



BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of March 30, 2023, 8:30 AM
Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call – The meeting will begin with a roll call of the members to publicly determine who is present as well as determine if a quorum is present.
2. Approval of Minutes – Consideration of the February 23, 2023 minutes of the Blair County Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Public Comment Period – Public comment will be received at this time.
4. Commissioner Liaison Forum – This is an opportunity for the Commissioners' liaison to make any reports, comments, or findings to the Planning Commission.

APPOINTMENTS

5. 8:35 AM - Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission – Brandon Peters, Director of Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission will present the recently adopted Alleghenies Ahead Regional Housing Strategy.
6. Alleghenies Ahead Regional Housing Strategy – Consideration and adoption of the Strategy by the Blair County Planning Commission as a policy and guidance document, and a recommendation to the Blair County Commissioners that the County formally adopt the plan.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

7. Green Bean Coffee House -located at 1613 and 1625 North Juniata Street, Blair Township. The proposal is a change in lot lines between two adjacent parcels and converting the existing, two-story building into office space and a coffee bean roasting facility. The proposal also provides for construction of a new coffee house in the adjacent lot.
8. Claysburg Dollar General Store – located along Polecat Hollow Road and Everitt Road, Greenfield Township. The development plan proposes a subdivision and the construction of a new Dollar General store.
9. Staff Level Subdivision and Land Development Reviews:
 - City of Altoona: Timothy and Kathleen Loose No-Impact Subdivision & Side Lot Addition
 - Allegheny Township: Patrick & Susan McFarland Lot Merger
 - Blair Township: Lwellyn & Ashley Martin Lot Line Relocation
 - Frankstown Township: Woomer-Cassarly Subdivision
 - Freedom Township: Terry McConnell and Robert Smith Lot Line Relocation
 - Greenfield Township: Barnes Subdivision Plan
 - Logan Township: Lingenfelter Subdivision Plan
 - Logan Township: Wise Subdivision Plan
 - North Woodbury Township: Weaver Non-build Subdivision
 - Snyder Township: Baughman Farm Estates
 - Woodbury Township: Houck Development Plan

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

10. Staff Level Staff Level Reviews: Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:
 - Bellwood Borough and Antis Township: Bellwood Borough Authority, Water Line Replacement, Phase 3, NPDES Chapter 102 permit application
 - Hollidaysburg Borough: Sorge Funeral Home, Air-Quality State-Only Permit Renewal Application
 - Martinsburg Borough: Martinsburg Municipal Authority, Water Quality Mgt Part II, minor amendment
 - Blair and Freedom Township: The Trust for Tomorrow, McDonald Run Stream, Restoration Activities, Waiver 16
 - Greenfield Township: dba Ampliform, LLC, Bi-Diamond Photovoltaic Solar Farm, Chapter 102 Permit Application
 - Greenfield Township: DECA Environmental, Champion Home Builders, Inc, Industrial Storm water General Permit
 - Greenfield Township: LSSE for Gas Line Relocation at Bridge #70, Chapter 105 permit application
 - Greenfield Township, Mackin Engineering, Claysburg Dollar General, Chapter 102 permit application
 - Taylor Township, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Inc. for Roaring Spring Quarry, State-Only Operating Air Quality Permit Renewal
 - Tyrone Township: Sickles Corner Dry Hydrant, Intake and Outfall Structures GP-4 Permit Application
11. Staff Level Review/Letters of Support for Grants - Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:
 - Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission: DCNR grant application for continued funding of the Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

12. Healthy Blair County Coalition – Discussion on the sustainability of to the Coalition, and recent collaborative efforts between the Coalition and Blair Planning:
 - a. Sustainability Status
 - b. Blair County Health Needs Assessment
 - c. Spring Fitness Challenge
 - d. Active Living Brochure
 - e. Let's Move Day at Lakemont Park
13. Active Mobility – Discussion on active mobility efforts of Blair Planning:
 - a. Committee Update
 - b. Unified Planning Work Program amendments
 - c. Trail planning grant possibilities
 - d. WalkWorks

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

14. Planning Director's Report – The Planning Director will give a brief update on professional development and administrative issues for the organization, including (but not limited to):
 - a. Municipal Outreach Update
 - b. Government Advisory Committee
 - c. Altoona Comprehensive Plan
 - d. Bellwood and Antis Township Planning
 - e. Request to Televise Meetings
15. WalkerTracker Contract Authorization – Authorization for staff to enter into a contract with WalkerTracker for use in WalkWorks and TrailTales events and applications as well as support for the Healthy Blair County Coalition fitness efforts.

