



State of the County - 2015

President Commissioner Douglas R. Lengenfelder

Commissioner Mark J. Wissinger

Commissioner Thomas C. Chernisky



Our focus remains the creation of a business-friendly environment that helps our county citizens by promoting family-sustaining job development & holding the line on taxes.



County Strategic Plan



- Developed by a task force of 30+ community leaders
- Reviewed all assets the county offered
- Considered what the county could not offer
- Recognized competing interests within the county
- Understood competition from other counties & states
- Boiled down plan to key issues
- Recommended plan can be accomplished at the local level

If you don't know where you are going, that's exactly where you'll end up.



Recommended Plan



Three Core Parts:

- 1) Economic Development
- 2) Transportation
- 3) Tourism





The Past



2012 – Internal Review

2013 – Internal & Regional

2014 – Regional & International

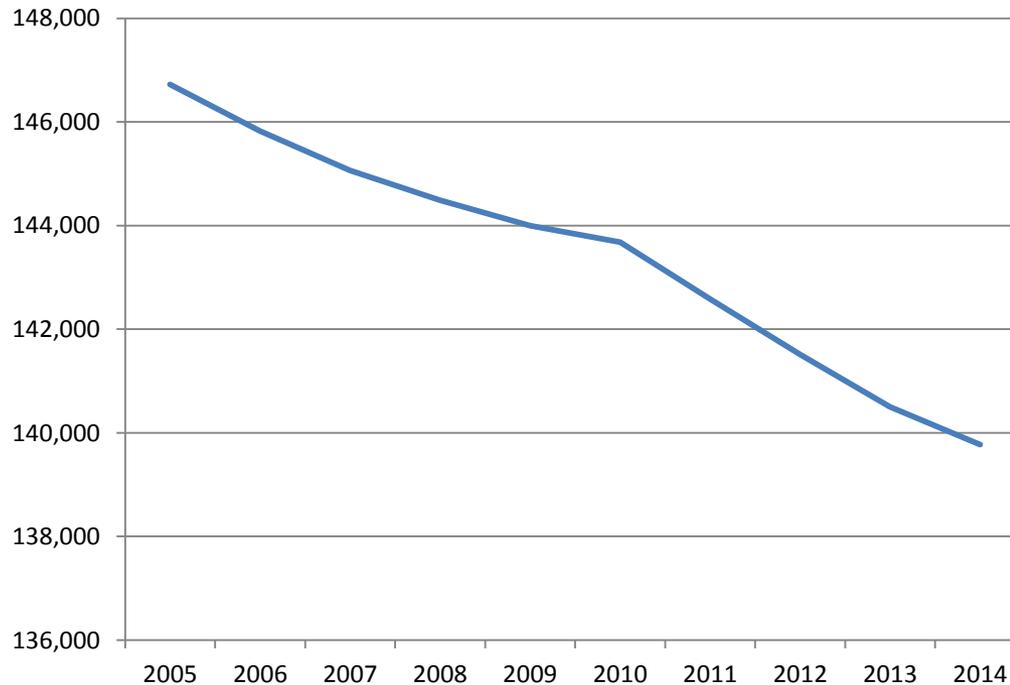
**We didn't get here overnight ... solutions don't work overnight.
But we believe we've accomplished a lot!**



The Future: Year 2021



Cambria County Population



Cambria County will move from a 4th to a 5th class county.



The Future: Year 2021



- Estimated county population of **133,730**.
- Current expenditures cannot be sustained with a decreasing tax paying population.

Decreased county government workforce:

- County employees to people ratio 1: 215
- Current county employees = **745**
(this was a drop from 860 including 85 permanent positions)
- Projected county employees = **622** (2021)

Cambria County will move from a 4th to a 5th class county.



