



**June 23, 2021 Meeting of the
AVNCOG Board of Directors**

**To be held at 7:00 p.m. in the
Harmar Township Municipal Building**

Please Note: We thank the Harmar Supervisors for their generous hospitality in allowing the COG to return to in-person meetings at the Harmar Township Municipal Building.

MEETING AGENDA

- I. CALL to ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PRESENTATION/GUEST: (None Scheduled)**
- IV. APPROVAL of the MAY 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 Program Status**
 - B. CDBG Yr. 47/FY 2021 Program Status**
 - 1.) The Action Plan for 2021 was released April 15, 2021, and the announcement of individual CD 47 project funding grants were made on June 1, 2021**
 - a.) AVNCOG Projects Listing by Program (attached)**
 - C. Other Business, at the wish of the Board**
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Approval of the CD Yr.47/FY 2021 Bid Cycles Schedule**
 - 1.) Bid Schedule for Summer/Fall 2021 (attached)**
 - a.) Online Bid Advertising Option Approved by ACED.**
 - B. SHACOG Purchasing Alliance Rock Salt Bid's Second Option Year was accepted by Cargill, Inc. for the Winter 2021-22 Season.**
 - 1.) Updated Online Rock Salt Estimated Quantities Requirements Surveys due June 24, 2021**
 - C. Other Business, at the wish of the Board**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**



ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES of the MAY 26, 2021 MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS

Meeting Held on the 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	Tim Connelly	Oakmont Borough	John Arnold
Cheswick Borough	Frank Meledandri	Springdale Borough	Shawn Fitzgerald
East Deer Township	Anthony Taliani	Springdale Township	-----
Frazer Township	-----	Tarentum Borough	Carrie Fox
Harmar Township	Harry Lenhart	Verona Borough	Dave Matlin
Harrison Township	Chuck Dizard		

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

III. PRESENTATIONS: None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND BILLS

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

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
Travel (Admin. Assistant)	98.70
PSAB Unemployment Comp Fund	50.00
Staples (Ink cartridge)	<u>17.53</u>
May Bills	\$3,124.06

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. As was noted last month, twenty-two (22) full Applications were submitted to the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) by the COG in November 2020. 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.

ACED has still not released a detailed listing of the individual project funding awards by individual COGs, municipalities or authorities, per their custom. Only summary categorical funding allocations (e.g.: for Public Improvements (improvements to streets, sidewalks and storm water 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 available.

I've kept in touch with the other COG Directors, and also our COG Representative, but no specific follow-up information has yet been received in the two weeks since the Action Plan was released.

2.) 2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) Funded Projects. As was noted last month, of the 12 applications submitted by the AVNCOG for the final 2021 Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) application round, two projects were funded. 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

Given that less than half of the usual \$6.6M in annual CITF funding was available this round, this drop in funded projects was anticipated by some. In speaking with another COG, for example, I learned that none of the ten applications they submitted were funded.

3.) PA Act 152 of 2016: Allegheny County's Blight Removal Program's Initial Application Round Closed on April 30, 2021. In addition to demolition, the program will also 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.

Five (5) applications were submitted through the Allegheny Valley North COG, and all were for conventional demolition activities. The specific applications were:

2021 Application Submissions for the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program

<u>Member</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Grant Req.</u>	<u>Project Total</u>
Brackenridge	ACT 152 Demolitions	\$ 174,000	\$ 200,300
Cheswick	Beech St, Hill Ave. & Linden St. Demolitions	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500
Frazer	Demolition Project	\$ 23,000	\$ 25,000
Harrison	2021 Act 153 Blight Removal Demolitions	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Verona	North Ave. Union St. & 4 th St. Demolitions	\$ 40,250	\$ 42,250

A time-line for making funding awards has not been announced.

In addition to the introduction of a state prevailing wages requirement to public demolition that has not been required by the federal CDBG Safe Neighborhoods Demolition program, another unique requirement will be imposed by the program: **Lead Safe Demolition**. This includes not only a requirement for pre-demolition notification of neighborhood residents, but the active monitoring of the presence of children under the age of twelve outdoors, in the immediate area of a demolition, and that all demolitions must utilize "wet-wet-wet techniques" to minimize the exposure to aerosolized lead particles in the localized air.

4.) American Rescue Plan (ARP) Municipal Funding. The ARP provides \$360B in funding to state & local governments nationwide. Pennsylvania state government and its local governments will receive approx. \$13.7B in total funding, with just over half of that 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/non-county units). A funding spreadsheet was shared with the Board last month, from the U.S. House Oversight Committee's website. It was filtered to include just the municipalities of the Allegheny Valley North COG in Allegheny County, was distributed ahead of March meeting, and reveals that our members will collectively receive \$3.85M. The allocations are based directly on population figures. The states will receive these monies for all local 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 ARP may broadly 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; and 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 March'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.

5.) The SHACOG Purchasing Alliance has Successfully Exercised the Second Option Year for the Current Rock Salt Contract. This will be the final year under the current contract with Cargill Inc., and will run from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The company also announced that the price for this new contract term will be \$78.82 per ton.

Cargill was permitted to adjust the current price by the CPI that prevailed on April 20, 2021. Applying the CPI in effect on April 20, 2021 - 2.6% - would have yielded a permissible increase of \$2.05 per ton. This would have established a price of \$80.87 per ton. Cargill, however, chose to forego that increase. Consequently, the price that will prevail at the inception of the second option year on July 1, 2021 is \$78.82 per ton, the same price that started the current (last winter) contract year. Please be reminded that all other terms and conditions in the contract remain unchanged.

Although the current contract year does not end until June 30, 2021, you will shortly have an opportunity to submit your estimated tonnage requirements for the 2021-2022 winter season. That tonnage can be adjusted as your needs dictate. All required information will be gathered through the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance website. The soon to be issued email will provide the necessary guidance for the submission of those requirements.

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 Projects Award Update

1.) The Allegheny County Action Plan for 2021 was released on April 15, 2021, but only with categorical (program) grant award totals. To date, the list of the CDBG Year 47 individual projects awarded has not been released. (see Executive Director's report). Mr. Benecki did note that he was told award letters for the CDBG Year 47 funded projects would be going out in the first week in June

C. Other Business, at wish of the Board. .None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Initial Application Cycle under the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program, authorized by PA Act 152 of 2016, is coming to a close next week.

1.) Application deadline was April 30, 2021. To date, no announcement of specific project awards- or a schedule of same- has been made by ACED

B. Federal American Rescue Plan. Funding to state & local governments was to be released to states on May 10, 2021; the states will subsequently release funding to municipalities within thirty (30) days, afterwards, on, approximately, June 10, 2021. 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 on ARP municipal grants distribution, which

will probably be made directly to the municipalities involved (those with populations under 50,000 (see Executive Directors report).

C. Other - Mr. Taliani asked Mr. Benecki if he was aware if there will be a round 2 of the Act 152 Blight Removal Program this year. Mr. Benecki noted while no specific announcement had been made on that point, a second application & funding round may not be held until spring of next year.

President Taliani congratulated Ms. Fox on her primary run for nomination to the office of Mayor of Tarentum. The meeting's attending Board members joined in on extending their own individual congratulations to Ms. Fox, as well.

President Taliani ask Mr. Lenhart if he anticipated that the AVNCOG would be permitted to resume in person meetings in the Harmar Township municipal building next month. Mr. Lenhart replied that he will check into it, and get back to him.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Fox moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22. Seconded by Mr. Connelly and carried unanimously.

**AVNCOG
REGULAR BILLS
JUNE, 2021**

UPARC (Rent 6-2021 paid 6-1-2021 ck#7601)	\$ 493.42
(Phone 4-2021 paid 6-1-2021 ch#7601)	86.84
MEIT (AD&D/Life/Dental 7-2021 paid 6-7-2021 ch#7602)	171.57
UPMC Health Plan (Benefits 7-2021 pd 6- -2021 ch#7603)	1,546.34
Senate Engineering Company (6-2021 Retainer)	275.00
Staples (/Supplies, ink cartridges)	226.25
Doing Better Business (Copier maintenance/overage #1366616/1358532)	9.61
Thomas J. Benecki (Cell phone 5 & 6, 2021)	70.00
Postmaster (P.O. Box fee)	<u>119.00</u>
Total for June Bills	\$2,998.03

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: MAY 31, 2021

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
ANNUAL DUES		\$90,958.00
CD YEAR 45		
CD YEAR 46		91,061.65
CITF FUNDS		
GEDF FUNDS		
LOCAL MATCHES (municipal)*	582.00	19,940.26
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		65,573.00
PROJECT ADMIN. FEES		
REIMBURSEMENTS/REFUND**	387.50	1,454.94
ANNUAL DINNER DONATIONS		
ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATIONS		
OTHER INCOME		
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$969.50</u>	<u>\$268,987.85</u>

* 46-7.1 Brackenridge Borough local match on ADA Handicap Ramps

** Advertising reimbursements: Harrison Township

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
SALARIES	\$ 6,407.92	\$ 35,243.58
PAYROLL TAXES	616.40	3,390.20
BENEFITS	1,717.91	8,589.55
WORKERS' COMP.		
IRA		
BANK FEES	67.15	358.19
ADVERTISING		799.80

<u>EXPENDITURES (CONT'D)</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>YTD</u>
OFFICE SUPPLIES		111.79
OFFICE COPIER/MAINTENANCE		33.35
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
POSTAGE		
OFFICE RENT/UTILITIES	493.42	2,467.10
TELEPHONE	84.00	444.51
CELL PHONE		140.00
ON-LINE SERVICES		100.00
TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENTS	98.70	484.39
ENGINEERING FEES	275.00	1,375.00
LEGAL FEES		
CD CONTRACTORS/LOCAL	582.00	111,001.91
AUDITING		
INSURANCE/BONDING		3,074.00
P.O. BOX FEE		
MEMBERSHIP DUES		
UNEMPLOYMENT		591.22
SPRING/FALL COMMODITIES		1,207.20
ANNUAL DINNER		
OTHER EXPENDITURES	50.00	50.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$10,392.50</u>	<u>\$169,461.79</u>

ALLEGHENY VALLEY NORTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BALANCE SHEET

MONTH OF: MAY 31, 2021

ASSETS

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT	\$118,535.08
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	957.89
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	4,707.12
EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT	<u>5,662.71</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	\$129,862.80
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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

BILLS PAYABLE	- 0 -
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FUND BALANCE

CASH	<u>\$129,862.80</u>
	\$129,862.80