16. Planning Commissioners' Forum - This is an opportunity for Planning Commission members to bring items of relevant interest to the attention of the body as a whole.
17. Questions from the Media – This is an opportunity for the media to ask any questions needed to clarify any points made or agenda items discussed during the meeting.
18. Upcoming Events:
 - April 1 thru 4 – APA National Planning Conference, Philadelphia
 - April 7 – Good Friday; Office Closed
 - April 8 – Dirty Kiln Trail Races, Canoe Creek State Park
 - April 8 – Easter Egg Hunt, Horseshoe Curve
 - April 13 – Fair Market Rent Roundtable
 - April 19 – Southern Alleghenies CAP, Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM on April 27, 2023 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.



Blair County Planning Commission
Altoona Metropolitan Planning Organization
Blair County Government Advisory Committee

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes for March 30, 2023

Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania

CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call –

Members present:

William R. Hall, Chairperson
James M. Dixon, Treasurer
Patrick Baechle
Lawrence Carter
Thomas M. Holsinger
Linda Smith
Bruce Erb

Representing:

Townships Collectively
City of Altoona
Boroughs Collectively
City of Altoona
Townships Collectively
Townships Collectively
Commissioner Liaison

Members absent:

Herbert Shelow, Sr. Secretary
Benjamin Postles

Boroughs Collectively
Townships Collectively

Solicitor: Absent

Guests:

Walt Frank
Brandon Peters
Dustin Bishop
Devin Saylor
Carol A. Dannenberg
Regis Nale

Altoona Mirror

So. Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
So. Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission
Altoona Planning Commission
Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog Group
Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog Group

Staff:

David McFarland III, Planning Director
Sherry Socie, Strategic Planner
MacKenzie Caron, Community Planner
Wesley L. Burket, Transportation Planner
Rhonda Kelly, Planning Aide

Staff Absent:

Jamie Klink, Regional Planner

Chairman Hall welcomed Devin Saylor, who is a possible new member of the Board if appointed by the County Commissioners.

2. Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the February 23, 2023 Blair Planning Board meeting were considered for approval.

Motion: To approve the February 23, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, for Item #2 of this agenda:

Moved: James Dixon

Seconded: Thomas Holsinger

Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

3. Public Comment Period – Carol Dannenberg voiced that the Green Bean coffee is wonderful but her wallet does not approve.
4. Commissioner Liaison Forum – Commissioner Erb provided comment on the housing crisis being one of the biggest questions facing County government and the County in general. The crisis from the County's standpoint is that because many subsidy programs are running out and that with the lack of available and affordable units, homelessness is spiking. From an economic development standpoint, the market rate for the people who want to come into the County are having difficulty finding a place to live that satisfies their needs. The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission recognizes this crisis and is taking a regional lead to address the needs, as is the County's task force.

APPOINTMENTS

5. Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission - Brandon Peters, Director of the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and Dustin Bishop, Housing Staff Lead, presented the newly adopted Alleghenies Ahead Regional Housing Strategy. This strategy was developed as a result of a disaster recovery plan study conducted at the beginning of the pandemic. The study indicated three areas of focus: workforce development, quality of place/community development projects and on housing. Mr. Peters stated that the area has a limited housing stock, which directly affects the economic development in terms of investments into infrastructure, community development and workforce development projects. An improved housing stock will have a beneficial impact on all of the investments.

Part I of the Housing Strategy identifies housing market trends, conditions and key underlying issues. Part II, identifies the housing vision with guiding principles. Parts III & IV detail tools and implementation guidance. The Regional Housing Plan includes a county profile for each of the six counties that gives detail on how each county can approach the housing issue.

