



**May 26, 2021 Meeting of the  
AVNCOG Board of Directors**

**To be held at 7:00 p.m.  
(online at the ZOOM Platform)**

*Please Note: The May Meeting will be the LAST to be held on the ZOOM online meeting platform. In-person meetings will resume in June 2021.*

**MEETING AGENDA**

- I. CALL to ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PRESENTATION/GUEST: (None Scheduled)**
- IV. APPROVAL of the APRIL 2021 MINUTES**
- V. FINANCIAL REPORT and BILLS**
- VI. REPORT of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
- VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. CDBG Yr. 46/FY 2020 Projects Status**
  - B. CDBG Yr. 47/FY 2021 Applications Update**
    - 1.) The Action Plan for 2021 was released, but only with categorical grant award totals. Announcement of individual CD 47 project awards are still pending.**
  - C. Other Business, at the wish of the Board**
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Initial Application Cycle under the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program, authorized by PA Act 152 of 2016, ended on April 30, 2021**
    - 1.) Listing of Submitted Applications**
  - B. Federal American Rescue Plan. Funding to be released to states on May 10, 2021; states will subsequently release funding to municipalities within 30 thirty days. The AVNCOG's members will receive approximately \$3,850,000 in total (Information distributed to you on March 16, 2021) by June 10, 2021**
    - 1.) Awaiting additional details from State of Pennsylvania.**
  - C. Other Business, at the wish of the Board**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES of the APRIL 28, 2021  
MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS  
Meeting Held on Zoom Online Platform**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**President Taliani** called the meeting of the AVNCOG to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Brackenridge Borough	<b>Tim Connelly</b>	Harrison Township	<b>Chuck Dizard</b>
Cheswick Borough	-----	Oakmont Borough	<b>John Arnold</b>
East Deer Township	<b>Anthony Taliani</b>	Springdale Borough	<b>Shawn Fitzgerald</b>
Frazer Township	-----	Springdale Township	<b>Tony Rizzano</b>
Harmar Township	-----	Tarentum Borough	<b>Carrie Fox</b>
	Verona Borough	<b>Dave Matlin</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., Coordinating Engineer

**III. PRESENTATIONS:** None

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND BILLS**

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

**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. The CDBG Program Yr. 47/FY 2021 Allegheny County Annual Plan, was released to the COGs on April 15, 2021, listing an expected CD 47/FY 2021 CDBG allocation to

Allegheny County of \$13,878,721.

At the current time, however, ACED has not released a detailed listing of the individual project funding awards by individual COGs, municipalities or authorities, as has long been the ACED's custom. Only summary categorical funding allocations (e.g.: for Public Improvements (improvements to streets, sidewalks and stormwater infrastructure): \$934K; for Water & Sewer: \$1.81M; for Parks & Recreation: \$80K; for Safe Neighborhoods Demolition: \$432K; for COG Administration: \$373K; for Removal of Architectural Barriers: \$451K; for Business Development: \$700K; and, for the Allegheny Together program: \$750K) were released, and from which the individual municipal projects have been awarded in the past. Therefore, a summary sheet of the AVNCOG's individual, funded projects by municipality is not yet available.

I have spoken to the other COG Directors, all who similarly received no such break-out e, and also asked our COG Representative, as well the ACED's CDBG SND & Blight Removal Programs manager about the change (as the SND awards would impact the Act 152 application grant requests), but no specific reply has yet been received in the two weeks since the Action Plan was released.

**2.) 2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) Applications.**

Of the 12 applications submitted by the AVNCOG for the 2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) application round, which was put together to expend approximately \$2.5M in unexpended funds from the original 12-yr. program run, the funding of two projects was announced earlier this month. These were:

**2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund Awards**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Grant Req.</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
Frazer	2021 Road Paving Project	\$ 225,000	\$100,000
Harrison	Bike/Waliking Corridor, Phase 1 - Construction Project	\$ 250,000	\$100,000

**3.) PA Act 152 of 2016: Blight Removal Program's initial Application round closes this Friday, April 30, 2021.** The initial 2021 application round opened on March 10th and closes this Friday, April 30th. 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 by the AVNCOG.

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. All demolitions must utilize "wet-wet-wet techniques."

**4.) American Rescue Plan (ARP) Municipal Funding.** As you are aware, the ARP provides \$360B in funding to state & local governments. Pennsylvania state government and it's

local governments will receive approx. \$13.7B in total funding, with just over half of it going to the state government itself. Of the \$5.2B going to cities, counties and local governments, \$936M will go to the state's local governments (non-city/county units). The funding spreadsheet posted on the U.S. House Oversight Committee's website, filtered to include just the municipalities of the Allegheny Valley North COG in Allegheny County, was distributed ahead of last month's meeting, and shows that our members will collectively receive \$3.85M. The states will receive the monies for all municipalities below 50K in population by May 10, 2021 and must then forward direct payments, the first of two parts, within a month 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 has an interest. A copy of the article was distributed at last month's meeting.

At this point, no additional information has been released by the state as to the time table for releasing municipal funds to the membership, which are based upon population.

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS** None presented.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. CDBG Year 46/FY 2020 Project Status.** Mr. Benecki gave a brief report on the status of the CDBG Year 46 projects.

**B. CDBG Yr. 47/FY 2021 Application Update**

1.) The Action Plan for 2021 was released, but only with categorical grant award totals. Announcement of individual CD 47 project awards are still pending. To date, the CD Year 47 projects have not been released. (see Executive Directors report).

**C. Other Business, at wish of the Board.** **President Taliani** asked Mr. Benecki when we might know what projects will be funded? Mr. Benecki stated that we should have some news by next month, but that the existing delay is unprecedented..

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Initial Application Cycle is under way for the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program, authorized by PA Act 152of 2016**

1.) Application deadline is April 30, 2021 (members requested to submit applications for review by April 23, 2021). Please see Executive Director report.

**B. Federal American Rescue Plan.** Funding to state & local governments to be released to states on May 10, 2021; states will subsequently release funding to municipalities within thirty (30) days, afterwards. The AVNCOG's members should receive approximately \$3,850.00 in total (information distributed tp Board members on March 16, 2021). Awaiting additional details from the State of Pennsylvania. Please see Executive Directors report.

**D. Other - Mr. Taliani** reported that the AVNCOG paving equipment is performing in an outstanding fashion; they re-paved 3.5 roads in 3 days. Use of the equipment for the 2021 season can be scheduled by sending an e-mail to Tom ([tbenecki@verizon.net](mailto:tbenecki@verizon.net)) or bycalling the COG office, and speaking with Tom or Susan.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Fox** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. Seconded by **Mr. Connelly** and carried unanimously.

**ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**OPERATING STATEMENT**  
 Month of: **APRIL 30, 2021**

<u><b>INCOME</b></u>	<u><b>CURRENT</b></u>	<u><b>YTD</b></u>
ANNUAL DUES		\$90,958.00
CD YEAR 45		
CD YEAR 46 *	\$47,000.00	91,061.65
CITF FUNDS		
GEDF FUNDS		
LOCAL MATCHES (municipal)**	18,539.26	19,358.26
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		65,573.00
PROJECT ADMIN. FEES		
REIMBURSEMENTS/REFUND***	703.80	872.44
ANNUAL DINNER DONATIONS		
ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATIONS		
OTHER INCOME		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$66,243.06</b>	<b>\$267,823.35</b>

\* 46-7.1 Aspinwall Removal of Arch. Barriers \$47,000.00

\*\* 46-7.1 Aspinwall local match Removal of Arch. Barriers - \$18,539.26

\*\*\* Advertising reimbursements: Harrison, Springdale B., Springdale T., Tarentum & Verona

<u><b>EXPENDITURES</b></u>	<u><b>CURRENT</b></u>	<u><b>YTD</b></u>
SALARIES	\$6,407.92	\$28,835.66
PAYROLL TAXES	616.40	2,773.80
BENEFITS	1,717.91	6,871.64
WORKERS' COMP.		
IRA		
BANK FEES	64.45	291.04

<u>EXPENDITURES (CONT'D)</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
ADVERTISING	387.50	799.80
OFFICE SUPPLIES		111.79
OFFICE COPIER/MAINTENANCE	9.16	33.35
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
POSTAGE		
OFFICE RENT/UTILITIES	493.42	1,973.68
TELEPHONE	89.22	360.51
CELL PHONE	70.00	140.00
ON-LINE SERVICES		100.00
TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENTS	102.68	385.69
ENGINEERING FEES	275.00	1,100.00
LEGAL FEES		
CD CONTRACTORS/LOCAL	65,539.26	110,419.91
AUDITING		
INSURANCE/BONDING	3,074.00	3,074.00
P.O. BOX FEE		
MEMBERSHIP DUES		
UNEMPLOYMENT	591.22	591.22
SPRING/FALL COMMODITIES	1,207.20	1,207.20
ANNUAL DINNER		
OTHER EXPENDITURES		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$80,645.34</b>	<b>\$159,069.29</b>

**ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

Month of: **APRIL 30, 2021**

**ASSETS**

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT	\$129,801.57
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	960.89
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	4,622.51
EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT	<u>5,683.31</u>

TOTAL ASSETS            \$141,068.28

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

**LIABILITIES**

BILLS PAYABLE	- 0 -
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**FUND BALANCE**

CASH	<u>\$141,068.28</u>
	\$141,068.28



**AVNCOG  
REGULAR BILLS  
MAY, 2021**

UPARC (Rent 5-2021 paid 5-1-2021 ck#7583)	\$ 493.42
(Phone 3-2021 paid 5-1-2021 ch#7583)	84.00
MEIT (AD&D/Life/Dental 6-2021 paid 5-7-2021 ch#7584)	171.57
UPMC Health Plan (Benefits 6-2021 pd 5-19-2021 ch#7585)	1,546.34
Senate Engineering Company (5-2021 Retainer)	275.00
Pittsburgh Post Gazette (Ad Natrona Community Park & Playground)	387.50
Staples (Ink cartridge)	<u>17.53</u>
May Bills	\$2,975.36

**CD BILLS:**

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