

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at Middletown Township, on May 7, 2015, and called to order by Consortium President Eileen M. Bradley.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Eileen M. Bradley, New Britain Township
Angela P. Benner, New Britian Township
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority
Jamie Gwynn, Northampton Township
Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Bill Cmorey, Bensalem Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township
Christian Jones, Warrington Township
Tim Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority
Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township
Lisa Berkis, Middletown Township
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough
Barry Luber, Warrington Township
Scott Sadowsky, Northampton Township / Middletown Township
Stacey Mulholland, Congressman Fitzpatrick's Office

Sponsors:

Brian Jeter, Comcast
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets
Chris Englebert, Beirne Wealth Consulting

Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2015:

Upon motion by Bob Pellegrino, seconded by Linda McNeill, the Minutes of April 2, 2015 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Vivian Bell reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Reports. Upon motion by Carolyn McCreary, seconded by Mark Fournier, the Treasurer's Report for April 2015 was approved as presented.

Presentation: Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick

Ms. Bradley introduced U.S. Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick, Chair of the International Terrorist Financing Committee, Vice Chair Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, member of the Committee on Financial Services, and member of the subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit.

Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he is in his final term as Congressman that will end Year End 2016. When he first ran for the office, he said he would run for 4 terms and then move on.

10-Year Budget: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that the 10-Year Budget was passed in April. Congressman Fitzpatrick proposes a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. If there is not a balanced budget, then no one is paid. Congressman Fitzpatrick also thinks it would be beneficial to have a 2-Year Budget at the Federal level.

Environmental Act: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that PA State Representatives established an environmental Act, passed by former Governor Rendell, which regulates how televisions can be disposed of. The act does not allow trash haulers to collect the TVs any longer and requires that manufacturers establish recycling and disposal of TVs. John Boyle stated that Yardley Borough held a recycling event for TVs and hired a private vendor to recycle them. John Boyle also noted that there was a cost to recycle each TV. Congressman Fitzpatrick suggested that everyone looks into having a regional collection for recycling of TVs.

Body Cameras: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that the Department of Justice has completed studies that show how body cameras are beneficial in police work and wants to see body cameras used especially in the cities. Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he is against mandating police departments to use body cameras. Some people believe that body cameras are a liability and a threat to a police department because they could cause an officer to hesitate. John Boyles stated that Yardley Borough got body cameras that were funded by the PBA because they wanted them. They believe that the body cameras could help with exonerating officers in certain situations.

Patriot Act: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he has some privacy concerns with the Patriot Act as it currently exists. Section 215 allows the Federal Government to grab data from anywhere and run through a program. There is an impact on the privacy of individuals. Congressman Fitzpatrick believes that the Federal Government should have to acquire search warrants to obtain data and chase those who are terrorists instead of checking all individuals' phones.

Future Plans: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that when his term is over he might go back to practicing law in Bucks County. He believes that Washington needs some new individuals from the private sector. The Congressman stated that he misses being able to impact individuals and seeing results daily, and that he loves being in Bucks County.

Presidential Election: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he believes a mix of experiences in the next President is important. The next President needs to have executive leadership, to have the ability to look at all sides of an issue, and have something in common with individual Americans. The Republican side has over a dozen candidates and he likes the competition. Some of the candidates have a great mix of experiences. The Congressman stated that he thought Republican candidate Carly Fiorina gave an impressive interview and that Republican Candidate Jeb Bush has the experience, temperament, and knows where he stands. Congressman Fitzpatrick believes it will be an expensive race and that Hillary Clinton has a \$2.5 billion campaign war chest. Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that if the Presidential race is Clinton vs. Fiorina it would be a very interesting race. Mark Fournier asked why the Republicans do not crucify Clinton for Benghazi and the email scandal. Congressman Fitzpatrick said that there is a select committee for Benghazi and that all the emails will be

revealed and Clinton will have to answer many questions on both topics. Clinton's candidacy depends on how she will answer those questions and how she handles herself.

John Boyle thanked Congressman Fitzpatrick, on behalf of the Consortium, for inviting us down to Washington D.C. in 2014.

Presentation: Jamie Haddon, United Way of Bucks County

Ms. Bradley introduced Jamie Haddon, President and CEO of United Way of Bucks County.

