



Blair Planning

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

BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting of January 26, 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 October 27, 2022 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.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

5. 5th Street Park Improvements - located along North 5th and Locke Streets in Antis Township - This proposal is for the utilization of DCNR grant funds for the purpose of rehabilitating Fifth Street Park. This proposal includes the removal of an existing dilapidated pavilion and landscaping as well as the construction of a natural play area. Additional improvements to the site include new landscaping, perimeter fencing, sidewalks, and parking area.
6. Freedom Storage Rentals - located along Travelers Road in Freedom Township – This proposal is for the construction of two new storage buildings totaling 9,600 SF at the existing Freedom Rentals site. Additionally, minimal site grading, gravel drive, ADA accessible parking spaces, and soil restoration are proposed as part of this plan.
7. Sheetz Logistics Center Expansion – located along Corporate Boulevard in Greenfield Township. This proposal is for the construction of a new 102,900 SF warehouse building with associated docks and a parking expansion. Additional development includes a 40,700 SF freezer expansion and 68,655 SF storage expansion to the current Distribution Center as well as associated access drives, utility extensions, stormwater management improvements, and demolition of existing access drives and parking areas.
8. T.L. Long Agway Road Land Development - located along Agway Road in North Woodbury Township - This proposal is for the development of a macadam pad for the purpose of storing construction materials and equipment at an existing parcel owned by Terry L. Long Excavating, Inc. Additional improvements to the site include grading and stormwater management facilities; however, no structural development is proposed as part of this plan.
9. Sollenberger Land Development Plan - located along Henrietta Road in North Woodbury Township - This proposal is for the construction of a concrete manure storage facility on a 63-acre dairy farm owned by Eric E. and Jamie R. Sollenberger. Additionally, this facility will include a pump-out concrete pad with access ramp, access drive, and concrete push-off ramp from the existing barn to the proposed manure storage.
10. Development Reviews Previously Approved via email –

- City of Altoona: Valley View Park Amphitheater
- Logan Township: Pine Street Townhomes

11. Staff Level Subdivision and Land Development Reviews:

- City of Altoona: Baker Lot Consolidation Plan
- City of Altoona: Berardinelli-Davis Subdivision Plan
- Duncansville Borough: Jackson Street Investments, LLC Gravel Truck Parking
- Martinsburg Borough: Hoover Subdivision Plan
- Allegheny Township: Conner Property Line Change
- Allegheny Township: Wronski Subdivision Plan
- Antis Township: Dawson and Himes Lot Line Adjustment
- Antis Township: Himes Subdivision Plan
- Antis Township: Huey Subdivision Plan
- Antis Township: McCartney and Cowan Lot Line Adjustment
- Blair Township: Lanier Lot Merge
- Catharine Township: England Subdivision Plan
- Catharine Township: Holencik-Lear Lot Line Change
- Frankstown Township: Hilling-Yeager Subdivision
- Greenfield Township: Sheetz Lot Merge Plan
- North Woodbury Township: Huntsman and Kulp Lot Line Change
- North Woodbury Township: Kensinger-Showalter Lot Line Adjustment Plan
- North Woodbury Township: North Woodbury Township Lot Merge
- North Woodbury Township: Swindell New Garage Addition

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

12. 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:

- Blair County: DCED Community Development Block Grant Program
 - FY 22 thru 26 Housing Rehabilitation – Owner Occupied, Single Unit Residential, \$587,950
 - FY 22 Residential Water Lateral Installation – Everett Road Area, \$100,000
- Blair County: DCED HOME Investment Partnership Program
 - FY 22 Housing Rehabilitation – Owner Occupied, Single Unit Residential, \$315,000
- City of Altoona: 58th Street Realty, LP – Application to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development – Roselawn Parking and Storage Units
- Allegheny Township: P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. for Allegheny Township – Theater Drive Access Improvement Project – PA DEP Chapter 105 Permit Application for Water Obstructions and Encroachment
- Allegheny Township: FBG Development Associates – Application to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development – Fox Hollow Subdivision
- Allegheny and Logan Townships: Peoples Natural Gas Company – Application to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – General Permit – Logan Boulevard Gas Line Replacement Project
- Blair Township: Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority – Application to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Chapters 102, 105, and Water Quality Management Permits – Reservoir Road Pump Stations Installation

- Blair Township: Comcast – Application to Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission – Alteration of (Two) Crossings – Norfolk Southern Railroad and Everett Railroad Company – Aerial Wire Crossings at Third Avenue
- Frankstown Township: Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co. Inc. – Application to PA DEP – Air Quality General Permit Renewal – Batch Asphalt Plant
- Frankstown Township: Hollidaysburg Sewer Authority – Application to PA DEP – Chapter 102 Permit for Land Development – Berwind Road Sanitary Sewer Installation
- Logan Township: Application to PA DEP – NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities – Lakemont Area Sanitary Sewer Replacement
- Logan Township: Stiffler McGraw for Logan Township – Klock Development Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project – NPDES General Permit Application for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities Notice of Intent – PA DEP GP-3 Stream Bank Protection Application
- Woodbury Township: Cove Forge Behavioral Health System – Application to PA DEP – NPDES Permit Renewal – Cove Forge Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Hollidaysburg Borough: The EADS Group for D Holdings, Inc. – DeGol Industrial Center – Ongoing grading and utility work – NPDES Permit Renewal Application

13. 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:

- Statewide – PennDOT's Grant Application to Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) – Pennsylvania Rail Modernization: Expanding Amtrak Passenger Rail Service on the Keystone West Corridor
- City of Altoona – Grant Application to PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund – Juniata Gap Lighting Project
- Blair Township – Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority – COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act H2O PA Grant Application – Wastewater Extension, Reservoir Road
- Blair Township/Hollidaysburg Borough – Grant Application to PA DCED for H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water – Gaysport-Penn Farms Stormwater Improvements
- Frankstown Township – Grant Application to PA DCED H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Program – Rolling Hills and Oldtown Village Sanitary Sewer Replacement
- Logan Township – Grant Application to PA DCED COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act Small Water and Sewer Program – Water Line Installation along Lower Riggles Gap Road
- Logan Township – Grant Application to PA DCED for H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water – Klock Development and Lakemont Phase 3B Sanitary Sewer Replacement
- Logan Township – Grant Application to PA Infrastructure Investment Authority – Klock Development Sanitary Sewer Improvements
- North Woodbury Township – Curryville Water Authority Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Water Meter Installation Project
- Duncansville Borough – Grant Application for COVID-19 ARPA Small Water and Sewer Program – Storm Sewer Improvements, 10th Avenue
- Hollidaysburg Borough – Grant Application to PA DCED for H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water – Spring Street Storm Sewer Installation
- Newry Borough – Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Sanitary Sewer Improvements
- Williamsburg Borough – Grant Application to PA DCED for H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water – High Street Stormwater Improvements

- Williamsburg Borough – Williamsburg Municipal Authority Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Equipment Replacement at Williamsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Williamsburg Borough – Williamsburg Municipal Authority Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Installation of Permanent Generator at Existing 4th Street Water Pumping Station

GRANTS

- Logan Township – Green Light Go Grant, Letter of Support for Logan Boulevard Traffic Signal Improvement Project
- BRIC FEMA application for \$314,000 for the ACT 167 Stormwater Management Plan submitted 1/20/20
- Award of \$4.3 million for the PCCD Local Law Enforcement Grant on behalf of the County of Blair for communication equipment needs for the 14 local law enforcement agencies, the DA's office and Blair EMA 911 communications upgrade
- Both DCNR Fall Funding Round & DCED Grant applications for Duncansville Community Park were not funded. Consultation with both departments stated the applications scored well, however, they received a high volume of applications with only a limited amount of funds to award.
- DCNR just opened their Spring Funding round and DCED should be opening their Local Shares funding round soon.
- DCED Flood Mitigation grant application will be submitted on behalf of Tyrone Township for culvert replacements on the backroad of Sickles Corner. To be submitted by the end of May, 2023.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

14.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

15. 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):
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:
 - January 27 – Blair Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast Meeting
 - February 8 – PAC Meeting
 - February 16 – Southern Alleghenies CAP Meeting (monthly)
 - February 21 – Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM on February 23, 2023 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.



