

**FINANCE MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 1:30 pm**

**Present:** Commissioners Barbara Cross, Jim Hertzler and Gary Eichelberger; Larry Thomas, Chief Clerk; Kirk Stoner and Jeff Kelly, Planning; Carl Goshorn, Conservation District, Stephanie Phillips, Keri Fahnestock, Brandon Yeager, Finance; Joshua Vaughn, The Sentinel.

Chief Clerk Thomas welcomed everyone to the Finance meeting. The topic for discussion:

**Cumberland County Growth Trends - Planning Department** (see attached presentation)

Chief Clerk Thomas mentioned the trends of economic growth in the County and the need to find opportunities to enhance revenues. Kirk Stoner mentioned that the statistics were compiled from building permit survey's to determine the growth trends.

Jeff Kelly reviewed a map that shows concentration areas from 2000 through 2010. 2014 results show Cumberland County as the fastest growing area in the State. He reviewed the population differences between the municipalities. Mechanicsburg is the highest growth area. Commissioner Cross questioned the loss of population, what's the reasoning for the loss, and is there a tax loss for the County. That is unknown without further research.

Jeff reviewed the areas of age population stating that ages 45-50 are in the central area of the county. The workforce population age is 45-64. Minority growth the in the County has become more diverse.

**Residential Growth Trends**

The chart shows finalized/issued residential building permits that are submitted by the municipalities and proposed residential building permits that are in the review process by the County Planning Office.

Commissioner Eichelberger asked about the timeframe of proposals from when they are received to when the final permits are issued. Kirk stated that the timeframe does vary.

Chief Clerk Thomas stated that the increase in population growth and housing seem to be migrating from the Susquehanna area, to our county.

Yearly variances on the charts may come from homes being converted from an owned home to a rental property and moving from a maintenance home to a non-maintenance home.

The biggest development so far this year in 2015 is in Mechanicsburg, the Hess Farm Development.

**Industrial Growth Trends**

There has been a lot of repurposing buildings for businesses.

The larger areas of farming is located in the western county; residential is in the east of the county.

Commissioner Eichelberger mentioned the Mechanicsburg area as an example questioning building permits differences throughout the year.

A question was asked if the census numbers are precise. Possibly the school population growth may help to determine growth and age. The white-collar working class seem to migrate to the West Shore.

Chief Clerk questioned the growth in Cumberland County over the next five years. Kirk thinks it will stay steady.

Carl Goshorn mentioned the biggest activity impacting his Conservation office was in 2014, which is comparable to 2007.

### **Leidigh Road Bridge**

There has been feedback from residents regarding the weight restriction on Leidigh Bridge and its availability and inconvenience during construction. There may need to be a push to get this project done and it could impact the budget in early 2016. Chief Clerk Thomas asked if this could be put to the top of the list and what is the length of time until complete. Kirk stated approximately 18 months. There are only two options to re-route around the bridge. It was suggested that the status of the bridge project continue to be communicated to the residents until complete.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Jennifer Crum,  
Administrative Specialist