Mr. Haddon stated that the United Way's focus is the community. The United Way holds community conversations throughout Bucks County to find out what works and to help identify what needs there are. The United Way does an assessment every two years to make sure they are reaching their goals and focusing on what is best for the community. He added that the United Way funds over 40 programs through the YMCA, NOVA, Girl Scouts and more.

Bucks Knocks Out Hunger: Mr. Haddon stated that the United Way would be holding their Annual Bucks Knocks Out Hunger event on July 24, where 20 tons of vegetables are collected and provided to 27 different food pantries throughout Bucks County.

Resources to help residents and municipalities: Mr. Haddon stated that their website, www.govad.org, and mobile app work in conjunction with Bucks County EMA and provide information on how individuals can volunteer and direct them on how to sign up to volunteer for specific events. The website and mobile app also lists the non-profits in Bucks County, lists events and volunteer events, along with sharing community stories of people making a difference. The sites are used for daily activities, but also during a disaster. At the time of a disaster, individuals can go to the United Way's website to find out how they can help.

The United Way is not just about disaster response, but also about mitigation. If any municipalities see a need in which the United Way can assist, Mr. Haddon suggests they reach out to him and he would be glad to work with them.

Discussion:

DVRPC LED Light Proposal: Ms. Bradley stated that she along with other municipal representatives attended a DVRPC-sponsored meeting in Plymouth Meeting to discuss the Regional Street Light Procurement Program (RSLPP), which can fund upgrades of street lights to LEDs through energy savings. Ms. Bradley stated that anyone who is interested in participating should complete the questionnaire that Angela Benner will email.

Salary Survey: Bob Pellegrino looked over the Salary Survey with Jamie and did not see any reason why the Consortium cannot move forward with inputting all salary information on the website. Marianne Morano stated that her salary information is not accurate because she had to create dummy positions so she could access all the data. Jamie Gwynn stated he spoke with Neil McGarry at DVIT and he would host training sessions for staff to attend and physically put in their salary data as part of the training. The consortium members decided it was best continue on the present course and have Jamie set up training at DVIT.

Disposal of Electronic Items: Ms. Bradley stated that we would continue to gather information on TV recycling and look into the possibility of holding a countywide collection or working with the County to hold a collection.

Training Opportunities:

ICMA Training: Ms. Bradley stated that the Montgomery County Consortium would be hosting the ICMA training this year, to be held on Thursday, September 10 at Horsham Township's Community Room. Angela would be forwarding information on the training as it becomes available.

Community Updates:

BCWSA Training Program: Christian Jones spoke to the Consortium Members about how it is difficult to find licensed wastewater treatment plant operators these days. Courses for licenses and certifications are not widely offered in the vicinity. It may take an employee years before obtaining necessary licenses depending on their schedule and course availability. This issue has been discussed at great length during Warrington Township's search for a wastewater treatment plant operator. Water and sewer departments and authorities run the risk of being unable to fill operator positions when current operators retire. Although there are efforts being made to resolve this issue, Mr. Jones stated that he thinks the Consortium might collectively brainstorm short- and long-term solutions.

Mr. Jones also stated that John Butler from Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) had started a program with Middle Bucks Institute of Technology (MBIT) about two and a half years ago. They worked with the existing HVAC and Plumbing program at MBIT. BCWSA takes students on a tour of their plants to bolster interest in pursuing this profession. If a student is interested, they enter into a 6-month co-op with BCWSA during their senior year wherein BCWSA operators train them. BCWSA pays for the tests. The program could be expanded or duplicated throughout the County if there is enough interest.

Residential & Commercial Building Inspectors: Mr. Jones noted that the same difficulty exists with finding certified/licensed residential and commercial building inspectors. Although there are efforts being made to resolve this issue, Mr. Jones thinks it is important to address the issue so that the Consortium might collectively brainstorm short- and long-term solutions. Simply contracting out the position to a third party agency is not so simple. Third party agencies are just as affected by the issue at hand.

Mr. Jones stated that he would send out more detailed information to the municipalities so that interest parties could talk to their departments.

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls stated that she would be more than happy to host any training at Middletown Township.

Other Business:

There was no other business at this time.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Carolyn McCreary, seconded by Sandra Zadell, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on June 4, 2015 at New Britain Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner
Consortium Coordinator