Overview



The budget

Economic development

Transportation

Tourism

Issues around the county



The Budget



How we have dealt with this issue:

- **2012: Zero based budgeting; holding the line on hiring**
- **2013: \$5 million loan to correct the large, end of year cash flow problem**
- **2014: Refinanced \$47 million of county debt, saving the county a net \$3 million**



The Budget



Personnel - the county's largest expense

Payroll	\$28,048,702 (gross)
Benefits	\$ 9,688,800
Total	\$37,737,502

And when we came into office, we were faced with an approximately 25% pay raise over a 5 year contract

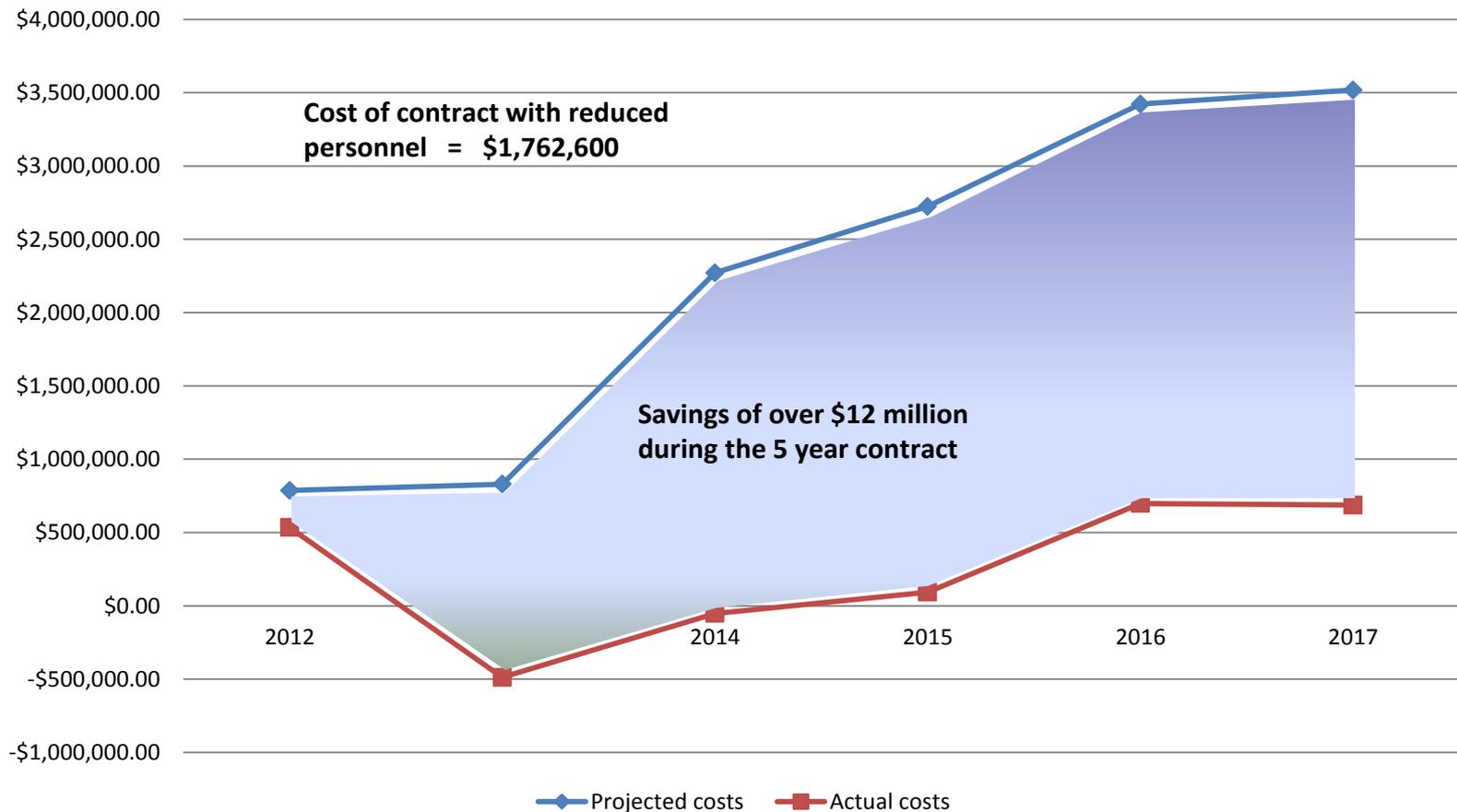
This equated to approximately another \$5.25 million



The Budget



Union Contract passed December 2011





The Budget



The bottom line:

After a prior administration raised taxes five out of eight years for a 56% tax increase,

We have **NOT RAISED TAXES** in all **FOUR BUDGETS** we have passed while in office



The Budget



Other Budget issues: REFINANCING

**STANDARD AND POORS rated Cambria County
BEST SHAPE IN OVER 10 YEARS:
BBB STABLE rating**

**This allowed us to refinance \$47 million in debt
SAVE THE COUNTY OVER \$3 MILLION
in finance charges**

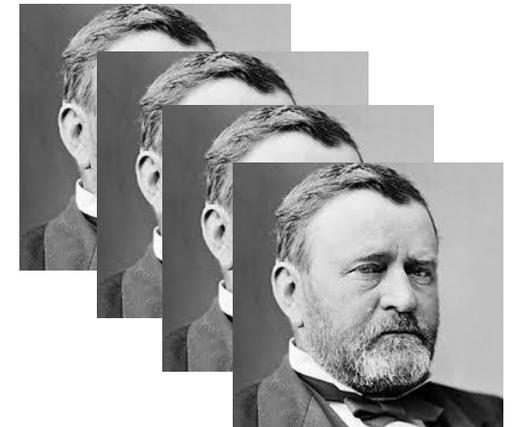


The Budget



Other Budget issues: GRANTS

2012:	\$702,500
2013:	\$1,632,840
2014:	\$3,145,300



Non-County Agencies: Over 30 Non-County Agencies sought some level of Grant Writing Assistance from the County in 2014. Of which, 15 were written and completed by County Staff. Thirteen of Fifteen were successfully funded totaling \$1,983,000 for outside agencies.



The Budget



Other Budget issues:

HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

– Mental Health	\$6,500,000
– Intellectual Development	\$1,700,000
– Drug & Alcohol	\$470,000
– Human Services	\$365,000
– Children & Youth	\$100,000
– TOTAL	\$9,135,000



The Budget



Other Budget issues: **INSURANCE**

Gallagher Benefit Services Assists in Managing the County's Health & Welfare Program

- **COST SAVINGS/AVOIDANCE:**

- Life Insurance Savings \$ 64,500
- Stop Loss Savings \$164,900
- Prescription Drug Savings \$177,900
- Rebate Savings \$ 96,400

TOTAL SAVINGS \$503,700



The Budget



Other Budget issues: RETIREMENT \$\$\$

When we arrived in office in 2012, our retirement account was funded at approximately 78%

Today the county retirement account is funded at approximately 93%





In 2014, we once again stated that
our top priority was....

Economic Development



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



- **Hold the line on taxes!**
- **Marketing the concept of “The Energy County”**
 - **2 DVDs created (no expense to the county)**
- **Develop support for industries related to natural gas and Marcellus shale**
 - **Aspen-Johnstown’s treatment of frac water**
- **Rosebud Mining’s treatment of acid mine drainage in St. Michael**





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Foreign Trade Zone



- **Cambria County Economic Development Authority**
 - **Has focused on recruiting and developing opportunities**
 - **Will focus on more than FTZ**
 - **Executive Director in California developing leads for food industry today!**
 - **Brought Pres of NAFTAZ to Cambria County**
- **Submitted paperwork to Federal Government**
 - **Expecting approval by this fall**
- **Both local and international companies expressing interest²⁰**





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



- **Brought 34 jobs to area by hosting DCMA**
- **Budgeting real dollars to ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 - **\$60,000 to JARI over a 5 year period – the first commissioners to ever support JARI financially**
 - **\$150,000 financial commitment to CCEDA for bringing in businesses to Cambria County**
- **Expecting the Norwegian Ambassador to visit Cambria County this fall – CCEDA lead with local Norwegian companies assisting/sponsoring**



TRANSPORTATION



- **Highway 219**
- **Railroad opportunities – The Pennsylvanian**
- **Sunset Road (connecting to 36 north)**
- **Johnstown Airport**





JOHNSTOWN AIRPORT



- **Support of the 1-104 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion**
- **Support of the 258th Air National Guard**
- **Johnstown designated the airport to locate UAVs in Pennsylvania should the ANG receive them**
- **Essential Air Service**
- **ARFF – New Fire Truck**
- **Staircase for larger commercial aircraft**
- **Buzz Wagner aircraft project**





TOURISM



The Commissioners have supported:

- The War Memorial
 - Tomahawks (Hockeyville – Capture the Spirit!)
 - Jehovah's witnesses
- CVB – Convention and Visitors Bureau
 - Thunder in the Valley
 - Ethnic Fest
- Duman's Park
- Rails to Trails (Ghost Town Trail)
- USAF Presidential Honor Guard/Drill Team





2014 “New/Improved”



Veterans:

- **Veterans Court**
- **New office with new leadership!**
 - **Now have 2.5 members assisting with customers**
 - **One Veteran from Veteran’s Court**
- **Return of submissions (1/4 the time)**
- **Moving to electronic age!**
- **Supporting new DAV vehicle**
- **Trips to Washington, DC**
- **Buying machine for Veteran’s County ID cards**



2014 “New/Improved”



Infrastructure

- **Courthouse (no use of taxpayer dollars)**
 - **Roof**
 - **Heating/steam**
 - **Sidewalks**
 - **South Side Stairs**
- **Prison – GeoThermal**
- **Human Services/911 Building – HVAC**
- **Senior Centers**
- **CPC – carpeting, sewage, parking working well**





2014 “New/Improved”



Fleet Management

- Leasing is not always better
- Create separate job? (on site mechanics)
- Using contracts with CamTran for fuel and some maintenance
- Looked at a couple companies
- Number of vehicles have gone from 178 to 143





2014 “New/Improved”



Education Program

- 2012 – Mt Aloysius
- 2013 – Penn Highlands
- 2014 – St Francis

- **This year we will return to St Francis:**
 - **Leadership**
 - **Critical Thinking**
 - **Organizational Behavior**





2014 “New/Improved”



Cambria County Counter Drug Efforts

- **Brought in “Sports Power International”**
 - **Anti-substance abuse message to every district**
 - **Prior NBA players played Cambria County High School All Stars at the War Memorial**
- **SERT under DA for uniform chain of command**
 - **More financial aid to SERT Team operations**
- **Supported “Push out the Pusher”**





2014 “New/Improved”



Cambria County 911 Upgrade Committee

- **In cooperation with University of Pittsburgh Johnstown**
 - **Dr Spectar, Ms Buxbaum and Mr Sernell**
- **95 Agencies working on creating a singular data base to support first responders and provide county with singular voice in radio-related information and requirements**



2014 “New/Improved”



Social Services and United Way

- **Cambria County sponsored a United Way drive**
- **Cambria County Homeless Shelter**
 - **25 agencies - implemented “best practices” in case management - grand opening – February 27th**
- **Botvin Drug & Alcohol Prevention Programming**
 - **#1 rated evidence-based program in the country**
 - **All county schools - Superintendents, County D&A, IU8, Univ. of Colorado, Twin Lakes**

