Present were:
Mark Henne, Weirton Transit Corp.
Linda Mcneil, Mayor of New Cumberland
Barb Zimnox, Region XI PDC
Jeffery Wargo, Weirton Transit Corp.
James Smith, Mayor of Windsor Heights
Phil Diserio, WV House of Delegates, District 2
Mike Paprocki, Executive Director, BHJ
Steven Maguschak, City Manager of Wellsburg
Mary Jo Guidi, Representative of Senator Joe Manchin’s Office
Patrick Sutherland, Mayor of Bethany
Sue Simonetti, Mayor of Wellsburg
Robert Sadler, Village of Beech Bottom
Becky Uhly, Village of Beech Bottom
Mark Miller, City of Weirton
John Destefano, Follansbee City Manager
Travis Blosser, City Manager of Weirton
Eric Sherrad, Thrasher Engineers
Marvin Six, BDC
Mark Zatezalo, WV House of Delegates, District 1
Mark Henne called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. He asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 10, 2016 meeting. Steve made a motion. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

Mark also asked for appointment of officers committee. Sue said the committee members came together and would like to nominate Mark Henne as Chairman and Marvin Six as Vice Chairman. Sue asked if there were any more nominations on the floor anyone would like to add. Sue made a motion to accept the nominations of the committee. Linda seconded.

Mark then asked for permission to step away from the stated agenda and let Pat Sutherland voice his concern about the moving of quarterly meeting to the first Wednesday of the month. He wants Bethany to be involved as much as possible and he is looking for someone to accompany him so he/she could stay for the whole meeting.


Mark Henne did the Chairman’s Report. He started out by thanking Mary Jo Guidi, Mark Zatezalo, and Phil Diserio for attending the meeting. He asked Mike at the last meeting to reach out to all the delegates and senators to attend the meetings. He was concerned about the condition of highways and roads such as Route 2 in Wellsburg, Route 2 in Follansbee, Route 22, and Pennsylvania Ave. Sue also reminded him that West Virginia 27 and West Virginia 2 roads also needed work.

Mike brought up that between Mingo and Steubenville on Route 7 rocks started falling and also south of Wellsburg. He mentioned the new incoming WV transportation director Tom Smith, he also said we need to deal with these issues and figure out if it is more costly to watch rocks fall and clean them up or to more cost efficient to clean it up before. Robert voiced his concern about the construction of the new bridge and the detour routes being one lane with the oil and gas activity these roads are in bad shape also. He said the district engineer Gus Swaid has been straight forward with these issues and has been very proactive.

West Virginia 2 priorities are state route 2 and Washington pike. The Follansbee maintenance issue at 27A at Allegheny and Main. Hancock county relocation of state route 2. The 90 degree turns in new Cumberland. Blind spot coming out of courthouse and the hillside are also being looked at.

Mike then went into the Wellsburg bridge update. He described the design of the bridge and the intention is to build it offsite and barge it up to the pier. One of the areas they are looking at is in the beech bottom area of staging the construction. They are also looking at the geology and
once they get an approval from the state department of transportation to start the design work. Ohio will do their side of it and they already bought up their right away and West Virginia doesn’t know their limits of their right away until they find out how far back they need to excavate then they will purchase the right away.

Mike asked if anyone had any other projects they would like to discuss. Robert Sadler was concerned about the storm sewer in the village of beech bottom that is causing sinkholes in the street. Barb has been trying to find funding for this issue.

Mike talked about the assessment grant and stated that the task force meeting is to be determined and CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) is being written.

Mary Jo Guidi then wanted to give some updates. Senator Joe Manchin is voicing support for Rex Tillerson for Secretary of state. He is not going to support the nomination of the department of education Betsy Devos. She said he is going to do what is best for West Virginia and the rest of the country. She also wanted everyone know about the Skype session with the students and the Senator at the New Cumberland Career Center Wednesday February 8, 2017.

Mark Zatelzo said the two cracker plants were going to be big for the area. He was very interested about the purchase of the Weirton Steel property. Phil confirmed about the cracker plants and then talked about the 800 million dollar deficit. Phil also talked about the cuts that were happening in the state.

Barb stated that her report was in the packet and if anyone had any questions they can contact her. She wanted to let Eric talk about the meeting for broadband he went to yesterday. He said they had a new council for broadband and chairman is Rob Hinton and the purpose of it is to try to push for better funding for broadband in the state.

Mike then also said he talked about the concern of the EDA being eliminated through the federal program.

The meeting location was then discussed. A couple of places were brought up. Everyone agreed to keep the meeting location at Wesbanco for now. The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2017 at 4:30 PM.

With no further business to bring before the group Mark asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert made the motion. Steve seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.