

**ERIE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

May 8, 2019  
Wesleyville Borough

MINUTES

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Delegate or Alternate</b>	<b>In Attendance:</b>
City of Erie, Mayor	Joseph Schember	
City of Erie Mayor's Alternate	Mas Sala	X
City of Erie Council	Casimir Kwitowski	X
County Council	Kathy Fatica	
County Executive's Representative	Amy Murdock	
Borough of Edinboro	Pat Davis	X
Franklin Township	Dennis Howard	X
Girard Township	Bill Felege	
Girard Borough	Dennis McNally	X
Greenfield Township	Steve Rathman	
Harborcreek Township	Tim May	
Lawrence Park Township	Cindy Jo Cunningham	X
LeBoeuf Township	Michael Porter	
Millcreek Township	John Groh	X
Summit Township	Jack Lee	X
Venango Township	Eugene Krahe	X
Wesleyville Borough	Paula Lijewski	X
<b>Invited guests and others in Attendance:</b>		
EA COG	Jessica Horan-Kunco	X
Emily Aloiz	Erie County MPO	X
Art Martinucci	Quinn Law firm	

**A. Call to order: Welcome**

**B. Approval of minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2019 General Assembly meeting was made by Jack Lee and seconded by Casimir Kwitowski and passed unanimously

**C. Public Comment:** None

**Presentation: Jeremy Peterson, Executive Director, EMTA**

Mr. Peterson, Executive Director addressed the members.

He discussed the status of the current \$70 Million Capital project. This project includes new bus garage, administrative offices and a parking garage. Mr. Peterson discussed the recent headlines about the local match and Millcreek Township's position to not contributing at the level they have done in the past. Mr. Peterson explained that this impacts EMTA through a reduction in the State and Federal multiplier of \$10 for every \$1 of local match and the paratransit LIFT services which are required to be available within ¾ of a mile of every fixed route.

Fair boxes and radio systems are out of date and being replaced with funding from PennDOT.

Mr. Peterson is working on employee morale and improving the workforce. A campaign, “Get on Board” is underway to encourage new riders by offering free rides for a week. Customer Appreciate Week gave 1200 free rides and several bus passes.

Paratransit (LIFT) service is under consideration by the Governor to transfer to a private contractor administered by a broker. If this occurred EMTA would lose a significant number of customers and employees, and riders would be subject to private drivers who are not properly trained or obligated to provide assistance services.

EMTA is currently reviewing ridership data, holding public meetings, reviewing current routes and planning for future routes based on demographics and customer needs.

COG members can request travel training with Erica Nowak. This is a full equipped training bus that will come out to your community to train residents on how to read route maps and ride the bus.

Senior citizens are entitled to free bus passes that can be used throughout the state.

EMTA is currently running 32 fixed routes, 90 % of these routes travel outside of the City of Erie.

Summit requested bus shelters for upper Peach Street. The City of Erie requested a review of the handicapped boarding issue on Liberty St. and 36<sup>th</sup> St. John Groh informed the group that he did not agree with the decision of Millcreek Township to reduce funding. Millcreek reduced their contribution to \$2400 from \$20,000 in comparison the City of Corry contributed \$8400. John mentioned that all municipalities should contribute fairly. John explained how important the bus and LIFT are to the general public especially persons with disabilities, the elderly and low income populations.

PennDOT requires EMTA to increase its local match by 5% each year. A review of the local funding formula with an equitable distribution will be on the horizon after this year’s crisis is averted. The EACOG or MPO would be places to discuss this issue in the future.

Mr. Peterson and staff can be reached through the website Ride-the-E.com. Jeremy can be contacted at (814) 452-2801 x 115 or (814) 636-9198

#### **D. Treasurer’s Report:**

##### **1. YTD Financial Report**

###### **Statement of Activities reviewed:**

EACOG Operating activities for the year to date including all income and expenses were reviewed. Net Income to date: \$51,000

In the future a report including a comparison to budget was requested.

###### **Balance Sheet reviewed:**

Grant funds are included in the COG Balance Sheet but are restricted for project purposes.

The County Council required reserve account is in place with a current balance of \$15,417.

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$289,183

A motion to approve the financial report subject to audit was made by Casimir Kwitowski and seconded by Jack Lee and passed unanimously.

#### **E. Old Business:**

##### **1. Annual Assembly Reminder: May 9 2:00 – 5:00 Shrine Club**

Reminder that the Annual Assembly is being held tomorrow.

Exploring the Erie Region: History, Nature and Tourism.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly and our topic is less serious than in prior years and instead a celebration of the region.

Dennis Howard encouraged County Planning to attend due to the topic’s connection to future Land Use Planning considerations.

2. **Joint Bidding:** General Material Bids opened May 7, 2019 for catch basins, pipe, sign posts and sidewalk ice melt. No prices were submitted for concrete blocks due to low per unit cost. Results available at [www.erieareacog.org/joint-bidding](http://www.erieareacog.org/joint-bidding)

### **Road material Bids price comparison to Costars**

Road material bids were opened in April. A price comparison of the COG bids to Costars was completed. One reason for the COG bidding is because few local vendors are on Costars. The other reason is that our prices are better. Comparing COG vendors prices for aggregates to Costars shows that our prices are on average .75¢ - \$1.00 per ton cheaper than the statewide Costars prices. The third reason is the time savings of the municipalities not having to research through pages and pages on Costars vendors of administer the bid process individually.

### **3. Project updates:**

- a. **Greater Erie Regional Trails:** The website [www.erietrails.org](http://www.erietrails.org) is up.

New trails can be added. If you have any walking trails in your community, let us know to add them. The website gets a lot of traffic especially for trails that do not have a great web presence. Please let Jessica know of any upcoming events or information on the trail locations in your community.

- b. **Multi-municipal Traffic Signal Preemption Project:**

An ECGRA funded project with Millcreek and Summit is underway to complete their Emergency Preemption Signals in the 2 communities.

- c. **Emergency Management Study:**

Seven municipalities are participating in a DCED study of Emergency Management. Participants must sign a Scope of Service and Articles of Agreement for Technical Assistance to participate. The Study will provide recommendations to the municipal participants. A first meeting will be held soon on a Saturday with the Consultant. We tried to persuade the consultant to consider meeting during the week. He has not been flexible. We will try for an August 3 meeting date.

- d. **Recruitment and Retention Committee:**

This committee is focused on the crisis in volunteers in Fire and EMS. The committee process includes interviews with Chiefs, Fire Company Presidents and elected officials and obtaining data on each department. Letters will be coming soon to municipal officials, chiefs and company presidents requesting this.

After data collected a regional review will be undertaken to help develop recommendations. The next meeting is 5/28 at 3:30 at Erie County Dept of Public Safety

- e. **Shade Tree Planting Project:**

An ECGRA grant for tree plantings is underway. 600+ trees will be planted when it is completed in 11 communities. Non-members can participate 1 time for free.

### **4. Workshop Training Series proposed topics:**

- a. **PennDOT 360:** workshop coming up in June or July to help municipalities to connect with PennDOT for transportation planning. Courtney Lyle from PennDOT will present.

**b. Understanding your Fair Housing responsibilities:** upcoming

**c. Blight Removal Strategies for rural municipalities:**

Presented by the Erie County Land bank in conjunction with their efforts. The workshop will help to prepare municipalities to prevent blight and train on all possible strategies and tools.

**F. New Business:**

**1. Census Outreach Coordinator: MMC Grant Status and municipal funding**

We are applying for an ECGRA MMC grant for \$50,000 for the Census Outreach project.

Municipal commitments have been requested based on population, the City of Erie has committed \$10,000 and the County has committed \$25,000.

Census tracts all over Erie County are expected to be under counted. A federal funding loss for each undercounted person is \$2100. If we can't afford to implement this project, we will be subject to limited time and support on the local level by the US Census Bureau.

Municipal support to date includes Wesleyville, Venango, Union City, Albion Borough, Summit, the City of Erie and the County. Continued commitments are coming.

All the money will be used for the project purpose and there is no administrative reimbursement.

The Census Outreach Coordinator will be a contractor and is currently posted on Indeed.

**2. Open discussion of delegate updates**

- John Groh announced that there will be a PSAT Right to Know and Ethics training at Millcreek Township on May 22 from 1:00 – 4:30.
- There may be a similar training to be held in Wesleyville. More information will be disseminated.
- Jessica presented a quote for a computer for consideration by the delegates. A motion to accept the computer quote as presented was made by Gene Krahe and seconded by Dennis Howard and passed unanimously.

**G. Adjournment:** A Motion to adjourn was made at 4:47 by Dennis Howard and seconded by Gene Krahe.