The following data pertains to the persistent demand problem in the region:

- Stagnant/declining households – 5,000 less households in 2020 than in 2000
 - Surge in chronic vacant/abandoned houses – 15,000 more vacancies in 2020 versus 5,000 vacancies in 2000
 - Lag in home and rent values
 - Unwillingness to pay – people in the southern Alleghenies region spend less on housing than the median across the U.S.; they are not willing to pay what they are capable to pay
- Housing affordability by household income in the region:
- \$35,000 and less (1 in 3 households) can afford:
 - \$790/month rent or home ownership at \$95,000 (very constrained options)
 - \$50,000 to \$75,000 can afford:
 - \$1,250 to \$1,850/month rent OR home ownership between \$150,000 to \$225,000
 - \$150,000+ (1 in 5 households) can afford:
 - \$3,700/month rent OR home ownership starting at \$350,000

Developers are not willing to invest due to the unwillingness of people to pay what they are capable; the return does not yield a break-even for the developers' investments. The following provides what a developer is looking for in terms of a return on their investment:

- substantial, newly re-habilitated unit: \$1,800/month rent
- new constructed unit: \$2,100/month rent
- new constructed, single-family home: \$325,000

Part II provides a strategy to accomplish vision-outlined outcomes. It includes addressing the need for new rentals, improving existing rental stock and demolishing obsolete/blighted housing to reach the desired outcomes: a strengthened housing demand, increased private investments, diminished blight and diminished socioeconomic disparities. The strategy also addresses homelessness and how to manage it in a way that improves the health and safety of the vulnerable individuals.

Part III talks about the tools available to approach the housing issue. There are 13 tools identified that can be used in a variety of ways throughout the region. Mr. Peters stated that CZB, the consultant for the Housing Strategy had also provided services for the Alleghenies Ahead Regional Comprehensive Plan and it was the intent to tie in the Regional Housing Plan. There are specific tools for specific situations throughout the region:

- Downtown:
 - rental rehab subsidies for existing market-rate units
 - rental subsidies for developers and owners of new market-rate units

- equity pool for rental or mixed-use developments (most impactful)
- land use and development regulation updates. It was noted that developers are happy to comply with regulations, but the regulations and procedures are not consistently applied and can be extremely varied from municipality to municipality and from county to county. Developers are looking for consistency and conformity to the regulations.

- Tipping-Point Communities/Middle Neighborhood Preservation:
 - Financial support for homeowners for above market upgrades
 - Acquisition/rehab/resell existing homes
 - Proactive acquisition/demolition of land banking of obsolete and blighted housing
 - Expand regulations of rental conditions with strong enforcement
 - Rental rehab subsidies for existing market-rate units

The proposed framework for this strategy is a multi-faceted approach:

- Regional Level = Southern Alleghenies is the task force;
- County level = planner for policy and resource support for local implementation
- Local level = community coalition-building among the local governments, employers, economic development agencies, banks, developers, philanthropy and county government to adopt, implement/modify policies.

In 2023, the Southern Alleghenies Regional Housing will identify partners to establish a housing task force to begin embracing the strategy and how to implement it. The task force will consist of targeted individuals who are willing to work for its purpose and will recognize, support and expand emerging coalitions. The task force will rely on the counties and their decision-makers to help identify each county's community partners and priorities.

In 2024, Southern Alleghenies will work with the community coalition to develop annual housing action plans. Mr. Peters conveyed a statement made by the CZB company, that this housing issue will not resolve on its own; it will continue its current trend, degraded housing stock, if we do not act quickly. The SAP & DC feels the best way to address the issue is for each of the six regional counties adopt and implement a similar strategy.

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Peters if the documents presented today have been sent to the local municipalities. Mr. Peters responded that it has not yet been sent out to the local municipalities, that it was just recently adopted. He further explained that the municipalities are aware of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Housing Plan and that the document is available at <https://sapdc.org/regional-housing-strategy>.

Ms. Smith complemented Mr. Peters on the excellent presentation. She highlighted the inconsistent application of regulations and procedures amount the municipalities and agrees that consistency and compliance of regulations and procedures among the local municipalities is needed to help address the housing issue.

Mr. McFarland added that in the Alleghenies Ahead Comprehensive Plan, one of Blair County's Action Items is for ordinance reform. A determination is needed in terms of whether the ordinances should be unified/county-wide model ordinances. He noted that specific language is needed to address differences between a borough and a township. Mr. McFarland suggested a revolving loan fund as a local investment tool for market-rate housing. Mr. Peters responded that local government and developers will be represented in the community coalition to help identify/develop the ordinance regulations for the municipalities to adopt. Mr. Peters also responded on the revolving loan fund, in that house 'flipper' organizations may be able to receive funding.

