

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
August 15, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 12 noon, at Admiral Peary Vocational Technical School, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman, Melissa Komar, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar
Scott Eberhart
Debra Orner
Ron Rovansek
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Charles Koren
Danea Koss
Paul Kundrod
Shawn Veneskey

STAFF

Colleen Bukowski
Shanna Sosko
Jacob Zerby

Melissa Komar adjourned the meeting for a brief Executive Session. The regular meeting resumed at approximately 12:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Eberhart, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski, the July 18, 2024 meeting minutes were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The August Treasurer's Report was presented by Ms. Bukowski and reviewed by those present. There being no comments or questions on the statement, Ms. Orner made a motion that the August Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberhart and passed unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Preparation/Submittal of Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program Application for the West Hills Implementable Comprehensive Plan

Updating the members of the progress of the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan initiative, Ms. Sosko stated that representatives from five municipalities (Brownstown Borough, Southmont Borough, Westmont Borough, Lower Yoder Township, Upper Yoder Township) have expressed interest in continuing with the planning process to develop a multi-municipal comprehensive plan. She explained that to garner a realistic cost estimate

for development of the plan, CCPC staff prepared and advertised an RFP for plan preparation. Noting that four consulting firms responded to the RFP, Ms. Sosko stated that the proposal submitted by The EADS Group, in the amount of \$75,000, was the most financially feasible and acceptable to the plan steering committee. She stated that to move forward with the project, funding through PA DCED's Municipal Assistance Program will be sought to fund 50% of plan development, with the remaining 50% (\$37,500) expected to be provided by the participating municipalities. In response to a question regarding the funding allocation per municipality, Ms. Sosko stated that the cost per municipality has been calculated based on population statistics.

Mr. Eberhart made a motion to authorize CCPC staff to submit an application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) requesting Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) funds in the amount of \$37,500 to assist in the development of a multi-municipal, implementable comprehensive plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Waksmunski and passed unanimously.

Ms. Sosko explained that a letter ensuring commitment of 50% matching funds must be included with the above-referenced PA DCED MAP grant application. Mr. Eberhart made a motion that the CCPC Secretary be authorized to sign a matching funds (\$37,500) commitment letter for inclusion in the PA DCED MAP grant application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orner and passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS

Transportation

Mr. Zerby informed the members that through the coordination efforts of CCPC staff, the applicant entity for the Cambria County Regional Firefighters Association, the Spangler Volunteer Fire Company, and the Cambria County Human Society Local Share Account (LSA) grant applications has been successfully changed to Cambria County. He noted that grant awards will be determined by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) later this year.

Mr. Zerby presented the MOU between Cambria County Planning Commission/Community Foundation for the Alleghenies/Quantum Catalyst LLC for signature by Ms. Komar. He explained that the MOU was discussed and unanimously approved at the July CCPC meeting and upon final CCPC signatures will be submitted for signatures/execution by CFA and Quantum Catalyst LLC.

Mr. Zerby stated that with recent heavy rains, some localized flooding was experienced on an approach to the Red Mill Bridge. He noted that he will be coordinating and attending a meeting with the bridge engineer and the contractor to discuss the situation. In response to a question by Mr. Eberhart, Mr. Zerby explained that the CCPC receives County Liquid Fuels funds to assist the County Commissioners in overseeing maintenance and repairs to County-owned bridges.

Community Development

Ms. Sosko commented that during recent coordination discussions PA DCED personnel apprised CCPC staff that the MAP grant application for the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan will be very competitive in light of the fact that multi-municipal plans are viewed favorably by the Department. She assured the Commission members that the application will be prepared and submitted prior to the September 30, 2024 deadline, pending the continued cooperation of the participating municipalities.

Ms. Sosko stated that she assisted in the submission of a CFA Community Initiatives Program application requesting funding to establish a dedicated organization to oversee the business operations of the West Hills Regional Fire Department. She explained that, if funded, the \$8,500 grant will enable the regional fire department to hire a consultant to assist with the formation and organization of the West Hills Regional Fire Commission, which will in turn enhance coordination, streamline operations, improve service and safety, and ensure equitable resource distribution among the participating municipal fire companies.

On a motion by Ms. Waksmunski, seconded by Mr. Eberhart, the meeting was adjourned. The motion was unanimously approved.