

# BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, June 1, 2017

## Meeting Minutes

### **1. Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at Delaware Valley University, on June 1, 2017, and called to order by Consortium President William Wert.

### **2. Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:**

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Richard Schilling, Bedminster Township  
William Cmorey, Bensalem Township  
Tom Scott, Bristol Township  
Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough  
Darrell Card, Chalfont Borough  
Autumn Canfield, Doylestown Township  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Angela Benner, Dublin Borough  
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township  
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township  
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township  
Sam Bryant, New Britain Borough  
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township  
Mike Walsh, New Britain Township  
Cathie Thomas, New Hope Borough  
Judy Musto, Newtown Borough  
Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Bill Wert, Northampton Township  
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township  
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough  
Alison Smith, Tullytown Borough  
Herb Schoell Jr., Upper Southampton Municipal Authority  
Ann Alker, Upper Southampton Township  
Gregg Schuster, Warminster Township  
Amanda Zimmerman, Warminster Township  
Barry Luber, Warrington Township  
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township  
Christian Jones, Warrington Township  
Judy Decker, West Rockhill Township  
John Boyle, Yardley Borough

### **Sponsors:**

Anna Linn, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust  
Chris Tomlinson, InR  
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Market  
Michael Davidson, Univest  
David Ohman, Univest

### **2. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:**

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Sandra Zadell, the Treasurer's Report for May 2017 was approved.

#### **4. Presentations:**

**Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick:** Mr. Wert introduced Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick.

**Tax Reform:** Congressman Fitzpatrick discussed the Tax Reform that is before the ways and means committee. The tax reform would reduce the tax percentage from 35% to approximately 20% for corporations and reduce from 7 to 3 brackets for individuals. This most likely means that deductions will go away. One concern is municipal bonds and if that would go away it would be a problem because it is an incentive to municipalities.

**Infrastructure Bill:** Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he is pushing to make sure that the bill does not just deal with roads and schools but that it will also look at IT, Electric, etc. Mrs. Mason stated that there is a problem with failing septic and it would be great to have the ability to bring sewer into older communities.

**Trade Deficit:** Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that there is a \$800 billion trade deficit. Companies that import will be hit hard with a tax, however that will be most likely reflected in consumer cost.

**New office:** Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he will be opening an office that will be a part time location, in the Upper Bucks Area.

**Stormwater MS4 Requirements:** Ms. Smith asked if anything is consideration is being given to stormwater management requirements. Mrs. Zadell stated that the requirements are not realistic and the new regulations are ridiculous. Ms. Canfield stated that it is going to cost Doylestown Township \$40,000 just to plan for implementation of requirements. After hearing all the concerns regarding the Stormwater requirements that Municipalities have to comply with, the Congressman suggested that his District Manager host a meeting with some of the municipal managers and the EPA.

**Delaware Valley University:** Mr. Wert introduced Terry Jackson, Administrative Director at Delaware Valley University.

Ms. Jackson stated that Delaware Valley's Master Program in Policy Studies has evolved into a Master's Program in Public Policy. Ms. Jackson thanked the consortium members for their feedback in regard to their program and would be interested in hosting the consortium again in the future.

**Internships:** Del Val requires their students to have internships and would be able to help municipalities obtain interns. Amy Fulton, a current student at Del Val, stated that the internship program for students in the Master Public Policy Program gives tools to the students on how regulations and policy works. It also provides students the opportunity to form connections with local municipalities. Ms. Benner asked if there was a time of year that is best for obtaining an intern. Ms. Jackson stated that a municipality can let them know anytime they have a need and they will work with the municipality. Ms. Bradley asked if there are specific criteria. Ms. Jackson stated that as long as the municipality has a structure in place and can review the needs with the municipality, they can make it work.

**New Britain Borough Revitalization:** Mr. Wert invited New Britain Borough Manager, Sam Bryant up to share information on the Borough's revitalization project.

Mr. Bryant stated that New Britain Borough received a \$100,000.00 TCDI Economic Development Study grant that was used to develop a University Village Concept. With traffic shifting off Butler Avenue due to the opening of the 202 bypass, the economy was affected. New Britain Borough worked with Bucks County and other municipalities to create a plan for a state college type town. In order to implement revitalization a zoning change was done to provide for a mixed-use zoning overlay.

The main street town includes a gateway at Bristol Road and improvements to the main shopping center. The shopping center revitalization will put most buildings alongside the road front. New Britain Borough also worked with Del Val University to create a Small Business Center, which was the old Borough Police Department. The small business center will help grow new businesses in Bucks County and help to provide economic growth.

Mr. Bryant also stated that part of the revitalization is the redevelopment of the Knoll property. The property will be 117 apartments, 175,000 square feet of common space and there will be also be a restaurant.

#### **5. Discussion:**

**Traffic Light Bid:** Mr. Wert stated that the traffic light bid was going to be cumbersome as a consortium joint bid and would make more sense for municipalities to handle on an individual basis.

**Delaware Valley Health Trust:** Ms. Bradley stated that a member of the health trust recently sent out a proposed resolution that will be discussed at the annual health trust meeting. Ms. Bradley stated that the topic is very important to the health trust as an entity. The proposal would require a change in how business is done and require details on claims and premium information from each member of the trust. Ms. Bradley stated that there is a lot involved in releasing information for each member and personally doesn't want her information shared. Mrs. Mason added that she has been on the health board since inception (approx. 20 years ago) and the trust has worked hard to save money, has worked for women's incentive programs. This resolution will undermine what the trust works hard to provide. Mrs. Zadel added that if the information becomes public then it will become a slippery slope and everything will be available via right to know requests.

**Act 172:** Ms. Bradley provided an update on Act 172 regarding tax credit for active volunteer fire fighters and ems. Ms. Bradley stated that the Tax Collection Committee is working on fine tuning samples and working on a county wide standardization.

**6. Other Business:** There is no other business at this time.

**7. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled on September 7, 2017 at Warrington Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner  
Consortium Coordinator