Commissioner Erb commented that Blair County's economic development agency, the ABCD Corp regularly discusses the housing issue. Mr. Peters stated Southern Alleghenies is hopeful ABCD Corp is willing to serve on the housing task force.

6. Alleghenies Ahead Regional Housing Strategy -

Mr. McFarland suggested the Blair County Planning Commission to adopt the Southern Alleghenies Regional Housing Plan as a policy document that it can help implement. He would also like to send a recommendation to the County Commissioners to formally adopt the Plan as well.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #6 on this agenda:
Moved: Lawrence Carter
Seconded: James Dixon
Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

Mr. Peters agreed to allow posting the Regional Housing Plan on the Blair County Planning's website.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

7. Green Bean Coffee House – located at 1613 and 1625 North Juniata Street in Blair Township. The plan proposes a lot line change, re-purposing an existing, two-story building into office space on the second floor and a coffee bean roasting facility on the first floor. The plan also proposes new construction to build a 1,965 square-foot café/coffee house. Two existing outbuildings will be demolished prior to new construction. Access to the new café/coffee house will be a new, 25-foot wide, bi-directional drive that splits into two, 11-foot-wide drive-thru aisles and a 10-foot-wide bypass lane. An existing 24-foot wide, bi-directional drive will provide access to the coffee bean roasting facility. Adequate parking is planned for both buildings, as well as sidewalks, curbing and stripping. Ms. Caron recommended the inclusion of bicycle parking. The plan does include some landscaping, but Ms. Caron recommended additional landscaping for the new café/coffeehouse area.

Ms. Caron responded to a question to clarify that no driveway will exist between the bean roasting facility and the café, just a five-foot cement walkway. There was a brief discussion on the inability for vehicle to turn around once entered in the parking lot. A recommendation will be made to the developer to provide increased vehicle maneuverability in the site.

Mr. Baechle raised the issue on the lack of sidewalk connectivity and that sidewalks are not a development requirement in either Blair or Allegheny Townships and some others. There was a brief discussion, during which Mr. Baechle recommended a letter be sent to encourage sidewalk installation to provide a connectable pedestrian path and suggested there may be funding for this type of project. Chairman Hall directed this recommendation be made further down the agenda under the Planning Commission Forum, not for this project.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #7 on this agenda:
Moved: Thomas Holsinger
Seconded: Lawrence Carter
Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

8. Claysburg Dollar General Store – located along Polecat Hollow Road in Greenfield Township. The proposed plan includes subdividing a 10-acre parcel to create a 1.4-acre lot and construction of a 10,640-square foot Dollar General Store. There are 35 parking spaces proposed, including (2) ADA spaces, however, the Township requires 42 spaces. The issue is being deferred to the Township for final determination. It is recommended the developer include bicycle parking. Access to the site is a bi-directional driveway and a 27-foot drive aisle will accommodate delivery trucks. Additional landscaping is recommended along the building, as well as along Route 220 and Polecat Hollow to reduce headlight glare. Although the site is in both the 100- and 500-year floodplain, the finished floor elevation of the structure is approximately 7 to 10 feet above regulatory flood elevation. It is recommended that the developer consult with Greenfield Township and DEP and potentially PEMA to ensure the facility design is in accordance with Greenfield Township's ordinances. The proposed stormwater management plan will manage post-construction runoff from the site.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #8 on this agenda:
Moved: Lawrence Carter
Seconded: Linda Smith
Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

9. Staff Level Reviews - Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:
- City of Altoona: Timothy and Kathleen Loose No-Impact Subdivision & Side Lot Addition
 - Allegheny Township: Patrick & Susan McFarland Lot Merger
 - Blair Township: Lwellyn & Ashley Martin Lot Line Relocation

- Frankstown Township: Woomer-Cassarly Subdivision
- Freedom Township: Terry McConnell and Robert Smith Lot Line Relocation
- Greenfield Township: Barnes Subdivision Plan
- Logan Township: Lingenfelter Subdivision Plan
- Logan Township: Wise Subdivision Plan
- North Woodbury Township: Weaver Non-build Subdivision
- Snyder Township: Baughman Farm Estates
- Woodbury Township: Houck Development Plan

