

Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021

The LIMC meeting was called to order by Bill Laudien, Chairman, at the West Hempfield Township Municipal Building located at 3476 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, most attendees joined remotely via Zoom. The public was able to attend in-person or via Zoom.

Attendees:

- Mark Stivers, Columbia Borough (via Zoom)
- Cindy Schweitzer, East Hempfield Township (via Zoom)
- Ed Lefevre, East Hempfield Township (via Zoom)
- Scott Russell, East Hempfield Township & LCATS (via Zoom)
- Ralph Hutchison, East Lampeter Township (via Zoom)
- Ethan Demme, East Lampeter Township (via Zoom)
- Lisa Riggs, EDC (via Zoom)
- Ezra Rothman, EDC (via Zoom)
- Jess King, Lancaster City (via Zoom)
- Stephen Campbell, Lancaster City (via Zoom)
- Ben Perwien, Lancaster City (via Zoom)
- Chief John Bey, Lancaster City Police (via Zoom)
- Captain Mike Winters, Lancaster City Police (via Zoom)
- Heather Adams, Lancaster County DA (via Zoom)
- Bill Laudien, Lancaster Township (via Zoom)
- Iber Guerrero Lopez, Lancaster Township (via Zoom)
- Mike Kyle, LASA (via Zoom)
- Alex Rohrbaugh, LCPC (via Zoom)
- Mark Huber, LCPC (via Zoom)
- Ben Marchant, Manheim Township
- Barry Kauffman, Manheim Township (via Zoom)
- Ryan Strohecker, Manor Township (via Zoom)
- Lauren Hauck, Millersville Borough (via Zoom)
- Andrew Stern, West Hempfield Township
- Kent Gardner, West Hempfield Township
- Chief Lisa Layden, West Hempfield Township Police
- DeeDee McGuire, West Lampeter Township (via Zoom)

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Chairman Laudien entertained a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from December 9, 2020. DeeDee McGuire so motioned, Ryan Strohecker seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reports – Chairman Laudien entertained a motion to approve the Financials from February 2021. DeeDee McGuire so motioned, Ryan Strohecker seconded and the motion carried.

Guest Participation

No members of the public were present.

Guests from the LCPC and District Attorney Heather Adams were present.

Old Business

GLHP Update – Ralph Hutchison reported that the Greater Lancaster Heritage Pathway (GLHP) project continues to move forward. A presentation was recently held with High Associates and the consultant team. Project should go through permitting process later this year and hopefully construction next year.

Central Penn Update – Ralph Hutchison reported that they continue to track legal ad prices for Central Penn and LNP and Central Penn is still a less expensive option. To the best of his knowledge none of the local municipalities have switched yet.

New Business

1) Water & Sewer Study

Alex Rohrbaugh (LCPC) discussed the LCPC/EDC Water Sewer/Study for the Lancaster Metro area. He was accompanied by Mark Huber (LCPC), Lisa Riggs (EDC), and Ezra Rothman (EDC).

Project is being done to help support growth management, planning, and system wide collaborative thinking. It will help determine if there is adequate capacity in the Urban Growth Area to accommodate future growth that Paces2040 is projecting. It will also make sure we are investing in infrastructure where we need to. It can also provide a foundation for us for improved 537 plans and local/regional comp plans. Will provide a practical and user-friendly tool to accomplish these projects.

LCPC had a pilot study from SRBC for overall capacity which was very helpful but LCPC still needs to determine system limitations and whether infrastructure is “in the right place”. LCPC has contracted with Rettew to conduct mapping to identify gaps or bottlenecks in the system.

The project will have four phases:

Phase 1: Data inventory and gathering. Development of ArcGIS Online Map (Rettew).

Phase 2: System and infrastructure analysis.

Phase 3: Infrastructure data alignment with existing land use, zoning, transportation, etc.

Phase 4: implementation by applying information with growth management and economic development decision making.

This is only for the Metro area but LCPC hopes to expand County wide if it is successful.

Lisa Riggs added to the discussion how the EDC is involved with this project. Their focus has been on industrial manufacturing. They are incredibly busy right now with projects. EDC is trying to find ways to accommodate growth in ways which align with the values and goals of the municipalities and county. It is becoming harder to do as sites are becoming scarce. This project could provide very valuable information for the community and EDC to start planning further ahead and development new or different solutions other than “hoping the developer figures it out”. The information gathered will be sensitive and it will have to be determined who has access to it when completed.

LCPC is requesting a resolution to support funding from DCED for the mapping component of this study. At the end of this discussion, Chairman Laudien suggested a special meeting to be held 7:30 am on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 to discuss this project further and to potentially entertain a resolution to support funding for the mapping component of this study.

Alex Rohrbaugh also reminded everyone that Places2040 implementation workshops “Growing Responsibly in Rural Areas” are coming up very soon. Contact Alex for details if you have not yet received information.

2) Drug Task Force

Chairman Laudien gave a brief updated on the history of the DTF funding issue over the past couple of years. Chairman Laudien explained that in general everyone supports the DTF and believes they are an asset to the entire county. However, he pointed out that the municipalities have varying opinions on how the DTF should be funded. For 2021 not all municipalities will be contributing.

District Attorney Heather Adams updated LIMC on the status of the DTF and how it is being funded.

For 2020, the DTF received \$404,000 in contributions from 45 municipalities. The County matched these contributions for a total revenue of \$808,000 in contributions. \$350,000 went to 2019 expenses. \$175,000 of forfeiture funds had to be used for 2020 salaries. Better than in prior years when a much greater amount of forfeiture funds had to be used, which is not best practice.

DA Adams explained that for 2021 she had asked the Commissioners for several funding changes, including:

- 1) Revenue from the DA’s office to stay in the DA’s office for use by the DTF. Monies are from people seeking expungements. About \$10,000- \$15,000/year.
- 2) “Leftover” money from 2020 match money to move to 2021. About \$119,000.
- 3) Remaining appropriations in the DTF budget be moved forward to 2021. This would only include non-salary appropriations. In 2020 there were over \$100,000 of unspent funds due to COVID slowdown.
- 4) Fund one county detective salary from the DA’s budget instead of forfeiture funds.
- 5) And an extra \$400,000 of County funds to be added to the DTF budget.

The Commissioners approved some of the requests, but not all. The Commissioners also approved \$400,000 from COVID CARES funds.

For 2021, the “match’ is still in place, meaning the County will provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds for municipal contributions. \$519,000 of County funds have been set aside for matches in 2021 (based on \$1 per resident if all municipalities contribute).

Forfeiture money can be used for community-based drug and crime fighting programs. There are a lot of good things that can be done with these funds if they don’t have to be used for DTF salaries.

The DTF is hiring a Sergeant and Corporal to have more supervision.

DA Adams needs funds to reimburse municipalities for their municipal officers on the DTF. The remaining expenditures are covered by other funding sources. DA Adams would like to have ten municipal officers, which would be a cost of about \$880,000 each year.

Funding should be ok for 2021, but they need to find a longer-term solution for future years.

Ryan Strohecker commented that he appreciates everything the DA has said. Manor’s position remains that the County Commissioners need to decide if they believe in the DTF enough to fund it on a county level or is it not that important.

Scott Russell, wearing his LCATS hat, commented that he appreciates our new Commissioner D’Agostino’s efforts to try to help with the DTF. He has also thanked DA Adams for her efforts in her first year. LCATS approved a resolution two years ago which encourages a new funding approach to the DTF which does not rely on unpredictable donations. COVID did throw a curveball into this process but he is confident that everyone will work together to find a long-term solution. He has encouraged DA Adams to continue the communication process so we can come up with an equitable solution which makes sense. As local government we do not have control over the County Commissioner’s decision, but we can make our positions known.

Mark Stivers commented how much the DTF has benefited Columbia Borough. He suggested sending new resolutions to the Commissioners. Chairman Laudien indicated that maybe we can discuss more at a future meeting but he is not sure there is consensus amongst all LIMC members on what the best solution is or should be.

Ryan Strohecker pointed out that it would be nice if the Commissioners would resolve this funding issue so the DA and the DTF can focus on their work and not continue to struggle finding funds.

Ed Lefevre stated that the County should fund the DTF, but notwithstanding that solution he asks that all municipalities fund it until a better solution comes.

Scott Russell has taken a ‘middle of the road’ approach and asks that everyone meets in the middle and help-out until a final solution is resolved. We have made tremendous process in the past two years, although there is still a way to go. There are a lot of positives and he encourages everyone to stay engaged and support the DA.

Municipal Exchange

Lancaster Township. Bill Laudien had nothing new to report.

Lancaster City. Jess King noted that the City has been having encouraging conversations with Manheim Township. The City had several key staff members present at the LIMC meeting today. Stephen Campbell mentioned water main breaks earlier this year and has been working very quickly to fix them.

LASA. Mike Kyle noted that he is very interested in the water/sewer study discussed earlier.

Manor Township. Ryan Strohecker would like to hear from municipalities with water and sewer about their perspective on the water/sewer study.

Manheim Township. Ben Marchant, Interim Manager, is enthusiastic about rejoining LIMC. They recently posted a draft resolution seeking a County Health Department and encouraged others to consider adopting a similar resolution. DTF has been an indispensable resource for Manheim Township. Barry Kauffman, Commissioner, gave an update on the hiring process for a permanent Manager – they are in the final phases and hope to have the new Manager in place for the next LIMC meeting.

Millersville Borough. Looking forward to the water/sewer plan meeting as they have a development waiting on water to proceed.

West Hempfield Township. Andrew Stern noted that the West Hempfield Township Authority just enacted a resolution creating a stormwater management fee. The fee will be \$72/year per a residential unit and the first bills are anticipated to be sent out July 1, 2021.

West Lampeter Township. Dee Dee McGuire had nothing new to report.

Columbia Borough. Mark Stivers reported that they are updating contracts for municipal users of their yard waste recycling facility – no new price. They are also starting to look at a stormwater fee. Working with healthcare professionals to roll out a COVID vaccine in the area.

East Hempfield Township. Cindy Schweitzer noted that East Hempfield is finishing their Official Map very soon. She also gave an update on the timing of State Road and the Penn State Hospital. LCPC is working on a Corridor Visioning and Strategy Assessment for 741 and hoping to add Good Drive into the study to alleviate traffic concerns in the area.

East Petersburg Borough. Chairman Laudien noted that the Borough was not present for this meeting. They are still deciding if they wish to rejoin the LIMC. He encouraged us to reach out to them and have a conversation and invite them in.

East Lampeter Township. Ralph Hutchison has been experiencing a significant increase in drug activity, including Narcan saves and a recent meth lab incident. ELT instituted an emergency shelter program with local hotels used to house people with needs over the winter months. ELT continues to work on their Lincoln Highway East corridor, with a new effort to create a brand for the corridor and gateway and wayfinding signs.

Final Thoughts. Andrew Stern asked about the snow-plow meeting that had been “snowed out”. Chairman Laudien hopes to create a regular meeting of public works folks to discuss issues including plowing.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2021. A special meeting will be held March 10 for the water/sewer study meeting. At this time, the meeting is anticipated to be held at West Hempfield Township with a Zoom option for virtual attendees.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Andrew Stern, Secretary