
President Tim Warren called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and determined quorum established with 10 members present.

The minutes of the February 11 meeting were reviewed. The last page first line was corrected to read, A corporation limit map is being completed by students at Hocking College, and in the fourth paragraph the name of the road should be corrected from Gleneven to Glen Ebon Road. There being no further additions or corrections Steve Pierson moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Paul Wiehl seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Watkins provided the Treasurer’s Report. She indicated the only income for the month of February was a $4.73 workers compensation refund.

President Warren accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Complete County Census 2010 presentation by Nick Claussen: Mr. Claussen distributed handouts regarding completing the 2010 Census Form and what to do if you receive a Census Form with an incorrect address. He emphasized that the goal is to have the forms returned by April 1. If the form is not returned the household will receive a second form. If it is not sent back they will receive a home visit. Mr. Claussen explained the percent return in Athens and surrounding counties versus the City of Athens and Villages in Athens County. There are currently staffed sites for census questions in Coolville and Glouster, with other sites to be opening in mid-March.

Mr. Claussen explained how the Census data is used to bring funds to Athens County. Ted Linscott stated that there is an active 211 info system and urged Mr. Claussen to make sure they have Census information on their system.

President Warren thanked Mr. Claussen for his report and keeping RPC members up to date on the importance of Census data and the dollars it potentially could brings to Athens County.

Proposed Fee Structure: Bob Eichenberg distributed handouts and reviewed the current ACRPC fee structure, a comparison of the fee income from 2008, 2009 and the 2010 proposal, and the proposed fee schedule for 2010.
Members reviewed the fee structure that was adopted in 1995 and discussed the doubling of rates in 2010. Members also discussed the hazard mitigation plan. President Warren noted that a multi-jurisdictional plan is something the Villages would be required to do on their own. Currently the County Planners Office provides a great deal of assistance and this in included in the fee structure. Members discussed the proposed policy and noted that Cities received a 50% increase while Villages a 100% increase and Athens County to receive an increase equal to the largest City. Members discussed making all proposed fee changes a 100% increase. It was recommended that all increases be made equal.

Bob Eichenberg clarified that the City of Athens contribution takes place in an in-kind form as the City of Athens provides office space and shared meeting room space. Members did a line by line item review of current versus proposed fee schedule (see attached). Mark Sullivan explained that many grant administrators receive 15 to 25%. He proposed that the Planners Office start at 2.5% with a goal to increase to 10% administrative fee. Townships would be charged the fee and it would come out of their budget.

Trimble Township Trustee, Smoke Barrett, stated that the townships are doing a lot of grant work compared to what was done in the past. Because of changes in grant requirements they are less enthused about seeking grants. He expressed appreciation for the work that Bob Eichenberg does on behalf of the Townships.

John L. Sullivan clarified that Bob Eichenberg will continue to write Issue 1 grants for the Villages.

Randy Cooper questioned if the administrative percent increases will it have a limit on Villages ability to apply for the grants. Eichenberg replied that it probably would.

If the proposed 2.5% was added, an example was given that Issued 1 currently has a 26% local match that would become 28.5%. Members also reviewed the income spread sheet for the past three years and how the propose changes would impact the fee structure.

Mark Sullivan moved to approve the new fee structure as proposed with changes to the City/County fees to increase 100%. John L. Sullivan seconded the motion.

In pursuing discussion Lenny Eliason asked if it would be possible to phase in the administrative hike in fees. Linda Clark clarified that the County Planners budget would not increase but it would require less from the County General Funds. Lenny Eliason questioned how this would be implemented at this stage noting that townships already have their budgets set for 2010. Members discussed the possibility of the phase in not being effective immediately.

Mark Sullivan proposed a 1-1.25% increase this year and let them know that for 2011 to expect another increase. Mark Sullivan clarified that if the townships are applying for a grant in 2010 it will not be received until 2011 so there would still be time to make the change in next years budget. John L. Sullivan explained his concerns regarding how any increase might keep Villages from applying for grants.

Lenny Eliason moved to table the motion until the April meeting. Paul Wiehl seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
Proposed schedule for Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan: Bob Eichenberg distributed a proposed survey and asked for feedback from ACRPC members. He explained how this survey will be distributed and used. He plans to do some one-on-one survey work to get citizen input and will work to get participation agreements to Cities and Villages.

Eichenberg explained that his office will be sending letters to partnering agencies and asking for feedback from them. They will try to do as much email work as possible. He hopes to be able to do some data analysis over the summer that will lead to the specifics for the plan.

Frank Hare questioned how the timing will work out noting that the Amesville plan may run out soon, and how the schedule will affect them. Eichenberg replied that he believes that Amesville is the first Village in the County with a plan and the countywide plan is based on their date.

Proposed Language for Utility Lot Split: Eichenberg distributed a handout and explained the situation that created a need for clarification. The proposal states: For proposed parcels, to be owned by a utility company and without public road frontage, recommendation for approval of the subdivision can be made by the Planning Director to the County Commissioners if the following conditions are met:

- The proposed division of land involves only one parcel and is needed to serve only one building or structure.
- The ingress/egress easement is at least 20 feet in with.
- The property is not intended as a home site and a home sewage treatment system is not needed.
- The property has been surveyed and a survey drawing, in the form as provided in section 304 of the Subdivision Regulations of Athens County, Ohio and a legal description of the property is submitted with an application.
- The planning Director has reviewed the proposed split and deemed it acceptable.

Chuck Hammer moved to adopt the proposed policy as presented. Paul Wiehl seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Officer Nominating Committee Appointment, President Warren appointed the Nominating Committee of John L. Sullivan, Mark Sullivan, and Steve Pierson.

OLD BUSINESS

County Plan: it was noted that the plan is still being reviewed by the County Prosecutor.

MAYOR REPORTS

Paul Wiehl, Mayor, City of Athens, reported that the round-a-bout of the 682/Richland Avenue will begin approximately April 1.

Steve Pierson, Nelsonville, City Planner, reported that the City Planning Commission has reviewed the parking requirements for multi-family units and are working with a corporate limit zoning map and may have the final maps in place soon.

Joe Scherer asked that RPC members be informed of the March 29th meeting for the second hearing for the CDBG projects. The city has applied for $522,000.
Bob Eichenberg provided an update on the bike path projects. He noted that the county applied for two projects and ODOT has asked for a detailed application for the Athens High School spur.

There being no further business or announcements President Warren announced the next meeting will be April 8, 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office. Paul Logue moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Wiehl seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m.

Penne L. Smith
Secretary

Approved by: ________________________
Title: ______________________________
Date: ______________________________