Ms. Del Corso called the October 23, 2018 meeting of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) Executive Committee to order at 12:15pm in the COG Building meeting room.

**Members present:** Mses. Del Corso and Stilson; and Messrs. Abrams, Harden, Miller, and Myers.

**Others present:** Messrs. Boeckel, CRPA Planner; Knable, Centre LifeLink; Miller, University Area Joint Authority; Pribulka, Ferguson Township Manager; Steff, COG Executive Director; Viglione, COG Finance Director; and Mses. Dininni, Ferguson Township Supervisor; Petitt, COG HR Officer; Salokangas, CRPR Director; and Stamm, Recording Secretary.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Dininni, Ferguson Township Supervisor, referenced a communication sent by Mr. Pribulka, Ferguson Township Manager, regarding blasting that will be done by Toll Brothers at the Whitehall Road property. She stated that blasting is not monitored by the municipality because the Department of Environmental Protection has prevue over the permit. Ms. Dininni stated that through the source water protection ordinance the township can do some things related to blasting which will be further discussed on a future agenda. She explained that Toll Brothers’ blasting firm has sent letters to residents regarding the option to photograph private property in case of damage during the blasting which some residents have accepted this inspection prior to the blasting beginning. She added that there will be sensitive monitoring devices on the wells for the blasting period.

Mr. Abrams stated that transportation planning occurs for new roads and intersections but does planning occur for existing intersections for operational issues. He added that if someone was assigned to evaluate some issues perhaps they could be fixed fairly quickly and he referenced the left turn signal to go into the hospital. Mr. Steff responded that he would discuss the issue with Mr. Zilla, Senior Transportation Planner with the CRPA.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Myers and seconded by Mr. Harden that the minutes of the September 18, 2018 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK EASEMENT**

Ms. Del Corso explained that this is a continuation from the discussion held last month because of outstanding questions regarding the pump station and easement. She added that questions were submitted and the answers to the municipalities’ questions are summarized in the agenda packet.

Mr. Steff stated that also included in the agenda packet is a map of the property as well as a picture of a similar pump station. He added that Mr. May, CRPA Director and Mr. Miller, UAJA Executive Director worked on the answers to all the questions and that Mr. Miller; Mr. Heiser, SCBWA Executive Director;
Mr. Sepp, PennTerra Engineering; and Ms. Froelick, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering have all been invited to attend the General Forum meeting to answer any additional questions that may arise.

Mr. Steff had a large print of the map showing where the pump station would be located on the Whitehall Road Regional Park property that he further explained the details of the installation and how the location was chosen. He added that the pump station would be inside the Regional Growth Boundary and would be located in a convenient location for the park.

Mr. Myers questioned where the pump station would be installed if not in that location. Mr. Steff responded that on the 2013 Master Plan it was a holding place until the appropriate professionals completed the study to determine the best location. Mr. Myers questioned what the size difference would be if the pump station was only for the park. Mr. Miller, UAJA, responded that the pump station above ground would not change but the size of the well underground would be smaller.

Ms. Dininni asked if particular documentation pertaining to information provided in the agenda would be included in the General Forum agenda packet. The committee reviewed the items to be included.

Ms. Stilson questioned the ramifications of not approving the Grant of Easement and if any legal actions could occur. Mr. Steff responded that he has not heard of any legal actions. He added that the host municipality has voted yes and perhaps the COG Solicitor should be invited to attend the General Forum meeting as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and Ms. Stilson that the General Forum receive the information necessary to authorize the Grant of Easement by unit vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

FUNDING FOR CENTRE LIFELINK TRAINING

Mr. Steff stated that this issue is also being carried over from the September General Forum meeting regarding training for Centre LifeLink. Ms. Del Corso stated that a possible amended motion is included in the agenda because the COG is being asked to provide funds for training, not necessarily determine the specific training that the funds are used for.

Mr. Myers questioned whether EMT’s or paramedics are authorized to carry firearms and stated that the letter from Centre LifeLink asked for funding for the Act 235 training. Mr. Knable, Centre LifeLink, responded that state law does not allow EMT’s to carry weapons and the Act 235 only allows paramedics to carry weapons during training or specific tactical operations. Mr. Myers stated that the motion should be approved with what the funds are meant for being used. Mr. Abrams agreed.

Mr. Miller stated that the issue of being under funded, similar to the fire department, should be a topic of discussion to determine what support from the COG is necessary. Ms. Del Corso responded that the letter distributed by Mr. Knable states that the request is actually being withdrawn. Mr. Harden suggested a donation of half that amount with the expectation of an annual report to request funding for additional, yearly training. Ms. Stilson suggested that Centre LifeLink start with a new request and Mr.
Knable agreed that Centre LifeLink would submit a new request in the new year. Mr. Myers added that similar to the fire department, financials should be looked at further out than one year to strategize for upcoming expenses.

The committee agreed that this agenda item would not be forwarded to the General Forum but Mr. Knable’s letter should be included with an explanation as a Matter of Record on the General Forum’s agenda.

**AGREEMENT WITH CENTRE COUNTY – ACTIVE ADULT CENTER**

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Myers that the Agreement be forwarded to the General Forum for endorsement for the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority to enter into that Agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Harden questioned what would occur if funding from the state decreases. Ms. Salokangas responded that the information she received stated that the County would not be in a position to meet all the financial obligations but that usually does not occur when the fiscal year begins but that a new agreement may need to be reached if that would occur.

**AWARD OF A PROPOSAL TO PREPARE PARKS AND RECREATION REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Abrams questioned the requirement of a statistically-valid survey and how the questions will relate to the community. Mr. Steff stated that the committee is very hands on and that the questions will be written in partnership with the committee, the consultant, and Penn State University.

A motion was made by Mr. Myers and seconded by Mr. Abrams that the recommendation that a contract be awarded be forwarded to the General Forum. The motion was unanimously approved.

**REFERRAL OF THE 2019 COG SUMMARY BUDGET TO THE GENERAL FORUM**

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Myers that the General Forum receive the 2019 Summary Budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

The committee discussed whether to include a presentation by the Executive Director and the next steps to obtaining municipal comments regarding the budget.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Steff asked the committee about inviting the CRPR Aquatics Supervisor to the General Forum for a presentation of a national award given by the American Red Cross to two of CRPR’s lifeguards. He also updated the committee on some future topics including the Policy Handbook, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center lease, Guidelines to Meeting Conduct, and the grant awarded for the Organics Recycling Program.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S EVALUATION

Mr. Steff explained that one of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee is to perform the Executive Director’s evaluation and review that at the December meeting. Ms. Petitt added that the committee members will be receiving two emails with the documents necessary for completing the review.

OTHER BUSINESS

The committee discussed how the General Forum would receive public comment at the next meeting.

Ms. Del Corso asked if there were any questions on the Matter of Records in the agenda and reviewed the agenda items to be forwarded to the General Forum.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the committee the October 23, 2018 meeting of the COG Executive Committee was adjourned at 1:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stamm
Recording Secretary