

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, September 6, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at the University of Phoenix in Warrington Township on September 6, 2012 and called to order by Consortium President Carolyn McCreary at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township	Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township	Andrea Coaxum, Perkasie Borough
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority	Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township
Keith Truman, Bristol Township	Greg Lippincott, West Rockhill Township
John Boyle, Yardley	Ted Taylor, Lower Southampton Township
Rick Schnaedter, Hilltown Township	Joe Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township	Stephanie Teoli, Middletown Township
Tom Scott	Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township
Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township	

Sponsors:

Tom Hough, Hough Associates
Jay Sklarow, United Computers
Michele Cuiro, United Computers
Dan Reavy, Verizon
Gwen Brunelli, Verizon
Rob Perrong, Verizon,
David Jones, Boucher & James
Brian Jeter, Comcast
Ted Dorand, PECO

Guests:

Joe Marzano, University of Phoenix

Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2012:

The meeting minutes from the June 7, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion made by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Eileen Bradley.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

The details of the Treasurer's Report were reviewed by Vivian Bell. The Report was approved on a motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Eileen Bradley.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced Joe Marzano, the Campus Director of the University of Phoenix. Mr. Marzano explained that the University of Phoenix currently has 40 classrooms and over 3,000 students. The majority of students are working adults. The University has been in the Philly area for 13 years and offers associates degrees to a doctorate in a wide range of majors.

The first presenters were Dan Reavy, Gwen Brunelli, and Rob Perrong all with Verizon. Mr. Reavy announced that effective July 1, 2012, he has inherited more territory, but the increase should be transparent to all municipalities. He introduced Gwen Brunelli to the audience. Gwen noted that the FIOS build is on schedule. Ron Perrong was the next representative from Verizon to speak. He spoke briefly on pricing for existing customers who switch to Verizon wireless and the quicker speed from 4G service.

The next presentation was on digital municipal board meetings, with guest presenters Gail Weniger, Warwick Township, and David Kraynick, Upper Merion Township. Gail began by explaining that her municipality uses Sharefile to store all of the board-related files online. They estimate that the municipality was able to save \$4,500 on paper in the first year of switching from paper packets to digital packets. Warwick bought inexpensive laptops (7) so that board members can access the Sharefile website. The board now has access to packets for the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, and Park & Recreation Board. Warwick pays \$770 per year for Sharefile, and did buy Adobe Pro for \$400. Warwick now requires digital and paper copies of plans and paperwork from all developers.

David Kraynick says that Cheltenham created paper packets for their board and the public. At Upper Merion they use CivicPlus to manage their electronic files. They estimate that this switch will save them 185 reams of paper or 92,000 sheets of paper per year. They issue each Supervisor an iPad that they can take home, and the public still receives paper copies of agendas at the meeting. He noted that his Solicitor will not post documents in "The Cloud", insisting that documents must be stored on the municipality's server. See attached handout for more information on David's digital packets in Upper Merion Township.

Dana Cozza added that Buckingham Township has a hidden secure website for all staff and elected officials to log-in to and access the agendas, which are PDF files. Stephanie Teoli noted that iAnnotate is a free application for iPads for making notes.

Community Updates:

Bob Pellegrino, the Manager with Northampton Township, announced that they had stopped the litigation related to the 4G cell towers. The company moved 12 poles out of neighborhoods that had underground utilities and Northampton kept \$100,000 that they contributed. He said that the big question still remains – does local zoning have any control? That question has been taken off the table for now. Dan Cohen is still working on the right-of-way ordinance issue.

Mr. Pellegrino went on to announce that the Bucks County Planning Commission is offering free consulting services for long ranges plans for Economic Development. Yardley Borough was the first to sign on. He suggested that perhaps Lynn Bush present this to the members at a future meeting. The Bucks County Commissioners are supporters of this initiative.

Gail Weniger asked if we could have Dave Woglom with the Meyner Center at Lafayette College trim down the categories on next year's salary survey. She said the list of titles in the survey is huge and, because there is no description of each, it is hard to compare. It was agreed that since he is a paid consultant for the Consortium on this project, the Consortium could request a change.

Other Business:

Tom Hough gave members an update on the Act 101, Section 904 grants.

Eileen Bradley gave an update on the TCC. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the Philly Tax Credit issue, so this is ongoing. She hopes that it will be resolved by the end of 2012. The budget should be passed in November.

Ms. McCreary announced that at the October Consortium meeting, the focus of the meeting would be on the how managers present their budget. She asked that if any managers thought they have a good presentation or helpful tips, they e-mail her about being a presenter.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am on a motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Tim Tieperman.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator