

## **BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM**

Thursday, November 5, 2015

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 12:00 p.m. at the Doylestown Country Club, on November 5, 2015, and called to order by Consortium President Eileen M. Bradley.

#### **2. Roll Call and Introductions:**

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Eileen M. Bradley, New Britain Township  
Angela P. Benner, New Britian Township  
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township  
Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough  
John Davis, Doylestown Borough  
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Autumn Canfield, Doylestown Township  
Bill Wert, Dublin Borough  
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township  
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township  
Robin Trymbiski, New Britain Borough  
Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Robert Armelin, Northampton Township  
Michael Solomon, Northampton Township  
Jamie Gwynn, Northampton Township  
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township  
Sherry Masteller, Riegelsville Borough  
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough  
Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township  
Dan Doyle, Tullytown Borough  
Alison Smith, Tullytown Borough  
Herb Schoell Jr., Upper Southampton Municipal Authority  
Barbara O'Neill, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority  
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township  
Ann Alker, Upper Southampton Township  
Timothy Hagey, Warminster Township Municipal Authority  
James Miller, Warrington Township  
Christian Jones, Warrington Township  
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township  
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township  
John Boyle, Yardley Borough

#### **Sponsors:**

Ed Mikulski, All Covered  
Chris Englebert, Beirne Wealth Consulting  
David Jones, Boucher & James  
Brian Jeter, Comcast

Alan Herr, HPT Systems, Inc  
Jeff Hugo, InR  
Michael Glackin, InR  
Ted Dorrand, PECO  
Brad Remig, PFM  
Jamie Schlesinger, PFM  
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets  
Brian Bradley, RBC Capital Markets  
Dan O'Brien, RBC Capital Markets  
Michael Davidson, Univest

**2. Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2015:**

Upon motion by Bill Wert, seconded by Sandra Zadell, the Minutes of October 1, 2015 were approved as presented.

**3. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:**

Eileen Bradley reviewed the details of the Treasurer's Report for October 2015. Upon motion by Bob Pellegrino, seconded by John Boyle, the Treasurer's Report for October 2015 was approved as presented.

**4. 2016/2017 Appointments:**

Ms. Bradley stated that the Executive Committee had proposed the following appointments for 2016 and 2017:

Bill Wert – President  
John Boyle – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sandra Zadell – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Vivian Bell – Treasurer  
Angela Benner – Coordinator

Upon motion by Bob Pellegrino, seconded by Carolyn McCreary, 2016 and 2017 proposed appointments were approved.

**5. Bucks County Update:**

**Commissioner Robert Loughery:**

Ms. Bradley introduced Bucks County Commissioner Robert Loughery.

**Budget:** Commissioner Loughery started by discussing the lack of a State budget. Multiple county projects and agencies are dependent on State funding. State funding helps fund County services like Children and Youth, Drug and Alcohol, and the Aging departments. So far, the County has supplied funding through their reserves to cover the expenses expected to be reimbursed by the State until the State passes a budget for 2016. Those reserves, however, are not unlimited. The County depends on State funding to continue to provide all the services that the County currently provides. The Bucks County Commissioners have been debating whether to borrow money to continue to pay for the provided services, but if they borrow they do not know how much they need to borrow or for how long. The County plans to sit down with all the service providers and find out how long they can last with what funding currently exists. The Commissioners believe that if they do not cover the funding until the State budget is passed, there would be too many consequences. Fortunately, the County is financially in a position to weather the storm. The County will continue to monitor the programs and figure out how to continue if State funding does not become available.

**County Radios:** Commissioner Loughery stated that the new radio system went live 2 weeks ago and he thanked everyone for their hard work and coordination to get the radio system active. With the upgrade, Bucks

County is in a better situation and coverage has improved. The County spent \$42 million on the new radio system and increased cell tower coverage. Next up will be \$11 million of DVRFA funding to go to the 911 systems and center to improve the phone system and upgrade servers.

**Old Court House:** Most of the County's focus was previously on the new Justice Center. Now that the Justice Center is up and running, the County is working on the re-use of the old courthouse with a 3- to 4-year remodeling project. Currently 60% of the space in the old courthouse is vacant. This will be filled with other agencies that are currently in other County-owned or –leased buildings. This will help to reduce the County's footprint and put a number of buildings back on the tax rolls. In addition, the County currently leases other buildings and they will now be able to vacate those buildings and eliminate the \$1 million-a-year they spend on leasing. All of Human Resources will be in the old building, creating a better collaboration among the departments.

**Housing and CDBG Grants:** Commissioner Loughery stated that it is his personal goal to change and revise how Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are awarded. Commissioner Loughery is proposing to look at awarding a few large grants instead of awarding multiple small grants.

**ACA and Cadillac Tax:** Commissioner Loughery stated that the County is looking at the Cadillac Tax and changes that could be made to reduce that expense. Currently the number is very hefty for the County. The Cadillac Tax will need to be addressed in 2016 in preparation for implementation in 2018.

**Local Elections:** Coming off another election year, Commissioner Loughery stated that it is important to educate the public that voting for local-level elections is just as important as Presidential Elections. This year there was only a 25% voter turnout countywide.

#### **6. Discussion:**

**2016 Budget:** Carolyn McCreary suggested that when the Executive Committee is setting up the budget for 2016, they consider allocating funds for scholarships that could afford individuals the opportunity to attend PELRAS, APMM, and/or ICMA. Sandra Zadell added that the practice would be beneficial to emerging leaders and agreed with Carolyn's request.

**Salary Survey:** Bob Pellegrino suggested the Executive Committee also discuss the Salary Survey. Since it was switched to the online system, everyone is not completing it.

**7. Community Updates:** There were no Community Updates at this time.

**8. Other Business:** There was no Other Business at this time.

#### **9. Adjournment:**

Upon motion by John Davis, seconded by Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled on February 4, 2016 at Warwick Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner  
Consortium Coordinator