from Hollywood Casino to provide for emergency responder equipment, food bank resources, school security upgrades, handicapped accessible improvements to public buildings, playgrounds, infrastructure projects and more, spanning more than 200 initiatives.
- Gaming Grant 2024-2025 cycle opens on May 1, 2024. Open to municipalities, nonprofits, and for-profits.

Dauphin County Mental Health Court Graduates First Class

- Mental Health Court is designed to offer individualized treatment, coupled with intensive community supervision, in lieu of incarceration to individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness, which often occurs along with drug and alcohol dependence. In turn, this specialty court saves incarceration costs by offering treatment in lieu of jail time. As part of the program, each participant must comply with the rules of his or her treatment plan, receive intensive supervision by Probation Services and have regular contact with the presiding judge.

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department named "Agency of the Year" from Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society.

York County Report - Read by Campbell

Volunteer Fire Fighter & Emergency Medical Services Tax Rebate

The York County Board Of Commissioners recently amended the county's Volunteer Fire Fighter & Emergency Medical Services Tax Rebate Resolution to provide eligible volunteers to receive up to a 100% rebate on their county taxes. The cost savings our volunteer departments provide to our municipalities is significant. The county worked with local fire chiefs to develop this program that will provide an incentive to support those who risk their lives every day for our community.

Opioid Update

York County is continuing to share information about its disbursement of a \$21M Opioid settlement and the organizations receiving funding. The York County Planning Commission was tasked with facilitating the disbursement process for settlement funding, as directed by the Board of Commissioners in 2022, and the York Opioid Collaborative (YOC) will be fulfilling a key role in this process. The YOC will serve as the coordinating body to support the development and implementation of a coordinated community plan to reduce the adverse impact of substance use in York County. YOC will enhance its capacity to conduct research, convene members, facilitate co-creation of new initiatives and measure and report to the community the effectiveness of the collective effort. As the coordinating entity, YOC will work to enhance communication and engagement among members, establish a shared agenda, and collect and share metrics to continually assess and identify future community needs. This investment ensures that the community maximizes the settlement funding long-term, as well as maximizing other partnerships and funding opportunities.

Tourism Funding Agreement Approved

The York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, DBA Explore York, and the York County Board of Commissioners approved a new three-year agreement that will ensure local hotel room tax revenues continue to support York County tourism-related efforts. The new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), outlines and governs how the net proceeds from the county's local 5% hotel room tax are spent. Under the agreement, Explore York is responsible for ensuring room tax dollars are spent on tourism-related efforts and the county's tourism partners and initiatives, including the York Expo Center.

With a goal of expanding the benefits of the tax revenues more widely, the county and Explore York also agreed to distribute 31% of the total net proceeds to the York County Tourism Grant Program, which will fund initiatives deemed capable of generating broad and substantial benefit to the local tourism economy.

Legislative Update - Nate Silcox

- 2024-25 Governor's Proposed Budget.
 - DCED increase to 5.2M;
 - 25M infusion from Federal Funds for cyber security. Big push that local governments receive funding.
 - Transportation reflects ongoing funding.
 - Fire/EMS grant program - up to \$25,000 FF , EMS \$15000 - \$30M statewide. Proposing another \$30M.
- HB299 -Silcox doesn't see it coming out of the Senate Committee. If you look at fiscal note, it was pretty scary to see total cost to comply. Aggregate costs across all state agencies and local government could be substantive. Silcox suggested that members might want to speak to their legislators.

UCC Board of Appeals - Myers

- Nothing pending.

Public Safety Committee - Silcox

- Met earlier this evening.
- Scott Ryno provided a SAFER Grant update. (included with minutes).
 - We are in year three of the four-year grant.
 - Goal is to have 200 new fire fighters by end of 4 year period. We are on target to meet that goal.
 - Marketing Firm sent 100 yard signs to every participating fire company.
 - On April 24, there will be a press event at HACC to highlight the success of the grant to date, and discuss future efforts.
 - At the May Board of Delegates' meeting, Silcox will discuss next steps for a second SAFER grant. Also will be discussing if there is a desire for CapCOG to move forward on EMS front.

Good of the Order -

- The next Board of Delegates will be on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. Motioned: Sue Yenchko. Seconded: Brian Webster.
Unanimously approved.