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BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes for January 26, 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
Thomas M. Holsinger
Benjamin Postles
Bruce Erb

Representing:

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

Members absent:

Herbert Shelow, Sr. Secretary
Lawrence Carter
Randall Isenberg
Linda Smith

Boroughs Collectively
City of Altoona
City of Altoona
Townships Collectively

Solicitor:

Absent

Guests:

Bryan King
Walt Frank

Citizen
Altoona Mirror

Staff:

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

Staff Absent:

Jamie L. Klink, Regional Planner

2. Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the October 27, 2022 Blair Planning Board meeting were considered for approval.

Motion: To approve the October 27, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, for Item #2 of this agenda:

Moved: Tom Holsinger

Seconded: James Dixon

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

3. Public Comment Period – There were no public comments.
4. Commissioner Liaison Forum – Commissioner Erb reported that the County's budget was adopted. He thanked Dave McFarland and Sherry Socie for their help on the PCCD Grant and of recent discussions.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

5. 5th Street Park Improvements - located along North 5th and Locke Streets in Antis Township -This proposal is for the utilization of DCNR grant funds for the purpose of rehabilitating Fifth Street Park. This proposal includes the removal of an existing dilapidated pavilion and landscaping as well as the construction of a natural play area. Additional improvements to the site include new landscaping, perimeter fencing, sidewalks, and parking area.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #5 on this agenda:

Moved: Benjamin Postles

Seconded: Thomas Holsinger

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

6. Freedom Storage Rentals - located along Travelers Road in Freedom Township. This development plan proposes construction of two additional, new storage buildings totaling 9,600 square feet at the existing Freedom Rentals site. The plan includes ADA accessible parking but it is not a requirement for this type of development. Minimal site grading is proposed; additionally, a 2,180 square feet grave area will become a grassy area utilizing amended soils that will mitigate post storm runoff to less than the pre-construction run off, thus eliminating an environmental concern.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #6 on this agenda:

Moved: Thomas Holsinger

Seconded: James Dixon

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

7. Sheetz Logistics Center Expansion – located along Sheetz Way and Corporate Boulevard in Greenfield Township. This plan proposes construction of a new 102,900 SF logistics center with associated parking and docks for truck loading/unloading. The plan also proposes a 40,700 SF freezer expansion onto the distribution center, as well as a 68,655 SF storage expansion to the current distribution center. Additionally, the plan includes an expansion to the parking lot and associated access drives. Ms. Caron addressed the parking areas, noting that with the expansion to the current parking, along with the additional proposed 194-space parking lot, that this development would be in excess of the parking requirements by 218 parking spaces. Ms. Caron recommends landscaped islands in the parking lots, noting that the current distribution center is already located in a floodplain and that there are protected wetlands along the rear of the property. The site currently has existing bio-retention facilities and the proposed plan includes additional bio-retention facilities such as rain gardens, soil amendments and grassland swales to management. Additionally, Ms. Caron also recommended installation of 'Do Not Enter' sign in the truck area for the far left lane to make the lanes more intuitive.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #7 on this agenda:

Moved: Benjamin Postles

Seconded: Patrick Baechle

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

8. T. L. Long Agway Road Land Development - located along Agway Road in North Woodbury Township. This proposal is for the development of a 270 foot by 185 foot macadam pad for the purpose of storing construction materials and excavating equipment at an existing parcel owned by Terry L. Long Excavating, Inc. A 24-foot wide, bi-directional drive provides access to the site off of an existing 35-foot wide construction easement off of Agway Road. Ms. Caron recommended that if the

proposed site were to be occupied after dark or low-light times that light fixtures be installed to sufficiently illuminate the area for safety reasons for site users. The site does include a small presence of wetlands on the site, however there is no structural development proposed. To address any negative impact to the wetlands, the plan includes grading, infiltration basins and standard detention basins to manage runoff and control the rate of infiltration.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #8 on this agenda:

