

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at the New Britain Township building on May 2, 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
Dan Olpere, Perkasio Borough	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton
Stephanie Teoli, Middletown Township	Sally Slook, Upper Makefield Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough	Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township	Andrea Coaxum, Perkasio Borough
Tim Hagey, Warminster Authority	Mike Solomon, Northampton Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township	Greg Lippincott, West Rockhill Township
Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township	Vivian Bell, Warrington Township
Joe Golden, Upper Southampton Township	Mark Fournier, Telford Borough
Rick Schnaedter, Hilltown Township	Bill Cmorey, Bensalem Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township	Angela Benner, New Britain Township
Susan Federsel, New Britain Township	Ryan Martin, Middletown Township
Joe Pantano, Wrightstown Township	

Sponsors:

Chris Englebert, Morgan Stanley - Allentown
Steve Huntzinger, GHD Consulting Engineers
David Jones, Boucher & James
Tom Hough, Hough Associates
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets, LLC

Guests:

Rep. Frank Farry

Dave Woglom, Lafayette Meyner Center

Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2013:

The meeting minutes from the April 4, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Fournier, seconded by Eileen Bradley.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

The treasurer's report for the month of April 2013 was approved on a motion by Bob Pellegrino, seconded by Eileen Bradley.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced Representative Frank Farry to the group. Rep. Farry stated that they are headed into budget season, but the focus has been on liquor privatization. Right now, he said that the Governor has three major issues – pension reform for state and education employees, transportation funding, and natural gas.

Regarding the pension reform legislation, the Governor has proposed an increase in the vesting period from 5 years to 10 years, an increase in the employee contribution, and a decrease in the multiplier for current employees. This may not be constitutional, according to Rep. Farry.

On transportation funding, the Governor has proposed removing the cap on the natural gas tax. Also, there may be changes to the requirement for pictures for driver's licenses and the cost associated with new pictures. With the liquor privatization legislation, House Bill 790 passed with 105 votes. This would give the states 1,200 beer distributors five years to buy a spirits license, wine license, or both. If not sold during that time, the licenses would be available for sale to private companies.

Rep. Farry voted against the legislation because of the possible impact on small distributors.

Rep. Farry also spoke about natural gas. He said that the southeast is trying to get a stake in it. They are proposing a pipeline down the turnpike and then into communities. Mark Fournier asked if the gas could be exported out of Philadelphia. Rep. Farry said that the current plan is for the gas to be taken to Maryland and converted into a liquid at that time.

Stephanie Teoli asked Rep. Farry for his thoughts on pension reform that has been introduced by Rep. Seth Grove. She went on to explain that a group called Sustainable Communities was working on arbitration reform and pension reform together. Rep. Farry stated that he has not researched it yet.

Rep. Farry went on to talk about the prevailing wage bill that is now out of committee that would exempt road maintenance and increase the project cost from \$25,000 to \$75,000 with a yearly CPI increase.

Tim Tieperman suggested that the legislators consider tweaking the state constitution for pension changes. Rep. Farry explained that a bill would have to pass two consecutive sessions and then go on the ballot as a referendum before a change could be made to the Constitution.

Rep. Farry then said that redistricting is tied up in court and he is not sure what will happen. Chris Englebert with Morgan Stanley asked a question about the pension not being funded for years, resulting in the current situation. He then asked if liquor privatization was where the money would come from to fix that. Rep. Farry responded that money from the general fund would be put into a separate fund, and legislation would have to be passed to spend it.

He further explained that at this point, the only way to change the future benefits of current employees is to get the employees to agree to the changes.

Other Business:

Ms. McCreary stated that it was the Montgomery County Consortium's turn to host the yearly ICMA training. She would forward the descriptions of two possible workshops selected by Montgomery to all members and ask for everyone's feedback. She then said that the Consortium's Executive Committee had met in April and were planning to schedule a meeting in July, with a guest to discuss healthcare reform, instead of holding a summer picnic.

Also, members have expressed an interest in holding a meeting for managers to bring their public works directors to. She asked members to e-mail her if they have a good public works director who might want to be one of the guest speakers.

Community Updates:

Eileen Bradley gave an update on the TCC. She stated that municipalities will get a deposit into their account on or around May 15th. She also told the group that the annual audit report will be posted on the TCC website soon and suggested that each municipality ask their auditor to review it.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator