**Lancaster Intermunicipal Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 14, 2023**

The June, 2023 LIMC meeting was held at the East Lampeter Township offices located at 2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602 beginning 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 Department)

Rick Kane (Manheim Township)

Barry Kauffman (Manheim Township)

Lauren Hauck (Millersville Borough)

Greg Sahd (Millersville Borough)

Steve Mitchell (Mountville Borough)

Derrick Millhouse (Mountville Borough)

E. John Hlavacek (Pequea Township)

Andrew Stern (West Hempfield Township)

Dee Dee McGuire (West Lampeter Township)

Stephen Campbell (City of Lancaster)

Cindy McCormick (City of Lancaster)

Cindy Schweitzer (East Hempfield Township)

Ryan Strohecker (Manor Township)

Karen St. Clair (East Petersburg Borough)

Justin Eby (Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority)

Deb Jones (Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ryan Strohecker, at 7:30 am.

Consent Agenda

Motion by DeeDee McGuire to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting and the financial report as presented, second by Mark Stivers. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

1. County Homeless Presentation – Justin Eby and Deb Jones from Lancaster County Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Mr. Eby provided the group with an overview of the LCHRA’s ongoing efforts to address homelessness in Lancaster County. He indicated that the Homelessness Coalition is made up of 50 plus organizations throughout the county that try to solve issues. Most of the programming and planning is done through the LCRHA that Deb Jones now runs since around December of 2021. He indicated that the organization now has a more holistic view of the issues of housing from homelessness to bricks and mortar.

He stated that Homelessness has increased across the nation, not just in Lancaster County. It’s not only the housing supply, but also addiction issues, mental health, etc. He said that the Count relies heavily on federal funding for homelessness data, and also use CDBG dollars for homelessness in county combined with United Way funding.

Ms. Jones suggested that it is helpful to focus on the data related to homelessness and in particular the point in time count which is federally required to be done in January (completed most recently on January 25, 2023). She said that Teams go out throughout the entire county to conduct the count, including emergency shelter, transitional shelter, and subsidized shelter program counts. In 2023 there was a change in the methodology in the county and working with 43 volunteers to provide the best count possible. This is one given date of calculations for unsheltered persons with 107 found in 2023 and only 20 found in 2022. She said that she believes the 107 number is a truer number. She also said that this information is needed in order to make data driven decisions on programs. Trends in point in time count totals from 2009-2023 were provided to the group. The 2023 number of 526 total persons as homeless is similar to that of 2012. Data driven decisions need to be made about services that are needed.

Mr. Strohecker thanked Justin and Deb for their presentation.

Mr. Stern asked if those who are doing the counting have discussions with those that are homeless? Ms. Jones indicated that they do engage with those that they are counting during the count.

Mr. Demme asked Ms. Jones to address what the City is doing with a dedicated outreach worker. Ms. Jones indicated that the City Alliance has a dedicated outreach worker that is funded by fees from businesses and a grant from the City. That individual works with the other 6 outreach workers within the LCRHA to make sure that services are provided where necessary. This outreach worker also collaborates with City of Lancaster Police Social Workers.

Mr. Kauffman indicted that he felt that the unsheltered number of 107 is still low and asked if there is a way to extrapolate this number to provide real world numbers. Ms. Jones indicated that she felt that this number was accurate for the date of the count.

Mr. Stivers asked about next steps. He indicated that the Columbia Borough PD is constantly going out and disassembling homeless camps. Ms. Jones said that Hands Across the Street is doing great work in Columbia. She said that homelessness is a community challenge which will take all of us, we can’t keep pointing to social services and say do more, because there isn’t any more money to do more, we’ve seen communities do a line item for homelessness, considerations need to be given as to what collaborations can be made. Consider an action team, partnership with Coalition – that’s how you get a social service agency to particular areas. This is an opportunity for a partnership in Lancaster County.

Mr. Strohecker indicated that not every municipality is struggling with homelessness, and asked if each municipality who is shouldbe contacting the Coalition. Mr. Eby said that if there is interest or similarity with issues among municipalities then they can be grouped and build those relationships. This includes opportunities for discussion of housing issues.

Mr. Hutchison said that East Lampeter’s reason for bringing this issue to the LIMC was with the hope that a regional strategy could be developed because it’s an issue that ignores boundaries. Thought was that it would be difficult for any one municipality to address this issue but that as a region we could do something more impactful.

Mr. Demme indicated that a lot of the activity that you see every day is along the public transit lines, need to share communication between PD’s, maybe there is three to four municipalities within the LIMC that can work with the Coalition.

Mr.Stivers said that one of the issues is when you have a difficult or violent person they tend to shelter hop, one key communication should be notice of these persons. Columbia is committed to working together as a team. Talked with Elizabethtown and Ephrata and they are both interested as well. This is a countywide issue that needs a dedicated funding source. A central database would be useful. Ms. Jones said that there is a database and that they meet weekly with shelters and do communicate but it could be more but there are only so many people involved. Maybe an action team is needed to share what all has been happening.

Mr. Strohecker asked if East Lampeter would take the lead on municipalities of LIMC that are interested in collaborating in the County.

Mr. Hutchison said that East Lampeter is willing to do so. Additionally he asked if municipalities are putting money into this, how much money is needed to come up with a staff person to assist. Ms. Jones indicated that a dedicated outreach staff person would cost about $70,000 for a full-time person. Mr. Hutchison said that he felt that this amount is beyond what any one municipality could to do alone. Ms. Jones further indicated that having a dedicated staff person for the region would provide a much stronger connection to the people.

1. LUAB Final Discussion

Mr. Strohecker indicated that he was uncertain about if there was very clear action moving forward. He said that he felt that there are two possible paths: 1. Legal path through multiple ordinances through LIMC 2. Municipalities will not reappoint people to LUAB board and send any potential reviews LIMC directly for review.

Mr. Stern said that he doesn’t believe there was consensus, and that he believes someone will get caught in a validity challenge. Mr. Strohecker said that he is fine with the practical way (number 2 above).

Mr. Sahd then made a motion to approve to continue to operate as LIMC municipalities currently are regarding submissions to LUAB. Second from DeeDee. No further discussion. The motion passed by voice vote.

West Hempfield, East Hempfield, and Columbia opposed.

New Business:

1. Right of Way Ordinance – Mr. Strohecker indicated that many have dealt with Glo-Fiber and the problems with their restoration of the right of way. He said that Lancaster Township has an ordinance but that it was challenged in 2018. The Cohen Law Group has offered a proposal for the development of a right of way ordinance as they seem to have a method of addressing the challenge and still require restoration of right of ways. Mr. Strohecker asked if this is an LIMC issue or an individual municipality issue. Ms. McGuire said that she would be absolutely happy to listen as sooner or later we might all have this issue. Mr. Stern said that West Hempfield’s Solicitor is not convinced that what Cohen proposes isn’t going to end up in court. Mr. Stivers said that he believes this needs to be addressed as comprehensively as possible. No one actively opposed. Ms. Schweitzer said that she will work on getting this presentation set up for the August LIMC meeting.
2. Updates Salary Survey – Mr. Strohecker said that he hasn’t seen the salary survey come out for a number of years. He asked if there is any interest in doing an LIMC wide salary survey? Several municipalities participate in PSATS salary surveys. Lancaster Township’s Bill L. indicated to Ryan prior to the meeting that he would be available to compile data from the PSATS Salary Survey to the group. Ms. Schweitzer felt that there would be a benefit to having something local. She said that she would work on this item.

Mr. Stern asked who was part of crash team. He said that he had an issue with reconstructions taking 5 to 7 hours and asked if there is any way to have the crash team look at ways to reduce the time of closures of roadways. Is there technology that can help to reduce the reconstructions?

Municipal Exchange

East Petersburg – office moving at the end of October to fire house, three buildings along Main Street will be auctioned, traffic signal upgrade at 72/Miller and 72/Enterprise

West Lampeter – busy as ever with planning/zoning, updating zoning ordinance, trying to find staff

East Lampeter – Walnut Street Ext and Lancaster Heritage Pathway is moving forward to open sometime this fall, Housing Plan kicked off and will be finished by February 2024, Greenfield North with 630 units about to begin construction, waiting on redevelopment of Rockvale with another 500 units.

Mountville – Construction on Centerville Road and projects in Mountville….just avoid the area.

West Hempfield – Wednesday is a PennDOT management meeting at Columbia Crossings to discuss the 462 Bridge closing (everyone welcome to attend), this summer Route 30 bridge repairs, next summer Route 462 bridge repairs

Manor – quiet right now

County Planning – in midst of UGA recalibration meetings with LIMC area next Wednesday, regional planning areas for Lancaster County will be reshuffled to staff.

Millersville – Adopted comprehensive plan, experiencing lack of candidates for three police officer positions.

Pequea – nothing new to report

Manheim Township – starting comprehensive plan work over next year and half, getting close to filling Chief of PD position, real time finance system with opengov will be online by end of year, turned corner of Police Officers and have list of 19 eligible and 5 conditional offers were provided last week with hope to be at 100% by October, signed agility agreement with PennDOT and will take over mowing, handwork, weed whacking for PennDOT and PennDOT will take over line painting every year.

City of Lancaster – launched comprehensive plan at end of May with look to adopt later this year, secured a large amount of funding for vision zero to increase safety on roadways for all users, looking to make connections on bike network,

County Commissioners – Burn ban in effect June 9 and could go for 30 days and will monitor conditions, next week will talk about ARPA funds (put $22M out first round, don’t expect it to be that much this round), conversations about farmland preservation, clean water, and natural land preservation Ag Preserve Board and County Planning have been discussing where the preservation effort is and what the future should be and tying in natural areas and clean water (keep track of this as the information will be coming to municipalities), hiring a architectural design firm soon for the prison, pool is open this year.

Columbia – council approved resolution for fireworks ban in conjunction with burn ban with same timeline (is anyone else implementing this?), park rentals are debated in front of the council, hydroelectric plant in southern end of York County will need to be discussed and looked at in the near future as it’s a concern for those along the river. Presentation before County Planning by Conservancy (pump storage facility).

East Hempfield – Avoid the construction area at Centerville Road.

Adjourned at 8:49am