



ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

# MINUTES of the MARCH 24, 2021 MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS

Meeting held on the Zoom Online Platform

## I. CALL TO ORDER

**President Taliani** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## II. ROLL CALL

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Brackenridge Borough	<b>Tim Connelly</b>	Oakmont Borough	<b>John Arnold</b>
Cheswick Borough	<b>Frank Meledandri</b>	Springdale Borough	<b>Shawn Fitzgerald</b>
East Deer Township	<b>Tony Taliani</b>	Springdale Township	<b>Tony Rizzano</b>
Frazer Township	-----	Tarentum Borough	<b>Carrie Fox</b>
Harmar Township	<b>Harry Lenhart</b>	Verona Borough	<b>Dave Matlin</b>
Harrison Township	<b>Chuck Dizard</b>		

<b>STAFF:</b>	<b>John G. Arch</b>	Solicitor
	<b>Thomas J. Benecki</b>	Executive Director
	<b>Susan D. Kephart</b>	Administrative Assistant
	<b>Gordon Taylor</b>	Senate Engineering Co., COG Engineer

## III. PRESENTATIONS: None

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**President Taliani** reported that the February , 2021 minutes had been forwarded to the Board for review and asked for the wish of the Board on their acceptance. **Ms. Fox** moved to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by **Mr. Meledandri** and carried unanimously.

## V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND BILLS

**President Taliani** asked for a motion to pay the regular bills for March, 2021 as listed. **Ms. Fox** moved to pay all bills as presented. Seconded by **Mr. Connelly** and carried unanimously.

UPARC (Rent 3-2021 paid 3-1-2021 ck#7560)	\$ 493.42
(Phone 1-2021 paid 3-1-2021 ch#7560)	88.77
MEIT (AD&D/Life/Dental 4-2021 paid 3-15-2021 ch#7561)	171.57
UPMC Health Plan (Benefits 4-2021 pd 3-19-2021 ch#7562)	1,546.34
Senate Engineering Company (3-2021 Retainer)	275.00
Doing Better Business, Inc. (Copier maintenance #1342115)	6.23
Sams Club (Membership renewal)	85.00
Earthlink (On line service paid 3-3-2021 ch#7538)	<u>100.00</u>
March Bills	\$2,766.33

## VI. REPORT of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The following items of special interest were processed since last month's meeting:

1.) **CDBG Program Year 47/FY 2021's Consolidated Plan Release.** Twenty-two (22) full Applications were submitted to the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) by the COG last November. It is anticipated that the CDBG Program Yr. 47/FY 2021 Allegheny County Consolidated Plan, with the listing of the specific municipal awards to be made, including the Water & Sewer program, the Safe Neighborhoods Demolition program, the COG-wide program, and the Municipal Public Improvements program, will be released in the first week of April 2021, as is ACED's custom. As always, a summary of the COG's funded projects will be released to everyone shortly thereafter.

2.) **2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) Applications.** Twelve applications were submitted for the 2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) application round on February 11th, which was put together as a final round to use approximately \$2-3M in unexpended funds from the original 12-yr. program run. The original plan had been to begin making individual awards about now, but at this time, none have yet to be announced.

3.) **PA Act 152 of 2016: Funding of the Demolition of Blighted Structures by Mortgage & Deed Recording Fees begins initial Application round.** An online PowerPoint presentation of the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program was made to the Allegheny Valley North COG on February 10, 2021. A copy of that 12-slide presentation was e-mailed to all Board members on February 12, 2021; while detailed, the slides were still quite succinct.

The initial 2021 application round will open on March 10th and close April 30th. That gives everyone approximately seven (7) weeks to gather information and submit applications. On March 9, 2021, PDF files containing a "fillable" application form (for submission through the Allegheny Valley North COG with the COG as the applicant) & pertinent guidelines for the initial 2021 ACT 152 Blight Removal Program, provided through the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) department, were distributed to all members.

In addition to demolition, the program will be funding Blight Removal/Feasibility Studies and Asbestos Surveys. The program imposes a \$15K minimum grant, and \$250K maximum grant, with a prevailing wage requirement for all grants above \$25K. Additionally, a provision for "Emergency Demolitions" is contained in the program, and detailed in the slides. A new- and unique- requirement will be imposed by the program: **Lead Safe Demolition**, which includes the practice of "lead safe demolition," including required pre-demolition notification of residents. Additionally, all demolitions must utilize "wet-wet-wet techniques," also addressed in the slides.

4.) **American Rescue Plan Municipal Funding.** The information summarized below was received and immediately forwarded to the Board members last Tuesday, including a spreadsheet filtered to include the grants to the municipalities of the Allegheny Valley North COG (see attached). The amounts allocated are in millions (i.e.: Brackenridge's allocation- 0.31- would be \$310,000, for example). Given that the states are to receive the monies for municipalities below 50K in population for distribution by May 10, 2021 and must then forward direct payments, the first of two parts within a months of that date.



State and local funds under ARPA must be used for:

- responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic consequences, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- supporting essential workers;
- providing government services and offsetting revenue losses;
- necessary improvements to water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Additionally, funds received by local or State governments may be transferred to nonprofit organizations or other jurisdictions to carry out eligible activities.

A link to more information on the ARP from the Center for Community Progress was attached (<https://www.communityprogress.net/blog/local-leaders-360-billion-state-local-relief-coming-american-community>), as the article had a number of embedded links with a great deal of information, if one had the interest. A copy of the article is also attached to this report for your convenience.

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS** None presented.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

A. CDBG Year 46/FY2020 Project Status - Mr. Benecki gave a brief review.

B. CDBG Yer 47/FY 2021 Applications Under Review- Mr. Benecki reported that reviews are on going and awards should be announced the first week in April, 2021. As soon as the information is released I will be certain to pass it on to the municipalities and the Board/

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Initial Application Cycle begins under the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program, authorized by PA Act 152 of 2016 - See Executive Directors report for details.

B. Federal American Rescue Plan: Federal funding provided to state & local governments, including individual municipalities, to be released to the states on May 10, 2021; states will subsequently release the finding to municipalites of under 50K population within 30 days afterwards. The AVNCOG's members should receive approx. \$3,850 in total (informational distribution on the above was made to Board members on March 16, 2021) See Executive Directors report.

C. Other - President Taliani asked Mr. Lenhart if any plans existed for the re-opening of the Harmar Township Municipal Building for public meeting use. Mr. Lenhart indicated that he will check with the Manager and get back to Mr. Taliani. Mr. Arnold asked if American Rescue Plan funds can be used for flood mitigation. President Taliani reported that there is a two stage plan for fund distribution, with an expenditure window of several years. President Taliani suggested that members should reach out to our Senators and Congresspersons for details on specically on what the funds can be expended, and if the funds can be used a a local match for other federal and state grant programs.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Meledandri** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by **Mr. Dizard** and carried unanimously.

AVNCOG  
**REGULAR BILLS**  
APRIL, 2021

UPARC (Rent 4-2021 paid 4-1-2021 ck#7574)	\$ 493.42
(Phone 2-2021 paid 4-1-2021 ch#7574)	89.22
MEIT (AD&D/Life/Dental 5-2021 paid 4-14-2021 ch#7575)	171.57
UPMC Health Plan (Benefits 5-2021 pd 4-21-2021 ch#7576)	1,546.34
Senate Engineering Company (4-2021 Retainer)	275.00
ECM Insurance Co. (Equipment, general liab., fidelity bond pd 3-31-2021 #7530)	<u>2,973.00</u>
<b>Total: April Bills</b>	<b>\$ 5,548.55</b>

**CD BILLS:**

Authorization for Executive Director to process CD invoices/billings as approved by the municipal engineer(s) and or municipalities.



ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**OPERATING STATEMENT**

MONTH OF: MARCH 31, 2021

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
ANNUAL DUES		\$90,958.00
CD YEAR 45		
CD YEAR 46 *	\$44,061.65	44,061.65
CITF FUNDS		
GEDF FUNDS		
LOCAL MATCHES (municipal)		819.00
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	58,073.00	65,573.00
PROJECT ADMIN. FEES		
REIMBURSEMENTS/REFUND	84.32	168.64
ANNUAL DINNER DONATIONS		
ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATIONS		
OTHER INCOME		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$102,218.97</b>	<b>\$201,580.29</b>

\* 46-3.12.1 East Deer Parsonage St. Waterline

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
SALARIES	\$6,407.92	\$22,427.74
PAYROLL TAXES	616.40	2,157.40
BENEFITS	1,717.91	5,153.73
WORKERS' COMP.		
IRA		
BANK FEES	71.38	226.59
ADVERTISING		412.30

<u>EXPENDITURES (CONT'D)</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
OFFICE SUPPLIES		111.79
OFFICE COPIER/MAINTENANCE		24.19
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
POSTAGE		
OFFICE RENT/UTILITIES	493.42	1,480.26
TELEPHONE	88.77	271.29
CELL PHONE		70.00
ON-LINE SERVICES		
TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENTS	91.06	283.01
ENGINEERING FEES	275.00	825.00
LEGAL FEES		
CD CONTRACTORS/LOCAL	44,061.65	44,880.65
AUDITING		
INSURANCE/BONDING		
P.O. BOX FEE		
MEMBERSHIP DUES		
UNEMPLOYMENT		
SPRING/FALL COMMODITIES		
ANNUAL DINNER		
OTHER EXPENDITURES		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$53,823.51</b>	<b>\$78,183.24</b>

**ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**MONTH OF: MARCH 31, 2021**

**ASSETS**

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT	\$142,771.82
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	963.89
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	4,524.89
EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT	<u>5,703.90</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$153,964.50

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

**LIABILITIES**

BILLS PAYABLE	- 0 -
<b><u>FUND BALANCE</u></b>	
CASH	<u>\$153,964.50</u>
	\$153,964.50