Moved: Thomas Holsinger

Seconded: Benjamin Postles

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

9. Sollenberger Land Development Plan - located along Henrietta Road and Sollenberger Lane in North Woodbury Township. This proposal is for the construction of a 106-foot diameter, concrete manure storage facility on a 63-acre dairy farm. Additionally, this facility will include a pump-out concrete pad with access ramp, access drive, and concrete push-off ramp from the existing barn to the proposed manure storage facility. The developer's plan states that stormwater best management practices were designed to limit post construction runoff rates and volumes to less than existing to help mitigate any negative impacts on the watershed.

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

Moved: James Dixon

Seconded: Thomas Holsinger

Abstention: Benjamin Postles

Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

10. Development Reviews Previously Approved via email: The December 2022 meeting was canceled due to weather, however, the following items were time sensitive for approval. As such, the items were emailed to the Board for review and vote-approved via phone.

- City of Altoona: The proposed plan for the Valley View Park Amphitheater provides for the demolition of the existing stage and associated piers and construction of a new amphitheater with paved parking with ADA access and sidewalks throughout.
- Logan Township: The plan for the Pine Street Townhomes proposes the construction of four, 2-bedroom townhouse dwelling units on a vacant, .29-acre wooded lot. The plan includes sidewalks, landscaping and stormwater management.

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

Moved: James Dixon

Seconded: Benjamin Postles

Voted: 5 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

11. 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:

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- Allegheny Township: Conner Property Line Change
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- Antis Township: Himes Subdivision Plan
- Antis Township: Huey Subdivision Plan

- Antis Township: McCartney and Cowan Lot Line Adjustment
- Blair Township: Lanier Lot Merge
- Catharine Township: England Subdivision Plan
- Catharine Township: Holencik-Lear Lot Line Change
- Frankstown Township: Hilling-Yeager Subdivision
- Greenfield Township: Sheetz Lot Merge Plan
- North Woodbury Township: Huntsman and Kulp Lot Line Change
- North Woodbury Township: Kensinger-Showalter Lot Line Adjustment Plan
- North Woodbury Township: North Woodbury Township Lot Merge
- North Woodbury Township: Swindell New Garage Addition

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

Moved: Thomas Holsinger

Seconded: Patrick Baechle

Abstention: Benjamin Postles -Catherine Township for the England Subdivision Plan and Frankstown Township for the Hilling-Yeager Subdivision Plan

Voted: 5 in favor, one abstention, so ordered by Chairperson

METROPOLITAN CLEARINGHOUSE

12. 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:

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 - FY 22 thru 26 Housing Rehabilitation – Owner Occupied, Single Unit Residential, \$587,950
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- Logan Township: Stiffler McGraw for Logan Township – Klock Development Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project – NPDES General Permit Application for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities Notice of Intent – PA DEP GP-3 Stream Bank Protection Application
- Woodbury Township: Cove Forge Behavioral Health System – Application to PA DEP – NPDES Permit Renewal – Cove Forge Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Hollidaysburg Borough: The EADS Group for D Holdings, Inc. – DeGol Industrial Center – Ongoing grading and utility work – NPDES Permit Renewal Application

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #12 on this agenda:

Moved: Patrick Baechle

Seconded: Benjamin Postles

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

13. 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:

- Statewide – PennDOT's Grant Application to Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) – Pennsylvania Rail Modernization: Expanding Amtrak Passenger Rail Service on the Keystone West Corridor
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- North Woodbury Township – Curryville Water Authority Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Water Meter Installation Project
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- Williamsburg Borough – Grant Application to PA DCED for H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water – High Street Stormwater Improvements
- Williamsburg Borough – Williamsburg Municipal Authority Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Equipment Replacement at Williamsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Williamsburg Borough – Williamsburg Municipal Authority Grant Application to PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Program – Installation of Permanent Generator at Existing 4th Street Water Pumping Station

