

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at Warwick Township on February 2, 2012 and called to order by Ms. McCreary at 9:50 a.m.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township	Julie Dechnik, Quakertown Borough
Mike Sullivan, WTWSA	Rick Schnaedter, Hilltown Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township	Greg Lippincott, West Rockhill Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township	Ted Taylor, Lower Southampton Township
Linda McNeill, Tincum Township	Bob Butt, Lower Southampton Township
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority	John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township	Bill Wert, Dublin Borough
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough	Joe Czajkowski, Newtown Township
Dan Olpere, Perkasio Borough	John Boyle, Yardley Borough
Andrea Coaxum, Perkasio Borough	Bob Pellegrino, Northampton
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township	Melissa Shafer, Chalfont Borough
Tim Hagey, Warminster Authority	Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township
Stephanie Teoli, Upper Makefield Township	

Sponsors:

Tom Hough, Hough Associates
David Jones, Boucher & James Inc. Engineers
Dave Woglom, Lafayette College Meyner Center
Rick Borgerson, First Niagara Bank

Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2011:

The meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Gail Weniger, which was seconded by Joe Czajkowski.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Vivian Bell presented the Treasurer's Report. The report was approved on a motion by John Davis, which was seconded by Joe Czajkowski.

Membership Dues Discussion:

Carolyn McCreary talked to the group about the need to increase yearly membership dues by \$25. Sponsorship dues would remain the same. The current yearly membership rate is \$125, and the proposed new rate is \$150. John Davis made a motion to increase dues to \$150 beginning this year, and the motion was seconded by Mark Fournier. The coordinator will mail a supplemental bill to those municipalities that have already paid their 2012 dues.

Presentation:

Joe Barkley from Academy Leadership, LLC was the first presenter of the morning. His presentation was about ethics in local government and the implications of decisions. He discussed ethics in local government, presented stories to support his discussion, and provided a real, practical framework for managers to view certain ethical questions and solutions.

He described how ethics can affect performance the bottom line, and gave managers some guidelines to help evaluate the rightness of a given course of action. In closing, he recommended that we all strive to make ethical decisions by choosing "the harder right instead of the easier wrong".

Tom Hough, from Hough Associates, was the second presenter of the morning. He spoke to the managers about the decreased funding for yearly performance grants. Beginning with the year 2010 payouts, the grants were reduced by 40% because \$15 million was taken out of the fund and redirected to other places.

Tom is asking municipalities to support his effort in having the Commonwealth "restrict" the funds so that the money cannot be redirected again in the future.

Community Updates:

Eileen Bradley asked members if there was any interest in the Consortium pulling together a joint mulch or landscaping bid. The members declined to proceed with this.

Carolyn McCreary told the group that Plumstead is in the second year of contracting out their commercial fire inspections, using the County Fire Marshal office. The Township receives 20% of the revenues.

Stephanie Teoli announced that her municipality was able to avoid arbitration with Upper Makefield's police officers. The contract starts in 2012 and provides for increases in the amount of 0%, 2.5%, 3%, and 3.5%. The officers gave up their co-pay reimbursement and will go to an Aetna plan. A no lay-offs clause was added to the contract.

Telford settled with their officers. Increases will be 0%, 2%, and 2.5%. They have a 10% healthcare premium share. He also warned members to talk to DVIT about retired employees using COBRA coverage through their plan. Several of his employees were dropped from their AETNA plan for pre-existing conditions.

Carolyn McCreary mentioned that her employees pay a 5% premium share for their healthcare plan, but their officers are still resistant to paying towards healthcare.

Dana Cozza told the group that her officers have been without a contract since the end of December. They want the DROP program.

Carolyn McCreary then added that several Central Bucks municipalities are looking into regionalization of police departments.

Other Business:

Eileen Bradley reminded managers about the TCC meeting scheduled for February 29th at Warwick Township. She asked managers to submit delegate changes to the committee, and also to have them fill out their ethics form and return it to Stephanie Teoli. She stressed how important it is that delegates attend the meetings.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator