

Rec. 12/7/92
ENC

AN ORDINANCE CREATING
A DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT
AND A PLANNING COMMISSION
SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 92-003

An Ordinance signifying the intention and desire of the Board of Commissioners of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, to create and establish a Department of Planning and Development, and a Planning Commission, under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of July 31, 1968, as reenacted and amended, and as may be further reenacted or amended from time to time (hereinafter referred to as "MPC") for the purpose of preparing and maintaining a plan for the coordinated development of Susquehanna County, based on physical, social, economic and governmental conditions and trends, and to provide for and protect the general welfare and prosperity of its residents.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Commissioners of Susquehanna County:

The Board of Commissioners of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, does hereby create a Department of Planning and Development and a Planning Commission under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of July 31, 1968, as reenacted and amended.

Section 1: Department of Planning and Development - The Susquehanna County Department of Planning and Development shall be responsible to maintain and improve the general quality of life for the citizenry by developing and implementing plans upon approval of the Board of County Commissioners, to address issues and problems, both existing and unforeseen, that impact or have the potential of impact on all facets of life in Susquehanna County.

The Department of Planning and Development shall be operational within the governmental system of Susquehanna County, under the provisions of this ordinance and direction by the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall provide sufficient professional and support staff to carry out in an adequate and efficient manner the work program as herein set forth, same being more fully described in the Susquehanna County Comprehensive Plan, and/or as directed by the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners.

The Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners shall appoint a Director of Planning and Development. The Director of Planning and Development shall be in charge of the administration of the department and shall exercise the powers and be subject to the duties that are granted or imposed by the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners, the MPC, and other laws and regulations that are deemed applicable to the department's work program.

The Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners may employ administrative and technical services to aid in carrying out the provisions of this ordinance or other ordinances as the case may be, either as consultants on particular matters, or as regular employees of the County.

The Department of Planning and Development will function within the following work areas to implement the county's Comprehensive Plan as it may be amended from time to time, and to achieve the aforesated responsibility:

- A. Environment
Maintain and protect the county natural resources.
- B. Land Use and Development
Monitor and guide growth and development to minimize its impact on the social, cultural, historic and natural environments while avoiding over-regulation to the extent that it might inhibit economic growth and development.
- C. Government/Government Services
Ensure adequate services of the highest quality without burdening the citizens with unduly high taxes.
- D. Economic Development
Pursue all available resources to ensure a healthy and stable local economy capable of supporting all county residents, including the initiation and facilitating of grant and loan programs for planning and development activities as contemplated by MPC Section 106.
- E. Transportation system
Ensure that a safe, adequate and efficient network of bridges and highways are maintained in order to facilitate the needs of current and projected population, especially with regard to commerce.
- F. Recreation
Create and improve recreation opportunities for the well-being of county residents, as well as promote economic development through tourism.
- G. Solid Waste Management
Ensure all provisions of the county solid waste management plan are properly implemented and seek compliance with all county, local, state and federal waste disposal laws and regulations.

H. Other

Such other areas as may be designated from time to time by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 2: Planning Commission - The Susquehanna County Planning Commission shall consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be citizens of Susquehanna County. The term of office of the members shall be four (4) years or until a successor is appointed, except that the terms of the members first appointed shall be so fixed that on a Commission of eight (8) members or less, no more than two (2) shall be reappointed during any further calendar year, and on Commissions of nine (9) members, no more than three (3) shall be so reappointed or replaced. In the event of vacancies, the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners shall appoint a member or members to fill the unexpired term. Members whose terms have expired shall hold office until their successors have been appointed.

- A. The names, addresses, and terms of office of the initial members of the Planning Commission are as follows (such terms of office to expire on the first day of the year indicated):

NAME	ADDRESS	TERM OF OFFICE*
Gerald W. Balmer	20 Wilson St. - Susquehanna PA	1994
Frank A. Kwader	PO Box 133 - So Montrose PA	1994
Walter Galloway	RR2 Box 103 - Susquehanna PA	1994
Catherine Hough	414 Pine St - Susquehanna PA	1995
Polly Pritchard	RR1 Box 115D - Friendsville PA 18818	1995
Jerome E. Fives	RR1 Box 4 - Friendsville PA 18818	1995
Carl Stahl	RR1 Box 290 - Uniondale PA	1996
Ted Place	RR2 Box 190 - Meshoppen PA	1996
Lee Walker	RR1 - Uniondale PA	1996

- B. The Planning Commission shall, at the request of the Board of County Commissioners under the authority of MPC Section 209.1, have the power and shall be required to:

(1) Prepare and revise from time to time the Comprehensive Plan for the development of the county as set forth in the MPC, and present it for the consideration of the Board of County Commissioners.

(2) Maintain and keep on file records of its actions. All records and files of the Planning Commission shall be in the possession of the Board of County Commissioners.

- C. The Planning Commission at the request of the Board of County Commissioners may:

- (1) Make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners concerning the adoption or amendment of an official map.
- (2) Prepare and present to the Board of County Commissioners a zoning ordinance, and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on proposed amendments to it as set forth in the MPC.
- (3) Prepare, recommend and administer subdivision and land development, and planned residential development regulations, as set forth in the MPC and the Susquehanna County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- (4) Prepare and present to the Board of County Commissioners a building code and a housing code and make recommendations concerning proposed amendments thereto.
- (5) Do such other acts or make such studies as may be necessary to fulfill the duties and obligations imposed by the MPC.
- (6) Prepare and present to the Board of County Commissioners an environmental study.
- (7) Submit to the Board of County Commissioners a recommended capital improvements program.
 - (7.1) Prepare and present to the Board of County Commissioners a water survey, which shall be consistent with the State Water Plan and any applicable water resources plan adopted by a river basin commission. The water survey shall be conducted in consultation with any public water suppliers in the area to be surveyed.
- (8) Promote public interest in, and understanding of, the comprehensive plan and planning.
- (9) Make recommendations to governmental, civic, and private agencies and individuals as to the effectiveness of the proposals of such agencies and individuals.
- (10) Hold public hearings and meetings.
 - (10.1) Present testimony before any board.
- (11) Require from other departments and agencies of the county such available information as relates to the work of the Planning Commission and the Department of Planning and Development.
- (12) In the performance of its functions, enter upon any land to make examinations and land surveys with the consent of the owner.

(13) Prepare and present to the Board of County Commissioners a study regarding the feasibility and practicability of using renewable energy sources in specific areas within the county.

(14) Review the zoning ordinance, subdivision and land development ordinance, official map, provisions for planned residential development, and such other ordinances and regulations governing the development of land no less frequently than it reviews the comprehensive plan.

- D. The Planning Commission may, with the consent of the Board of County Commissioners, accept and utilize any funds, personnel or other assistance made available by the county, the Commonwealth, or the federal government, or any of their agencies, or from private sources. The Board of County Commissioners may enter into agreements or contracts regarding the acceptance or utilization of funds or assistance in accordance with the governmental procedures of the county.

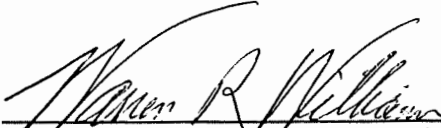
Section 3: Relationship between the Planning Commission and the Department of Planning and Development. The Susquehanna County Department of Planning and Development and the Susquehanna County Planning Commission are separate and distinct entities.

It is the intent of the Board of Commissioners, in enacting this ordinance, that it will not modify, amend or repeal any part of the Susquehanna County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The Susquehanna County Planning Commission shall continue to exercise all of the powers and responsibilities heretofore vested in it. In addition to those powers and responsibilities, the Planning Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Susquehanna County Department of Planning and Development, and thus to the Board of County Commissioners. The Planning Director shall act in two capacities: (1) in the same capacity as heretofore, as staff manager for the Planning Commission; and (2) as Director of Planning and Development. He or she shall be an employee of the county.

Section 4: The ordinance of August 10, 1964, and all other resolutions and ordinances or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.

Section 5: This ordinance shall be effective immediately.

Duly ordained and enacted at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania held the 3rd day of December, 1992.



Warren R. Williams, Chairman



Josephine Marshall



John Blachek

ATTEST:



Jerry Myers, Chief Clerk