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #13 on this agenda:
Moved: Thomas Holsinger
Seconded: James Dixon
Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

Grants:

Logan Township, Green Light Go Grant - Logan Township is working with Hollidaysburg Borough, the City of Altoona and Allegheny Township to upgrade the traffic signal equipment at 12 intersections located from Hollidaysburg to Plank Road. Wes Burket, Transportation Planner explained that three (3) of the intersections are located in Hollidaysburg that are planned for the first year. PennDOT has announced that six (6) of the intersections are scheduled to receive pedestrian count-down signals, push buttons and curb upgrades over the next few years. Mr. Burket added that the Infrastructure Act directs the MPO Highway Safety Improvement Program funds must be used for vulnerable road user projects when fatalities of vulnerable road users (pedestrians) reach 15 percent or more and that Pennsylvania is currently at 17 percent. PennDOT District 9 is assisting with these projects. Mr. Burket clarified to the Board members that the vulnerable road user crosswalk projects coming through the MPO are upgrades to existing crosswalks, they are not new crosswalks.

Motion: To approve the staff actions and recommendations for Item #14 on this agenda:
Moved: James Dixon
Seconded: Benjamin Postles
Voted: 6 in favor, no abstentions, so ordered by Chairperson

Strategic Planner Sherry Socie provided an update on the following grant applications:

- BRIC FEMA application for \$314,000 was submitted on January 20, 2023. This funding would provide funding to do the County-wide Stormwater Management Plan (Act 167). To date, there is not a timeframe for the award notice. This grant is a pass-through from FEMA to PEMA; as such, the application is first submitted to PEMA for review and is sent on to FEMA under the BRIC funding program.
- The PCCD Law Enforcement Grant was awarded for \$4.3 million, of the near \$5.4 million that was applied for. Ms. Socie noted that the award was one of the top four (4) highest-funded grants in the Commonwealth. There are some budget changes being made, along with the Commissioners' Office; it is anticipated to be re-submitted next week.
- Grant applications were submitted to both the DCNR and the DCED for the Duncansville Community Park project. Funding was not received for either of the two (2) grant applications. Ms. Socie had phone conferences with both the DCNR and the DCED, during which the agencies explained that our applications had scored well. They further explained that this round of funding, nearly \$18 million between the two programs, was highly competitive with the volume of applicants being nearly three (3) times the applications normally received.

The DCNR spring round of funding just opened and will accept applications through April 2023. Several Blair County municipalities may be submitting applications. Ms. Socie explained that the spring funding round requires a 50/50 cash match, whereas the fall round match is significantly less, adding to the competitiveness in the fall round. She noted that the spring requirements typically are not feasible for the smaller municipalities.

- DCED local shares funding is generated from the Commonwealth's casino revenue. They have not announced the opening for applications as yet. DCED still has to announce awards for grant applications submitted last Spring, of which a grant application was submitted for Blair Township in March 2022.

A DCED grant application will be submitted by the end of May 2023 for Tyrone Township. The Township has two (2) culverts (out of 15) that need replaced. The culverts to be replaced are located on the back road to Sickie's Corner.

Ms. Socie explained this is the typical window of time many grant applications open for State funding. She is currently working with two other municipalities on their funding needs.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

14. The Planning Director Dave McFarland reported on the following:

Members from the Planning Commission staff have begun their municipal outreach visits. Meeting individually with the municipalities provides the opportunity to engage and for each other to gain an understanding of what the other is doing, such as projects; for example, the culvert project in Tyrone Township.

The Planning Commission is assisting Bellwood Borough with its consideration of its ordinances for zoning in terms of subdivision/land development and for its codification project.

Antis Township is interested in doing a comprehensive plan and would very much like to have Bellwood Borough participate as a joint effort. The Planning Commission will do a community outreach for the Township to gain an understanding of what its citizens want in their community. There will be a focus on recreation, a hot topic five years ago and are there other topics that should be looked at, such a transportation, policing, sewer issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

15. Planning Director's Report

The Hazard Mitigation Committee will meet February 21, 2023; Mr. McFarland encouraged attendance for those who can attend a daytime meeting. He stated that a representative from PEMA will give a presentation on the importance of why we do Hazard Mitigation planning, specifically the benefits of doing it and the drawbacks of not doing it. It was noted that municipal participation has dropped state-wide; which technically has not happened in this area. Mr. McFarland urged municipalities to be fully involved in the Hazard Mitigation Plan, not only in the development and adoption, but to participate in the implementation of the Plan.

The Planning Commission attended the City of Altoona's recent mandatory meeting with the perspective consultant. The meeting provided an opportunity to present its need and for the consultant to ask questions, of which there were two (2) questions.

One of which was if the City would entertain an envisioning project. The answer was that it would be part of public outreach and could be included in their proposal for consideration. The other question asked about was the Minority Women Based Enterprises (MWBE) in terms of how the City is accommodating those into the selection process. The answer provided was that the RFP is posted on the City's website; questions will be received through the end of February. All questions and answers will be posted on the website. Proposals are due by ??? (recorder says mid-January), followed by the selection process with an award being announced at the first City Council meeting in April. This will lead into writing an updated planning code that will include new standards and expectations of the community.

Mr. McFarland restated that the Planning Commission's yearly municipal outreach visits are currently underway, during which they take a hard look to compare what each municipality's actual boundaries are to what is recorded on the Census maps; this is important, as the Census delegates about \$67 million dollars of federal infrastructure funding and the municipal boundaries are factored into how the money funds are delegated. In the last few years, Williamsburg and Bellwood Boroughs, as well as the City of Altoona have required corrections. There will be a focus over the next decade to ensure the boundaries are corrected before the 2030 Census occurs. This year, the municipal boundary focus will be on Martinsburg and Woodbury as well as Roaring Spring and Taylor Township.

Chairman Hall commented on an internal review to determine the review fee structure. Mr. McFarland commented that it is being worked on. Mr. McFarland also stated they are looking at a change to the local share structure to determine a base charge that is equal among the municipalities along with the usual base rate. An example was provided as follows: the first 25 percent of the local share fee to be used for our staff services; if the municipality does not need our staff services, that first 25 percent is rolled over into subsequent years. Then, a determined hourly rate provides the opportunity for the municipality to hire the Planning Commission above the initial base number of hours. Chairman Hall stated that this change has not been formalized, it is being looked at and is only a work in progress.

Another topic that has been brought up by some of the municipalities, most recently by Antis. An effort over the years involves recreation trails for various plans. Mr. McFarland would like to create a committee, maybe at the next Planning Commission that will focus on things such as the recreation trails. The committee would be a coordinated effort between the various Plans. Mr. McFarland suggested there be about seven (7) committee members consisting of several people from this Planning Commission, along with people from the community.

Mr. McFarland stated that IUP reached out, stating an Americorp position is available from February to August 2023, looking at doing something with an environmental focus, maybe something with trails and/or depending on their qualifications, maybe a project to address taking down the dead Ash trees, as listed in the current Hazard Mitigation Plan.

16. Planning Commissioners' Forum – No discussion.

17. Questions from the Media – Mr. Frank asked Community Planner MacKenzie Caron to clarify the building names for Item #7, the Sheetz Land Development. Ms. Caron stated that the Sheetz Warehouse Building is the same as the Distribution Center.

18. Upcoming Events –

- January 27 – Blair Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast Meeting
- February 8 – PAC Meeting
- February 16 – Southern Alleghenies CAP Meeting (monthly)
- February 21 – Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The next Planning Commission Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at the Altoona Water Authority, 900 Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Moved: Benjamin Postles

Seconded: James Dixon

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

February 23, 2023
Date Approved

Sherrida Kelly, Planning Aide
Submitted by