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #9 on this agenda:

Moved: Patrick Baechle

Seconded: Thomas Holsinger

Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

10. Staff Level Reviews – Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:

- Bellwood Borough and Antis Township: Bellwood Borough Authority, Water Line Replacement, Phase 3, NPDES Chapter 102 permit application
- Hollidaysburg Borough: Sorge Funeral Home, Air-Quality State-Only Permit Renewal Application
- Martinsburg Borough: Martinsburg Municipal Authority, Water Quality Mgt Part II, minor amendment
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- Greenfield Township, Mackin Engineering, Claysburg Dollar General, Chapter 102 permit application
- Taylor Township, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Inc. for Roaring Spring Quarry, State-Only Operating Air Quality Permit Renewal
- Tyrone Township: Sickles Corner Dry Hydrant, Intake and Outfall Structures GP-4 Permit Application

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations listed for Item #10 on this agenda:

Moved: Linda Smith

Seconded: Thomas Holsinger

Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

11. Staff Level Review - Letter of Support – Planning staff has reviewed and responded to the following requests since the last meeting. Commission members were given an opportunity via email to review these requests prior to response letters being sent:

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission: A letter of support was provided to the SAP & DC for their DCNR grant application to receive continued funding through the Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for letters of support in Item #11 on this agenda:

Moved: Lawrence Carter

Seconded: James Dixon

Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

LONG-RANGE PLANNING:

12. Healthy Blair County Coalition – Planning Director David McFarland reported on the following:
- a. Sustainability Status – Coalition Director Coleen Hiem will retire near the end of 2023. A subcommittee was formed to assist in developing MOU's and other documents to help with sustainability

- b. Health Needs Assessment – Blair County Planning Commission may take on the next assessment in an effort to provide stability and continuity, perhaps as a quality of life survey
- c. Spring Fitness Challenge – It may become an early summer fitness challenge
- d. Active Living Brochure – Ms. Caron is working on this with the goal to release the brochure at the 'Let's Move Day' at Lakemont on June 10, 2023
- e. Let's Move Day at Lakemont Park – The event is geared to get people interested in being active and is being combined with two or three other events, the Adventure Fest and Touch-A-Truck.

13. Active Mobility – Mr. McFarland reported:

- a. Committee Update – topics/areas of expertise have been identified and 'feelers' are out. It is the goal to have members in place in the next month
- b. Unified Planning Work Program Amendments – Mr. Burket explained that a written description on the Active Mobility Plan was required for the MPO to submit and obtain funding. Mr. McFarland commented that the funds will amount to approximately an extra \$16,000 for next year.
- c. Trail Planning Grant Possibilities – Strategic Planner Sherry Socie has been working with Mr. McFarland and the DCNR. Ms. Socie explained that DCNR regional manager and advisor (from Harrisburg) will meet with the Planning Commission on April 5 to review area mapping and to familiarize the new regional advisor with the Blair County area and some of the projects already in the works or potential projects. They will finish up the day in Williamsburg Borough and looking at the Rails to Trails.
- d. WalkWorks – Mr. McFarland reported that this project is continuing but many things are preempting it at this time. He explained that this ties in with Item #15, WalkerTracker but due to the length of the meeting he tabled Item #15. He did explain that WalkWorks is designed to track steps and that the WalkerTracker was produced and offered by the State but then dropped in reaction to the pandemic. The Planning Commission would like to pick it up again; and possibly for a one-time charge that is nearly equal to the annual fee for the State's WalkerTracker.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

