

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 10:00 a.m. at the Comcast Building in Trevoese, PA on May 1, 2014, and called to order by Consortium President Eileen M. Bradley.

Roll Call and Instructions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Eileen M. Bradley, New Britain Township
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Jamie Gwynn, Northampton Township
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Herb Schoell Jr., Upper Southampton Municipal Authority
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township
Lisa Berks, Middletown Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Bill Cmorey, Bensalem Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township

Sponsors:

David Jones, Boucher & James, Inc.
Brian Jeter, Comcast

Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2014:

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Robert Pellegrino, the Minutes of April 3, 2014 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Eileen Bradley reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Report. Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Bob Pellegrino, the Treasurer's Report for April 2014 was approved as presented.

Presentation:

Eileen Bradley introduced Brian Jeter of Comcast. Mr. Jeter reviewed the past, present, and future of Comcast. He shared that Comcast is going to be building an Innovation/Technology Center in Philadelphia that breaks ground June 2014 and schedule to open in 2017. Mr. Jeter informed the group about a company named Aereo that streams TV online and doesn't require someone to have cable to do so. Aereo has gone to the federal courts asking for relief from network transmission fees. If the Federal Courts rule in Aereo's favor, this could have the potential to effect cable companies in addition to possibly lowering the franchisee fees that municipalities receive from cable companies. Mr. Jeter shared with the group their newest cable box called X1 that is a cable box that connects to the internet and access apps like Pandora, expands search features, has a corresponding app that you can download onto tablets and phones where you can then voice command your cable box. Mr. Jeter also provided a tour of the training center, where employees are trained on all of Comcast products, and demonstrated how the X1 box works.

Discussion:

Jamie Gwynn stated that DVIT is working on the Salary Survey and will share with the group when it is completed.

Ms. Bradley suggested that instead of having the September 4th roundtable meeting be about labor discussion, that the roundtable address IT Security. The group agreed this would be a good idea.

Community Updates:

Bob Pellegrino stated that Northampton Township's paid Fire Company has de-unionized. The union did not have a contract for about 3 years and decided it would be in their best interest to de-unionize.

Herb Schoell stated that Upper Southampton Municipal Authority's Public Works department just unionized.

Gail Weniger stated that Warwick Township's Public Works department unionized a couple years ago, and although they are to receive a 2% raise each year, after their required pension contribution they are really only receiving a 0.5% raise.

Other Business:

Jamie Gwynn shared with the group information about the current internet explorer hack that is taking place and reminded everyone that they should make sure they are taking appropriate precautions to avoid being hacked.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Bob Pellegrino, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on June 5, 2014 at Newtown Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner
Consortium Coordinator