

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at the Northampton Township Administration building, on April 5, 2018, and called to order by Consortium 1st Vice President Angela Benner.

2. Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Colette Hering, Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township
Stephanie Teoli-Kuhls, Middletown Township
Tom H. Bates, Morrisville Borough
Mike Walsh, New Britain Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township
Bill Wert, Northampton Township
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township
Paul Stepanoff, Richland Township
Dave Nyman, Upper Makefield Township
Upper Southampton Township, Joseph Golden
Gregg Schuster, Warminster Township
Amanda Zimmerman, Warminster Township
Timothy Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority
Christian Jones, Warrington Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township

Sponsors:

Ryan Ingham, Hough Associates
Chris Tomlinson, InR
Michael Davidson, Uninvest
David Ohman, Uninvest
Patty Barthel, Waste Management

3. Appointment of 2nd Vice President:

Upon motion by John Davis, seconded by Eileen Bradley, Kyle Seckinger was unanimously appointed as 2nd Vice President.

4. Presentations:

State Representative Frank Farry: Ms. Benner introduced State Representative Frank Farry (Rep. Farry).

HB1620- Rep. Farry discussed House Bill 1620 (aka the "Small Cell Bill"). He indicated that he and his cosponsor were conscious of the language issues. The Bill was written by the Cell Industry and they are working together with PSATS,

government stakeholders, and Cell providers to compromise on the language. The bill will be introduced as a new bill once negotiations are complete. Rep. Farry welcomed members to contact him with questions and concerns.

School Safety Issues- Rep. Farry discussed existing grant programs that address school safety issues. Although there are grants for School Resource Officers (SRO), none of the school districts within Rep. Farry's District applied for the grants. He noted that School Districts—not Municipalities—are eligible for this grant. He mentioned an initiative in Colorado called "Safe to Tell". This is a free to call hotline the caller can anonymously contact to express a concern. The Hotline then relays the concerns (as appropriate) to the pertinent local, State, or Federal organization.

EMS- Rep. Farry discussed Trauma, Triage, and Transport (TTT) training for school staff concerning gun-shot wound treatment. This is a State Department of Health Grant Program.

SRG Commission- Rep. Farry discussed the SRG Commission which is a bipartisan group of Fire and EMS officials. There is a report coming addressing what needs to be done with declining volunteerism. Noted areas of discussion were meetings, subcommittees, codes, training, government relations, a possible recruitment & retention coordinator position, and the allowance of Workers Comp. Trusts for Fire and EMS.

Model Ordinance for Fireworks- Fireworks have been legalized in Pennsylvania. Municipalities need to have an Ordinance for temporary tents. Rep. Farry will provide Mr. Jones with the model Ordinance and Mr. Jones will send it to membership.

State Representative Kate Harper: Ms. Benner introduced State Representative Kate Harper (Rep. Harper). Rep. Harper Chairs the House Local Government Commission, has been a Township Solicitor, and Township Supervisor for many years.

Radar for Local Police- Local Police Chiefs are in favor of having local Police utilize radar. The majority of people on Facebook are against this notion. There is a Bill in the Senate which would simply allow local Police to utilize radar. There is a Bill in the House that would limit the amount of revenue from radar stops, require an Engineering study, require signage, and require the passing of an Ordinance. A Transportation Committee is going to vote to remove one of the Bills. Rep. Harper indicated she will try to eliminate the Engineering study component from the House Bill with an amendment. She encouraged members to reach out to their representatives to pass the Senate Bill.

Act 89 Gas Tax- Rep. Harper discussed Act 89 which has increased liquid fuels money. This tax is limited to roads and bridges. District 6 gets a fair share of the money.

Study of Right to Know (RTK) Law- Rep. Harper sponsored a study of the RTK Law which identified some problems and solutions. She made recommendations in regards to Commercial business for pools, fences, and the like.

Stormwater Fees- Rep. Harper indicated that an Authority has the ability to charge fees for stormwater management requirements. There are Bills that have been introduced that are trying to give Municipalities the same ability. This would hypothetically require ordinances to be passed.

Local Government Commission- Rep. Harper discussed the Local Government Commission which is a bipartisan, bicameral committee with lawyers on staff. There is a task force looking at making the property tax assessment process clearer and fair state-wide. They would hypothetically require assessors to have training. If local property taxes were to be eliminated, property taxes would be redistributed throughout the state. There are also Bills for intergovernmental cooperation wherein there is an attempt to streamline these agreements through Resolution as opposed to Ordinance.

Stay in your Swim Lane- Rep. Harper encouraged members and their officials to stay in their own swim lane. If services are offered at the State or Federal level, do not try to duplicate. Everyone has enough work to do as it is. Contact your Representatives when you need to. That is what they are there for. Residents need to be educated concerning how local, State, and Federal government work and who is responsible for what.

Advertising for Bids- Mr. Seckinger inquired as to whether or not bid advertisement requirements were being eliminated. Rep. Harper indicated that it may happen because local news organizations are going out of business. She suggested putting everything on our websites.

5. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Carolyn McCreary, the Treasurer's Report for March 2018 was unanimously approved.

6. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Caroline Brinker, the March 1, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

7. Discussion:

- 2018 APMM Conference Scholarships-
 - The Executive Committee awarded APMM Conference Scholarships to all four candidates this year:
 - Alex Nagy, New Britain Borough Intern
 - Barry Lubber, Warrington Township Manager
 - Megan Weaver, Warminster Township Human Resources Manager
 - Michael Walsh, New Britain Township Executive Assistant
- 2018 Salary Survey-
 - Mr. Sadowsky informed membership that there were 18 submissions for the 2018 Salary Survey. Ms. Benner indicated that the deadline had been extended to April 13th and Mr. Jones would send reminders via email.
- Verizon Franchise Negotiations Update-
 - Mr. Wert confirmed that members went to Fort Washington for compliance reviews. Members are currently waiting on follow up and there was nothing else to report.

8. Other Business:

- Mr. Jones reported that the MS4 Impact Statements were sent to Sean Roche of Congressman Fitzpatrick's office.

9. Upcoming Dates:

- Nothing to report

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on May 3, 2018 at the Doylestown Borough Administration building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christian R. Jones
Consortium Coordinator