

## Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023

The LIMC meeting was held at the Millersville Borough Municipal Building on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 7:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Mark Stivers (Columbia Borough)  
Ethan Demme (East Lampeter Township)  
Ralph Hutchison (East Lampeter Township)  
Tara Hitchens (East Lampeter Township)  
Ray D'Agostino (Lancaster County Commissioner)  
John Trescot (Lancaster County Commissioner)  
Alex Rohrbaugh (Lancaster County Planning)  
Bill Laudien, LIMC Chair (Lancaster Township)  
Rick Kane (Manheim Township)  
David Aichele (Millersville Borough)  
Lauren Hauck, LIMC Treasurer (Millersville Borough)  
Greg Sahd (Millersville Borough)  
Steve Mitchell (Mountville Borough)  
Derrick Millhouse (Mountville Borough)  
E. John Hlavacek (Pequea Township)  
Andrew Stern, LIMC Secretary (West Hempfield Township)  
DeeDee McGuire (West Lampeter Township)

### 1. Secretary Andrew Stern called the meeting to order at 7:30 am

Stern thanked Millersville Borough for hosting this meeting and explained that he and DeeDee McGuire would be running the meeting in the absence of Ryan Strohecker.

### 2. Consent Agenda

Motion by Lauren Houck and second by Bill Laudien to approve the minutes from February 8, 2023, and the financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Old Business

None.

### 4. New Business

#### a. Drug Task Force Update:

District Attorney Heather Adams presented an update on the Drug Task Force and other programs offered through her office. (Note: A copy of the presentation was provided and is referenced as part of these minutes.)

When Adams first became DA, the Drug Task Force was dealing with several issues, most notably budget and staffing. DA Adams has since created a sustainable budget and has planned for a 14 member department comprised of a Detective Sergeant, an Evidence Custodian, and two Detective Corporals – each with five detectives reporting to them.

For 2022, there were \$426,532 of voluntary municipal contributions, matched by the County, for a total revenue of \$853,062.

DTF's four account balances are in great shape at this time:

- Pre-Forfeiture
- Drug Forfeiture
- Federal
- Municipal Salary

DA Adams has not used forfeiture funds for municipal officer salaries, as doing so creates appearance of ethical concerns. Instead, forfeiture funds have been used for other programs, including donations to good caused focused on rehab and positive behavior.

DA Adams has also brought a diversionary program at the district justice level.

In 2022, 90% of drug related deaths in Lancaster County were from Fentanyl. This is their biggest challenge.

DA Adams has started a program of articles telling positive law enforcement stories featuring one officer every two weeks to help encourage young and diverse populations to consider careers in law enforcement.

According to the Center for Rural PA, Lancaster County has the third lowest crime rate in the state, and the lowest of large counties.

DA Adams was asked about the possibility of helping to reimburse additional benefit costs for the municipal officers. She indicated they would be looking in the feasibility of that.

Commissioners D'Agostino and Trescot were asked about the County increasing funding so municipalities would not need to make contributions. They both indicated that they did not see this happening and believe the municipalities need to continue their funding for the DTF to continue to be viable. They do not see the DTF as a County function that should be fully funded by the County.

## **b. LUAB Discussion and Update**

At the last meeting, the topic of LUAB was discussed. In summary, LUAB has not held a meeting for several years. Some municipalities still refer to LUAB in their ordinances. The question has remained how do we submit to LUAB when LUAB does not currently “exist” except on paper.

DeeDee reported that Ryan Strohecker had discussed this with Attorney Bill Croswell, who suggested two possible solutions:

- Rescind LUAB by ordinances adopted by the member municipalities.
- Don't appoint members to LUAB.

Bill Laudien commented that the LCPD reviews plans for consistency with Growing Together so LUAB was a bit redundant. Alex Rohrbaugh concurred.

Based on an informal survey of those in attendance, some municipalities might continue to send things to LUAB for review, although they do not expect a response. Others will not be sending to LUAB as they believe LUAB no longer exists. Stern expressed potential procedural concerns in the event of a land use appeal to court if there is not a definite resolution to this.

We will continue this discussion at a future meeting when Ryan returns.

## **c. County Homeless Discussion**

Ralph Hutchison began this discussion on homelessness in the County. He has indicated a presence of panhandling and tents around the community. No one municipality can resolve this issue on their own.

Ethan Demme indicated that “affordable Housing” is needed, but not available in the quantity required. He also suggested needing more data on the issue and more outreach for people in need.

Commissioner D'Agostino explained that the County does have significant resources, including outreach workers. He has had significant involvement with this issue throughout his career. Although there are a lot of available resources, many homeless people are not interested in being helped. Simply because they are on the street does not mean there aren't resources to help them off the street.

Commissioner D'Agostino suggested that Justin Eby and Deb Jones speak at an upcoming LIMC meeting to explain all of the resources available.

#### **d. TTAC Information and Update (Ralph Hutchison)**

Ralph is LIMC's representative to TTAC. The TTAC structure has changed a bit, but we still have a rep and it will remain Ralph unless/until we decide otherwise.

### **5. Municipal Exchange**

#### **a. Millersville**

- A new Police Chief has been sworn in – Jeff Margevich
- Looking at acquiring body cameras for police
- Hope to approve their new Comprehensive Plan later in month
- Looking at acquiring an emergency contact system for their residents

#### **b. Lancaster County**

- Second round of opioid settlements is underway. Municipalities over 10,000 population need to sign off by April 18.
- MPO Connects 2024 will be moving forward soon.
- Prison design proposals are soon due.
- Pools are staffed and ready to open.

#### **c. East Lampeter Township**

- Rockvale Master Plan is moving forward.
- About 1,200 new dwelling units will be coming online within the next few years.
- Walnut Street Extension/Heritage Trail, 1<sup>st</sup> mile is under construction and will open in the fall.
- Starting housing plan – out for RFP

#### **d. Mountville**

- Nothing.

#### **e. Columbia**

- Retirement of senior police, including Chief, will be concern over next couple of years.
- Comprehensive Plan is in final stages.
- Their mobile trailer based emergency operations center has received a grant from the County and will start soon.
- Columbia will be joining the Trail Friendly program.

#### **f. Lancaster Township**

- Nothing.

**g. Manheim Township**

- Their newly created Community Development Manager position has been filled and will be starting soon.
- Comprehensive Plan Committee is starting.
- Their Police Chief position application window closed with 26 applicants.
- Eight officers have retire/resigned since January 1.

**h. Pequea Township**

- Their new salt shed is complete - \$187,000

**i. Lancaster County Planning**

- First round of Urban Growth meetings has been completed.
- Second round will begin in June.
- There will be a Strong Towns presentation tonight.

**j. West Lampeter Township**

- They are updating their zoning ordinance.
- Their building/zoning office is extremely busy now.
- 200 new houses coming soon.
- Looking for police officers.
- Just received their first RTK for body camera video – will be denied.
- North Group starting search to replace DeeDee as she will be retiring at the end of this year.

**6. Adjourn**

Motion by Mark Stivers to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 am. Adjourned.