14. Planning Director's Report – The Planning Director updated the Board and staff on the following professional development and administrative issues:
- a. Municipal Outreach Meetings – these are nearly complete; the municipalities report continued issues with bridges and hazard mitigation. Also, the Planning Commission will offer assistance to municipalities to coordinate regionalized development requirements.
 - b. Government Advisory Committee (GAC) – SAP&DC's Brandon Peters presented the Regional Housing Strategy at the recent GAC meeting. Due to low attendance the topic of Local Shares was tabled to the next GAC meeting.
 - c. Altoona Comprehensive Plan – the steering committee will provide to the Planning Commission its recommendation of which consultant to hire; the Planning Commission will take that recommendation to Counsel who will provide the authorization to enter into a contract with the consultant
 - d. Bellwood and Antis Township Planning – Both municipalities would like to do some planning work. Antis in particular is looking at ordinances and a comprehensive plan. At the next Antis Township meeting Mr. McFarland will assist the Township manager in explaining the benefits of comprehensive plan.
 - e. Request to Televising Meetings – Mr. McFarland explained that a request has been made to televise the Planning Commission meetings via the Public Access channel. For example, today's meeting would have provided the public with information on the Regional Housing Strategy. Another benefit of televising the meetings creates the opportunity for people to be connect with their local governments. Mr. McFarland is asking for a consensus on televising the Planning Commission meetings. Chairman Hall commented on Devon Saylor's attendance at today's meeting as a potential new board member. Mr. Hall stated that getting younger people involved is nice to see, they have a stake in implementing things for what will happen in the future. The televised meetings may attract younger people to serve as Board members.
15. WalkerTracker Contract Authorization – Mr. McFarland tabled the item at this time.

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Burket about pedestrian walks/sidewalks as it relates to PennDOT District 9 meeting certain requirements. Mr. Burket responded that this is a state-wide issue, not just District 9, that there is a higher level of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities in Pennsylvania. He explained that federal funds are available state-wide to put in pedestrian count-down timers, etc. for safety improvements.

Ms. Socie provided an update on the following grants:

-DCED Local Shares Grant: Blair Township was awarded \$138,775 to purchase a mower tractor. The award was released on March 15, 2023. However, the mower increased \$30,000 between the application submittal and the release of the award.

-PCCD Law Enforcement Grant: the County was awarded \$4.3 million dollars. The budget required amending which has been completed and was resubmitted. Because the grant is a significant amount, the process will go through the Office of Judicial Counsel and the Attorney General. This process will take approximately 8 to 10 weeks until it is physically approved and have a working contract. The PCCD grant award brings the total current grant awards to \$4.8 million over the last 12 months.

Mr. McFarland asked for three (3) volunteers to form a committee for the purpose of meeting within the next month to prioritize the local bridges for the MPO. Mr. McFarland suggested Mr. Holsinger and Mr. Postles because of their background. Mr. Burket explained that for its two-year update, the MPO receives from the Blair County Planning Commission, recommendations on ranking the local bridges and roads, which may include state bridges and roads. The Planning Commission's recommendations are due by the end of April. Ms. Smith and Mr. Dixon volunteered if Mr. Postles and Mr. Holsinger are not available.

16. Planning Commissioners' Forum – Mr. Baechle made a recommendation to have a letter drafted to Allegheny and Blair Townships to request the Townships to consider extending the sidewalks to connect Legion Park to the Meadows Ice Cream intersection. The letter will offer grants or potential solutions and that Ms. Socie can assist them in locating grant funding.

Motion: To draft a letter to Allegheny and Blair Townships to provide the recommendations in Item #16 on this agenda:

Moved: Patrick Baechle

Seconded: Lawrence Carter

Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

17. Questions from the Media – Mr. Frank asked about the televising of the meetings, specifically if today's discussion was only for review and/or will it be voted on. Mr. McFarland responded that it does not need a vote and also stated there is Board consensus to televise the Planning Commission meetings. The televising company will be invited but there is no guarantee if they will be present at the meetings. Mr. McFarland also stated the company did not make the request but rather the request came from other people.

18. Upcoming Events –

- April 1 thru 4 – APA National Planning Conference, Philadelphia
- April 7 – Good Friday; Office Closed
- April 8 – Dirty Kiln Trail Races, Canoe Creek State Park
- April 8 – Easter Egg Hunt, Horseshoe Curve
- April 13 – Fair Market Rent Roundtable
- April 19 – Southern Alleghenies CAP, Zoom

Mr. Burket announced another meeting that was just announced:

- April 17 – PennDOT District 9 Outreach, in-person or on-line, to review all bridge and highway projects in the county.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Planning Commission Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

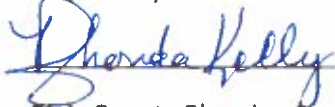
Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Moved: Linda Smith

Seconded: Patrick Baechle

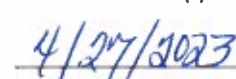
Voted: in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted



Blair County Planning Commission

Date Minutes Approved



Minutes – March 30, 2023

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