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED® **United Way** 



**Community Needs
Assessment**



Starting A Business In Our County



- 1) Site Selection: 62 Townships, Borough's & the City of Johnstown
- 2) Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Enforcement
 - a) 63 Different interpretations of the UCC
- 3) Zoning/Land Use regulations process (State/Local)
 - a) 63 Different Types of zoning
- 4) Approval by Local Planning Commission
- 5) Uncertified Commercial building issues
- 6) Zoning Hearing Board
- 7) Zoning Appeals Process
 - a) Local
 - b) Court
- 8) Third-party inspections
- 9) Foundation inspection
- 10) Frame & Masonry inspection
- 11) Plumbing inspection
- 12) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance
- 13) Electrical & Mechanical inspection
- 14) Fire inspection
- 15) Final inspection
- 16) Occupancy Permit issued



The Business Person's Perspective



- Faces 63 different sites.
- Each site is competing for business.
- Multiple “economic development” organizations.
- Each organization has a different focus.
- A complicated & convoluted process.
- Up to 15 different people in the permitting process alone.
- Permitting process will take several weeks **IF** nothing goes wrong.
- Something usually goes wrong – up to years to complete.
- No **ONE** single person or organization to facilitate entire process.

What is in the business' & county's best interest?



Business Start-Up & Process Committee Findings



- **Goal: Organize, centralize and simplify the business start-up and expansion processes in Cambria County**
- **Develop a web portal to collate municipal and economic development contact, zoning and regulation (codes) information for easy review by existing businesses or those considering a new venture in Cambria County**
- **Implement a strategic marketing and education effort to include municipal government and townships, elected and appointed officials, economic development groups, the media and general public and key stakeholders within Cambria**



2014 Accomplishments



- **Continued to hold the line on taxes!**
- **Continued to promote a business friendly environment for job development**
- **Developed the “Cambria County Business Video”**
- **Appointed a “Business Startup and Process Committee”**
- **Refinanced existing debt at more advantageous terms, saving the county \$3 million**



2014 Accomplishments



- **Created an Economic Development Authority with “external focus”**
- **Advanced the approval of the Foreign Trade Zone, expected to occur this fall**
- **Visited nearly a dozen foreign embassies to solicit business in and through our eventual foreign trade zone**

BOTTOM LINE: Focus international business on Cambria County!



2015 Expectations



- **In discussions with local businesses about FTZ**
- **Approach targeted California businesses heavily reliant upon water and energy**
- **Pursue foreign Companies:**
 - **Bulgaria: 6 business leads**
 - **Argentina: 2 business leads**
 - **Norway/Denmark: in discussions**





2015 Expectations



- **Veterans' Program.**
- **Way ahead on county vehicles.**
- **Rebuilding a bridge in 2014 (Carney's Bridge).**
- **New gazebo for Dumans' Park.**
- **CPC parking lot.**
- **Northern Cambria Senior Center parking lot.**





2015 Expectations



- **Mental Health Treatment Court**
- **Two new natural gas powered trucks for the Solid Waste Authority (2 DEP grants totaling \$250,000)**
- **Open 100% handicap accessible playground in Cambria Township (grant)**
- **Conrad building rehabilitation**





2015 Expectations



- **New Ice Rick with War Memorial Arena**
- **Senior Center improvements (grants)**
- **Prison HVAC repairs.**
- **Moving another Magistrate into the Central Park Complex (savings of \$40,000+)**
- **New Businesses such as Defense Contract Management Agency ... and 34 new jobs!**





2015 Expectations



- **Buzz Wagner P-40 War Hawk static display.**
- **Open Cambria County Child Advocacy Center**
- **Drug Issues**
 - **SERT Team**
 - **US Attorney's "Opioid Overdose Prevention Action Plan"**
 - **Methadone issues**
 - **Naloxone use within the county**
- **Old county jail redevelopment**





Questions & Comments



Either you are growing or you are dying...
change occurs in both.

We are affecting growth change for our children's futures.

While change can be uncomfortable, it is a necessity.

**“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at
the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”**

Albert Einstein