

LANCASTER INTER-MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date and Time: October 12, 2011, 7:30AM

Place: Lancaster Township

Attendance:

Columbia Borough: Leo Lutz

East Hempfield Township: Mark Stivers, John Bingham

East Lampeter Township: Ralph Hutchison

East Petersburg Borough: Jim Williams, Robin Hemperly

Lancaster City: Pat Collier, Rick Gray

Lancaster Township: Bill Laudien; Kathy Wasong, Peggie Miller

Manheim Township:

Manor Township:

Millersville Borough: Ed Arnold, Jack Gardner

Mountville Borough: Francis Zimmer

West Hempfield Township: Kent Gardner

West Lampeter Township: DeeDee McGuire, James Kalenich

Others: Senator Lloyd Smucker; Roy Baldwin; Suzanne Teske, LIMC; Michael LaSala, LIMC

1. Call to Order: Chairman Kent Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:30AM and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introduction(s): Chairman Gardner introduced the new Executive Director for the LIMC, Michael LaSala.

3. Speaker(s): Senator Smucker provided comments regarding potential changes to the Prevailing Wage Act through three senate bills introduced. The primary points discussed by Senator Smucker:

- Indicated there have been no major changes to the Act in the last 50 years since its adoption.
- He believes the upcoming months will be the best opportunity to make the necessary changes needed to the Act, and he will need our help.
- Prevailing wage rates do add costs to public works projects and his experience in the construction industry supports that fact.
- When a contractor bids a project where it is unclear if state money will be used to fund the project, the contractor bids both ways (project subject to prevailing wage and the project is not subject to prevailing wages) and the typical gap in the bid is 10% to 20% with the prevailing wage bid higher than the non-prevailing wage bid.

- Referenced a report completed by the Keystone Research Council, who is heavily funded by union organizations, indicating prevailing wage does not add costs to a project and the senator disagrees with this aspect of the report.
- He believes we will never be able to repeal the Prevailing Act altogether, but changes are needed to improve the Act.
- Outlined the basics of each bill introduced:
 - First bill addresses the threshold for a project to be subject to prevailing wages. The bill proposes raising the threshold from \$25,000 to \$200,000. The final threshold amount is yet to be seen though. The threshold will still be applied to the total cost of the project, but Senator Smucker indicated he would support Mayor Gray's comments that the threshold would only apply to how much money is provided by the state.
 - Second bill identifies road maintenance items that should not be subject to prevailing wage rates.
 - Third bill addresses how prevailing wage rates should be calculated.
- The house is also reviewing seven or eight bills addressing the Prevailing Wage Act as well and several have made it through committee.
- Requested facts and figures from real projects to help support the bills.
- Mr. K. Gardner briefly outlined an adopted equipment sharing program in western Pennsylvania that helps bypass the Act for certain maintenance duties and helps the municipalities save money. Senator Smucker would support such a program and offered his help if needed.
- Committee members agreed to provide data to support the bills.
- It was agreed by the committee to draft a resolution in support of the bills.
- The timeline for movement on the bills could be as a few weeks to a few months at this time.

Members of the committee made several comments or raised questions for other matters as follows:

- Mayor Gray indicated Pennsylvania does not have historic tax credits and associated bills, but surrounding states do have programs in place.
- Ms. Wasong requested status on SB899 as it limits a municipality's ability to regulate certain agricultural items. The senator does not believe this bill will pass as is.
- Ms. Wasong raised questions with respect to HB1718 and HB1719. The senator indicated he is very familiar with these bills and does not believe we need to change the overall laws with respect to these items due to a "few bad apples." He does not see this bill moving ahead at this time.

4. **Minutes:** A correction was noted in the minutes of the 8/10/11 meeting: Ms. McGuire clarified she did not speak with Lisa Jackson. Mr. K. Gardner clarified he spoke with Ms. Jackson's aides. Ms. Collier moved, Mr. J. Gardner seconded, and the minutes of the August 10, 2011 meeting were approved with the clarifications provided by Ms. McGuire and Mr. K. Gardner.

