

ERIE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

150 East Front Street • Suite 300 • Erie, PA 16507

Phone (814) 454-1770 • Email jhkunco@erieareacog.org • Web www.erieareacog.org

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 7, 2021 at 3:00 pm

ZOOM Meeting

Minutes

Municipality	Delegate or Alternate	In Attendance:
Albion Borough	Greg Hemmis	X
Albion Borough, Manager	Gary Wells	X
City of Erie, Mayor	Joseph Schember	X
City of Erie Mayor's Alternate	Mas Sala	X
City of Erie Council	Liz Allen	X
County Council	Mary Rennie	X
County Executive's Representative	Honey Stempka	X
County Executive	Kathy Dahlkemper	X
Borough of Edinboro	Pat Davis	X
Borough of Edinboro, Manager	Kevin Oppe	X
Fairview Township	Mark Gennuso	X
Franklin Township	Dennis Howard	X
Girard Township	Lindy Platz	X
Girard Borough	Rob Stubenbort	X
Greenfield Township	Steve Rathman	
Greene Township	John Bartnicki	X
Greene Township	Rick Allgeier	X
Harborcreek Township	Tim May	X
Lawrence Park Township	Eric Gerardine	
LeBoeuf Township	Michael Porter	
Millcreek Township	Dan Ouellet	X
North East Township	Robert Mazza	
Summit Township	Jack Lee	X
Venango Township	DJ Austin	X
Union City Borough	Cindy Wells	X
Union Township	Earl Brown	X
Wesleyville Borough	Regina Julius	
Invited guests and others in Attendance:		
EA COG	Jessica Horan-Kunco	X
Quinn Law firm	Art Martinucci	X

Member Governments

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Sen. Pat Toomey's office	Sheila Sterrett	X
Purple One	Megan Duda	X
Purple One	Lori Palisin	X
Sen. Dan Laughlin's office	Regina Smith	X
EC Dept of Health	Amy Machinski	X
EC Dept of Health	Breanna Adams	X
EC Dept of Planning	Melinda Meyer	X

A. Call to order: Call to order and roll call of delegates/alternates on the video/audio conference at 3:05 pm.

B. Approval of minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from Feb 3, 2021 General Assembly meeting was made by Honey Stempka and seconded by Tim May and passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment/ Presentations:

1. Creating Communities United Against Domestic Violence, Purple One, Lori Palisin and Meghan Duda

Megan presented the statistics on domestic violence in Erie County. She indicated that the number of people experiencing domestic violence in their lifetimes is on the rise. There are 2 state recognized agencies addressing this in Erie County, Safe Journey and Safe Harbor. Erie County is number 2 in the state for deaths due to domestic violence. Purple One is a program designed to set up safe places for victims to go to get information on where they can get help.

Purple One has 3 main parts:

1. trainings on domestic violence awareness and bystander intervention
2. providing Safe Places where victims can inconspicuously receive information on support agencies
3. driving victim awareness and communicating the importance of preventing domestic violence.

So far Purple One has focused on South East Erie County but is ready to expand. Their goal is to get more people trained, aware and provide more Safe Places throughout Erie County.

Purple One is inviting municipal leaders to upcoming trainings and to recommend Safe Places. Safe Places must be public business, must refer victims to state recognized agencies and will be given communication cards on how to connect the victim to services.

2. Covid 19 Event Guidance update, Erie County Department of Health, Amy Machinski

Amy provided guidance on the process to hold events safely in compliance with the State's targeted mitigation plan. Amy explained the Erie County Health Department's required Covid19 Prevention Checklist for Events. This form is to be used for an event. An event is defined as: a temporary grouping of individuals for a defined amount of time. Examples include: public festivals, fairs, parades, block parties, and business sponsored ticketed events like Galapazooza at the Erie Zoo. The form will evolve as the mitigation orders change. Occupancy limits are identified and will calculate your maximum number of participants based on the square footage of the location holding the event. For outdoor events the occupancy is higher but the square footage is still needed to ensure proper spacing. The venue, such as a city park, is not responsible for this form, the event planner is, so if you rent your park or pavilion the renter is responsible. Municipal parks can set occupancy limits themselves in addition to the guidance. EC DOH is recommending registration so that the event planner will know the number of people in attendance. Also collecting attendees contact information for the purpose of contact tracing in the event of an outbreak. Face coverings are still required and should be enforced at the event. A pandemic safety officer should be assigned. The checklist serves as a plan but is not a get out of jail free card and many other documents and plans may need to be in place. Email completed forms to events@eriecountypa.gov. The EC DOH will assess the level of risk of your event and offer guidance, advice and assistance.

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For large scale events that cover large outdoor community areas ie: fireworks, community concerts and parades with the opportunity to be widely spread out, signage about masking, social distancing will suffice rather than registration.

D. Treasurer's Report: no report

E. Old Business:

1. Joint Bidding Program:
 - a. Road and Streets opening 4/8/21:
 - bids are out right now and will be opened tomorrow on ErieAreaCOG on facebook live.
 - b. General Material quantities needed
 - i. Please get your general material quantity estimates to Jessica asap.
 - ii. For the Hand Sanitizer Stations for parks, we will not go forward with a joint bid since there is not consensus on the products and CDC guidance is changing on sanitizing in parks.
2. Project updates:
 - a. Trees for Union City, Girard Borough, Summit, Wesleyville:
Will be underway soon, locations are needed in Girard Borough.
 - b. Glass Recycling Pilot:
Locations are being monitored for utilization rates. Prism has been reminded that this as a 6 month pilot so not to move out of any of the host municipalities during the pilot.
Mas Sala reported that he had relayed concerns to Nick Bruno at Prism about the risk of children climbing into the container. Nick Bruno provided warning stickers on the containers.
 - c. Fire and EMS Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee
Next meeting on April 13, 2021 at 3:30.
 1. DCED Countywide Study of Fire and EMS: the state is providing 2 expert consultants to evaluate what is happening in Erie County and make recommendations for improvement.
 2. ISO Ratings: The Fire Consultant has requested Public Protection Class or ISO ratings for each municipality. These rating are determined by the availability of fire stations, apparatus and public water availability. This rating is used to set homeowner/ fire insurance rates for residents. Jessica requested that the COG members research this information and provide it.

F. New Business:

1. American Rescue Plan overview and guidance, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and team
County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper presented on the upcoming American Rescue Plan to mitigate the effects of Covid 19 on our communities. The money will be delivered in 2 tranches: 1st in May 2021 and 2nd in May 2022. Most municipalities will get their funds through the state.

Eligible uses of funds include:

- a. responding to Covid19 effects: providing financial aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and the tourism and hospitality industries
 - b. premium pay to essential employees
 - c. replace revenue losses from 2020
 - d. make investments in water, sewer and broadband
- The deadline to spend the money is 12/31/24.
 - The funds may not be deposited into any pension fund
 - Road and bridge projects are NOT eligible uses of this funding
 - Local governments will be required to provide periodic reports
 - Out of compliance uses will be required to be repaid

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Recommendation for use:

- Stabilize local government operations
- Strategize for the future
 - Focus on long term recovery
 - Ensure efforts are inclusive
 - Use funds to spark future prosperity
 - Compliment/ boost existing projects
- Collaborate with our municipalities, agencies, counties, region

Erie County can support municipalities with updated guidance, templates for re-granting of funds, provide assistance with reporting, and identify other programs that may benefit your residents.

It is recommended that municipalities not spend any of their funds until they know the other funding sources available and all the parameters.

Jessica recommended identifying broadband location needs in your municipalities for a future project. Kevin Opple suggested a use of the funding for a project to accurately map broadband availability for all of Erie County.

2. Membership applications:

Fairview Township has made application to join the EACOG. They have passed a resolution as of April 1, 2021. A motion to accept Fairview Township's membership application was made by Tim May and seconded by DJ Austin and passed unanimously.

Union Township will be voting on a resolution to join at their board of supervisors meeting next week

3. Warren County COG assistance: Requesting assistance from Jessica to understand how our COG operates.

4. ECGRA MMC Grant Application due 4/30/21

5. Additional Meeting for May 5, 2021 – focus on Long Range Transportation Plan process: Emily Aloiz will be presenting on the MPO and transportation project planning. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

6. Open discussion of delegate updates

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Davis and seconded by DJ Austin at 4:50 pm.

The next COG meeting will be May 5, 21 at 3:00 pm.

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