

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM
Thursday, November 7, 2013
Doylestown Country Club – Annual Luncheon
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held as part of the annual luncheon and called to order by Consortium President Carolyn McCreary.

Presentation:

Commissioner Robert Loughery spoke to the group about his efforts to visit all of the municipalities in Bucks County by attending one of their monthly public meetings. He also spoke about the County's efforts to develop and maintain balanced budgets, which in the past had included an increase in real estate taxes and a reduction in the workforce. He noted that the County formed a Position Review Committee which evaluates department requests to replace an employee. He noted the refinanced pension obligation bonds and the savings realized.

He stated that the County is taking a proactive position regarding its aging bridges and is creating a bridge department that will be within the General Services Department. He advised that an RFP had been issued and the proposals are being reviewed for a firm to assist the County with this.

Commissioner Loughery stated that the Justice Center is about 65% complete and he expects to transition into the building this time next year. The cost of the building resulted in the County carrying its highest level of debt service, but it is still lowest among the counties in the area. He noted that the current courthouse will be renovated with some of the areas being used as community space.

He concluded by addressing the County's economic development initiatives including Bucks Rebuilt, Bucks Renewed and the latest program entitled VC for BC, which is a venture capital initiative that will be announced in the near future. He also spoke about helping to sustain the preserved farms in the County through a Taste and Tour Bucks County program that is being developed.

Approval of Minutes – October 3, 2013:

The meeting minutes from the October 3, 2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

The Treasurer's report for the month of October was reviewed by the Treasurer and approved.

Nomination of Officers:

John Davis presented the nominations for officers for 2014 through 2016:

Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township	President
Bill Wert, Dublin Borough	First Vice President
John Boyle, Yardley Borough	Second Vice President
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township	Treasurer

The slate of officers was unanimously approved.

Other Business:

The annual holiday Montgomery/Bucks County holiday party will be held at Talamore Country Club on December 6.

The next business meeting will be on Thursday, January 9 focusing on how managers provide orientation to newly elected officials. The location will be determined and provided to the members. Managers will be asked to participate on a panel to lead the discussion.

Community Updates:

Eileen Bradley gave an update on the Tax Collection Committee. She stated that there would be no allocation required from each member in 2014. She also noted that Keystone Collections had sent delinquent notices to filers for 2011. She asked if any community was making changes to their delegates that they forward the resolution and updated contact information to her or Carolyn McCreary. She also mentioned the vacancies on several of the sub-committees and asked delegates to consider serving on one.

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls spoke to the group about an idea that she, Ryan Cassidy of Eckert Seamans and Chis Engelbert of Morgan Stanley had concerning a one-day training opportunity for assistant managers on topics like Police Pensions, contract negotiations and arbitration and other human resources topics. She stated that they felt many assistant managers are not schooled on these topics until they are confronted with issues in these areas. The training would be sometime in June.

Ms. Teoli inquired if anyone was proposing a tax increase as part of their 2014 budget. Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. McCreary stated they were, while it was noted that New Britain Township had reduced a portion of their earned income tax that funded open space.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn McCreary, President