Ms. Collier moved, Mr. J. Gardner seconded, and the minutes of the September 14, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Mr. LaSala indicated the format for the treasurer's report would change for future meetings. Mr. K. Gardner noted that the changes completed by Mr. LaSala with the Verizon account resulted in approximate \$25/month savings and a fax line has been added.

Mr. Bingham moved, Mr. Lutz seconded, and the treasurer's report for September 2011 was approved.

6. **Executive Director's Report:** Mr. LaSala provided a brief explanation per department and as outlined in the attached report. The primary points mentioned were as follows:

- Due to the file purge, additional filing cabinets will be available. An exact number of available cabinets will more likely be known by the end of the month.
- The "trick-or-treat" night flyer was distributed to all member municipalities.
- Accounting protocols are being redefined at this time.
- The proposed 2012 budget is under development and will be ready for review at the next meeting.
- Mr. LaSala is working with Schell's Web Design for the creation of a back-door program that will allow the LIMC to update the website on its own.
- A review is being completed on a revised web address which may be www.thelimc.org or www.limc.gov. The issue with www.limc.org is another entity purchased the name and is willing to sell it for approximately \$1749. Mr. LaSala agreed he will try to negotiate the price down prior to the next meeting.

7. **LIMC Initiatives:** Mr. LaSala reviewed the list of attached proposed initiatives and indicated the primary items of focus are the GTRCP implementation and storm water management. Other items noted include:

- EPA/DEP/LIMC/LCCWC Partnership
- Millersville University Partnership (intern program, polling, and outfall sampling)
- Bundled Electricity Initiative
- SWMP: LIMC led public outreach/education program for LIMC region.

8. **Municipal Exchange:**

a. **Boroughs' Report:** Columbia Borough requested the LIMC approach other COG's across the state regarding support of Senator Smucker's bills. Mr. K. Gardner indicated he will contact PACOG to get the word out.

b. **Townships' Report:** no report

c. **Managers' Report:** no report

d. **Other:** Discussions arose regarding the status of proposed US Post Office closings and relocations. It was agreed the committee will develop a resolution supporting the operations at the Harrisburg Pike center and opposing the closings including the downtown Lancaster outlet.

9. **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - a. **LUAB:** No report at this time
 - b. **GPAB:** Per the attached report, Mr. M. LaSala indicated he would prefer to pursue additional items including LCCWC liaison and stormwater management issues as potential inclusion of responsibilities or initiatives with GPAB. Due to time constraints, these items can be tabled until next time. It is felt GPAB is an entity with a lot of talent, but is underutilized by Mr. M. LaSala

10. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Animal Control:** A brief discussion and update was provided contracts with the Humane League. The City of Lancaster indicated it has executed its contract with the Humane League. Mountville Borough is expecting a set of inspections within the next week or two for its possible kennel. If approved, Mountville would not pursue a contract with the Humane League. A possible pursuit may be the LIMC engages in a “deal” with the Humane League that may settle the issue. The LIMC believes an audit or membership on the board may be warranted. It was agreed the county should be involved in the issue as well. Mr. M. LaSala indicated he would follow up with Joan Brown to gather more information if possible.

11. **New Business:**
 - a. **Proposed 2012 municipal contributions to the LIMC:** The proposed municipal contributions spreadsheet was provided to aid municipalities in developing their budgets. It was noted, the exact contribution amounts will not be known until the final EIT numbers have been provided for the year. The total contribution amount on the spreadsheet is \$80,000. However, the sheet should provide guidance at this time as the EIT numbers are from last year.
 - b. **Future meeting times and days:** A discussion ensued regarding potentially staggering meeting days and times - possibly a mix of evening meetings with the usual morning meetings - throughout the year. A primary issue is conflicts between elected official’s work day and the current meeting times. It was agreed this item may warrant more discussion in the future.

9. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 7:30AM at Mountville Borough.

10. **Adjournment:** Mr. K. Gardner adjourned the meeting at 9:10AM.