

**FINANCE MEETING
COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:30 pm**

Present: Commissioners Barbara Cross, Jim Hertzler and Gary Eichelberger; Larry Thomas, Chief Clerk; Joanne Burkhart, Deputy Chief Clerk; Heather Ilgenfritz, Commissioners' Office; Kirk Stoner, Planning Office; Barbara Wilson, Cumberland County Planning Commission; Linda Naugle, Borough of Mt. Holly Springs; Daniel Flint, Lower Allen Township; Justin Smith, GIS; Rose Cook, Transportation; Kyle Kurutz, IMTO; Dan Walmer, The Sentinel; and Steve Marroni, The Patriot News.

Planning and Transportation PFM Recommendations

Chief Clerk Larry Thomas opened the Finance Meeting for discussion on Public Financial Management's (PFM) recommendations to the Planning and Transportation Departments as part of the Mission Review process for potential cost savings.

Planning Department

Kirk Stoner stated that PFM identified the County Planning Department as a non-mandated function, but is still required to provide certain requirements such as a County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Stoner provided a handout to the Board with an overview of the Local Planning Assistance Program, notable past projects, revenue generation potential and department cost savings (see attached).

- Mr. Stoner noted that having a positive relationship with the municipalities is something unique that Cumberland County has. The strong services and relationship with the municipalities distinguishes them from the other 67 counties in the State that have Planning Departments.
- Commissioner Eichelberger asked if the State Planning Board code needs to be rewritten. Mr. Stoner stated that the Planning Code is outdated (1968).
- Barbara Wilson, Linda Naugle and Daniel Flint made comments on how much they appreciated Mr. Stoner's positive relationship in communicating with them and how he and the Planning Department have been a tremendous resource for local municipalities.
- Mr. Stoner discussed that the "barter system" between the County and municipalities is a great asset and improves relations by sharing information along with help in regional planning.

Transportation Department

Rose Cook stated that PFM identified the Cumberland County Transportation Department (CCTD) as a non-mandated function. State law requires local transportation for eligible residents, but the County is not required to provide the service. The General Fund contribution in FY 12-13 to CCTD was identified by PFM as an issue for consideration. Ms. Cook provided a handout to the Board with an overview of financial and operation updates and ongoing cost reduction strategies (see attached).

- Ms. Cook explained that in 2013, there was a fare increase which resulted in the elimination of the General Fund subsidy, but the increase has not had an impact on ridership. Chief Clerk Thomas inquired about reviewing and addressing increases in fares and if they would require a consultant.

- Discussion on the integration of Ecolane software system (PennDOT's pilot program). While the implementation of the new program was not a seamless transition, CCTD did learn some valuable lessons to be shared with other transportation agencies. Commissioner Cross asked that someone take a hard look at the successes of the program and areas where improvements need to be made since it has been in place six months. Ms. Cook stated that they have come a long way but are still working through some issues. She noted that with their staff being smaller than some transportation departments, it has been a real challenge with the pilot program in dealing with frustrated clients, drivers and phone problems.
- CCTD is in the process of hiring more part-time drivers to help eliminate the overtime. Flyers for employment have been distributed to public places and churches.
- There was discussion the age of the vehicle fleet. Ms. Cook stated that the fleet is newer than in the past and they don't have as much downtime.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Ruth Ann Ciecierski
Administrative Assistant