

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at the Newtown Township building on April 4, 2013 and called to order by Consortium President Carolyn McCreary.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township	Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Kurt Ferguson, Newtown Township
Stephanie Teoli, Middletown Township	Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton
Judy Caporiccio, Upper Makefield Township	Sally Slook, Upper Makefield Township
Joseph Pantano, Wrightstown Township	Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township	John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	Mike Solomon, Northampton Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township	Greg Lippincott, West Rockhill Township
Jason Wager, Springfield Township	Bill Wert, Dublin Borough
Joe Golden, Upper Southampton Township	Rich Schilling, Springfield Township
Rick Schnaedter, Hilltown Township	Bill Cmorey, Bensalem Township

Sponsors:

Chris Englebert, Morgan Stanley - Allentown
Steve Huntzinger, GHD Consulting Engineers
Charles Winslow, GHD Consulting Engineers
Dan Reavy, Verizon
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets
Rick Lee, DVIT
Anna Lynn, DVHIT

Guests:

Stacey Mulholland, Congressman Fitzpatrick's Office

Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2013:

The meeting minutes from the March 7, 2013 meeting was approved.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Report was not available and will be reviewed at the May meeting.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced Congressman Michael G. Fitzpatrick, who represents the 8th Congressional District and was a former Bucks County Commissioner.

Congressman Fitzpatrick spoke to the group about the federal government's failure of leadership to plan and budget the way local governments have to. He described what brought about the sequester, stating that the goal was always to force better budgeting with smarter savings and this results in a 2.5% reduction in spending. He noted that Congress and the President has 18 months to avoid the sequester kicking in and stated that the 2.5% could only come from discretionary spending which currently comprises 1/3 of the budget.

He spoke about being a member of the "No Labels" group, originally comprised of 24 Congressman with now 48-50 members who supported the No Budget, No Pay legislation which was subsequently attached to debt ceiling legislation and became law in 2013.

Congressman Fitzpatrick answered a question concerning the impact of the sequester on local residents and businesses, stating if handled correctly there should not be a noticeable effect of them. He was asked about gun control and stated that he supports comprehensive background checks and co-sponsored a bill on making straw purchases of firearms a federal offense. He also pointed to Pennsylvania as a model for closing the gun show loophole, and said he didn't see why it couldn't be implemented nation-wide.

He was also asked about the possibility of Congress eliminating or limiting the tax exempt status of municipal bonds, the Davis/Bacon Act's impact on projects using federal money and the recent bankruptcy ruling for Stockton, California.

Community Updates:

Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township, informed the group that Doylestown Township will be hosting a meeting on April 17 from 3-5 p.m. for the purpose of gathering community ideas about violence prevention. She stated that Barbara Lyons, the Chair of the Doylestown Township Supervisors was asked to sit on a bi-partisan commission and wants the input of the central Bucks community.

Other Business:

Ms. McCreary reminded the managers that the State Ethics forms for each municipality's TCC members need to be sent to her.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator