

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 12:20 p.m. at the Doylestown County Club, on November 2, 2017, and called to order by Consortium President William Wert.

2. Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township
Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough
John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Angela Benner, Dublin Borough
Scott Mitchell, Langhorne Borough
Terry Fedorchak, Lower Makefield Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township
Joe Galdo, Lower Southampton Township
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township
Sam Bryant, New Britain Borough
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township
Cathie Thomas, New Hope Borough
Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Bill Wert, Northampton Township
Mike Solomon, Northampton Township
Bob Armelin, Northampton Township
Bob Bender, North Wales Water Authority
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township
Paul Stepanoff, Richland Township
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough
Dave Nyman, Upper Makefield Township
Judy Caporiccio, Upper Makefield Township
Herb Schoell Jr., Upper Southampton Municipal Authority
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Ann Alker, Upper Southampton Township
Gregg Schuster, Warminster Township
Amanda Zimmerman, Warminster Township
Tim Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority
Christian Jones, Warrington Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough

Sponsors:

Chris Englebert, Beirne Wealth Consulting
David Jones, Boucher & James Engineering

Brian Jeter, Comcast
Jonathan Calpas, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust
Tom Hough, Hough Associates
Ryan Ingham, Hough Associates
Alan Herr, HPT Systems
Meg Toner, HPT Systems
Chris Tomlinson, InR
Jeff Hugo, InR
Jamie Schlesinger, PFM
Severine Zarza, RBC Capital
Lars Eller, RBC Capital
Dan O'Brian, RBC Capital
Michael Davisson, Univest
Sal Urbano, Virtual Towns & Schools

3. Presentations:

Commissioner Charlie Martin: Mr. Wert introduced Commissioner Charlie Martin.

Drug Epidemic and Correctional Facilities- Commissioner Martin indicated that the proposed County budget includes a \$40 million deficit. Therefore, the 11 to 12-year trend of no tax increases can no longer be maintained. He attributed the majority of the financial issues to the ongoing drug epidemic in Bucks County. The corrections facilities are overflowing with three people cots per cell. Commissioner Martin stated that the trend of incoming male inmates has remained relatively stable, whereas there has been a tremendous increase in incoming female inmates in recent years. The County is looking to locate/create new spaces for the flow of incoming inmates. Arrests are continually increasing without a reprieve in sight.

Open Space, Farm Land, and Bridges- Commissioner Martin thanked the Consortium for their part in acquiring Open Space over the past 20 years and indicated that Bucks County was the first to adopt an Open Space referendum in 1997. He stated that the County has retained 205 at approximately 17,000 acres. Commissioner Martin indicated that the open Space program will end on December 31, 2017, but the Farm program will continue. He informed the Consortium that there are 117 bridges in the County with 7 covered bridges in need of repair.

Bucks County Planning Commission- Commissioner Martin informed the Consortium that former Bucks County Planning Commission-Head Lynn Bush has retired and Evan Stone will be taking her place. He indicated that the Housing Department will be looking into new ways to bring young people to Bucks County. There will be initiatives to create affordable housing and there are training programs set up for people to find good employment in Bucks County.

Gambling- Commissioner Martin discussed gambling in Bucks County and provisions of the State Budget allowing for mini-casinos and gambling machines at truck stops. He indicated that municipalities have an opportunity to acquire funding through these new provisions. The County has the right to vote against truck stop machines and some gambling facilities are required to be at least 25 miles away from existing Casinos.

Administration Building and Justice Center- Commissioner Martin indicated that the County is in good shape. Renovations are moving along and everyone should be settled in the Administration Building and Justice Center in 2019.

Children and Youth- Commissioner Martin informed the Consortium that Children and Youth cases have been relatively stable, but the County has seen double the investigations.

Neshaminy Manor- Commissioner Martin indicated that there are as many as 360 residents within the Neshaminy Manor facility. He lauded the facility as the best in the area with a perfect record.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Carolyn McCreary, the October 5, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Gail Weniger, the Treasurer's Report for October 2017 was unanimously approved.

6. Discussion:

Mr. Wert presented the Executive Committee's nominations for the following positions for the 2-year 2018-2019 term:

1. President- John Boyle
2. 1st Vice President- Sandra Zadell
3. 2nd Vice President- Angela Benner
4. Treasurer- Vivian Bell
5. Coordinator- Christian Jones

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Carolyn McCreary, the nominations were unanimously approved.

7. Other Business: John Boyle and Angela Benner presented William Wert with a plaque to recognize him for his service as the Consortium President for the 2-year 2016-2017 term.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:28PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00PM on December 1, 2017 at the Joseph Ambler Inn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christian R. Jones
Consortium Coordinator