

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, September 1, 2016

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at Warrington Township, on September 1, 2016. The meeting was 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
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Karyn Hyland, Doylestown Borough
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Autumn Canfield, Doylestown Township
Bill Wert, Dublin Borough
Don Delamater, Hilltown Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township
Sam Bryant, New Britain Borough
Angela Benner, New Britain Township
Jamie Gwynn, Northampton Township
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough
Judy Collings, Tullytown Borough
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Water & Sewer Authority
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Gregg Schuster, Warminster Township Municipal Authority
Barry Luber, Warrington Township
Christain Jones, Warrington Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough

Sponsors:

Dave Jones, Boucher & James, Inc
Brian Jeter, Comcast
Rick Lee, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust
Chris Tomlinson, InR Advisors
Dave Woglam, Meyner Center at Lafayette College
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets
Sal Urbano, Virtual Towns and Schools
David Ohman, Uninvest Bank

3. Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2016:

Upon motion by Mark Fournier, seconded by Stephanie Mason, the Minutes of June 2, 2016 were approved as presented.

4. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

William Wert reviewed the treasurer's reports for June, July and August 2016. Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Caroline Brinker, the Treasurer's Reports for June, July and August 2016 was approved.

5. Presentations:

Presentation: United State Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Wert introduced United States Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick.

Capital Building: Congressman Fitzpatrick reported that since the Consortium met with him in Washington D.C., the dome of the Capital Building was completed. The project was completed under budget and under schedule.

Presidential Election: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he attended both the Republican National Convention this year as well as the Democratic National Convention, since the DNC was in Philadelphia. The Congressman urged everyone to study the issues in preparing for voting in the election.

Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that he is serving as chair of the bipartisan task force that is working to improve U.S. efforts to choke off terrorist financing. There are currently a number of bills put on the floor and several bills have been passed in the Senate.

Health Care: Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that several companies, like Aetna, are pulling out of the health care marketplace for individuals because the companies are losing money. With health insurance companies pulling out of the individual marketplace, there will be less companies and less quality. In addition, the Cadillax Tax will most likely be repealed again.

Water Contaminants: Congressman Fitzpatrick discussed the underground water supply continuation issues that are currently a problem in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that the Air National Guard took responsibility for the water affecting public wells and private wells in the areas surrounding the Willow Grove Navy Base. Contaminates are coming from firefighting foam that contained the unregulated organic compounds. Congressman Fitzpatrick stated that all Counties, Municipalities and Authorities need to stick together to resolve this long term and expensive problem. Christian Jones asked about private wells located just outside of the determined testing area and how they can go about getting their wells tested. Mr. Jones stated that there is a large concern with individuals with private wells. Congressman Fitzpatrick said that the residents outside the barrier for well testing can contact his office and he will advocate for them to be tested. Congressman Fitzpatrick encouraged everyone to continue to work and plan together to resolve the water problem.

Mr. Wert thanked Congressman Fitzpatrick for his dedicated years of service and for always taking the time to meet with the Bucks County Consortium.

Presentation Pennsylvania Senator Chuck McIlhinney:

Mr. Wert introduced Pennsylvania Senator Chuck McIlhinney.

Water Contaminants: Senator McIlhinney added onto the information that Congressman Fitzpatrick provided to the consortium and stated that there are only a couple labs throughout the country that can perform the required testing and they are testing around the clock. In addition, Senator McIlhinney stated that additional hits being found outside of the Navy Base area are a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) problem and they need to be contacted about those hits. The Senator urged managers to talk to their elected officials about charcoal filtration systems and to push for DEP to approve the use and provide funding. Sam Bryant asked if DEP is getting additional staff to help with the water contaminant problem. Senator McIlhinney stated that it is a constant battle for DEP to acquire additional staff.

Pension: Senator McIlhinney stated that the concern with Pension reform is consolidation. The Senator urged municipalities to stay vocal against consolidation as it could have a large negative impact on the municipal pensions. The Senator stated his job is to stay vocal against Pension consolidation.

Sterling Silver Act: Senator McIlhinney stated that he has been advocating for the Sterling Silver Act to pass, however it does not seem likely that it will pass.

Multi-Modal Funding: Senator McIlhinney stated that if municipalities are not applying for multi-modal funding then they should apply for it, as there is a lot of money available for multiple projects. Projects include bridges, sidewalks, roads, and lights. If any municipality applies for multi-modal funding they need to make sure to send a copy to their Senator so that they can advocate for the project. Barry Luber asked if intersection improvements would qualify for funding. Senator McIlhinney stated that yes intersection improvements would qualify. Stephanie Teoli Kuhls added that there is a PennDOT Green Light Go program that will fund traffic light projects 80/20, and applications are due September 30th.

Mr. Wert asked for an update on Electronic Recycling. Senator McIlhinney stated that the State is still working on it but is waiting on DEP.

Presentation: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Wert introduced Chris Linn, AICP Manager of Environmental Planning at DVRPC

Mr. Linn stated that DVRPC is governed by an 18 member board and also has 15 non-members. There are 110 people with DVRPC of which 40 are planners. Mr. Linn provided an overview of DVRPC and stated that the core function of DVRPC is to coordinate and plan for Regional transportation. DVRPC counts Bike and Pedestrian traffic in order to track usage and DVRPC can also produce population and demographic information.

Funding Opportunities: There are many projects that DVRPC administers like TAP, CMAQ, Multi-Modal, and the William Penn Program. In addition, DVRPC works with the county on these grants.

Regional Streetlight Procurement Program: Mr. Linn stated that DVRPC is currently working with multiple municipalities as part of the regional streetlight program to convert to LED lighting. Mr. Linn stated that DVRPC coordinates and writes the RFP and then hires a company. Mr. Linn stated that DVRPC hopes to have a future phase with additional participation and expand to other upgrades with energy performance.

Trail Planning: Mr. Linn stated that DVRPC can assist municipalities with trail planning on multiple levels. DVRPC can provide a feasibility study, identify construction funding, help with environmental services and how to maintain and improve water quality, and actively work with municipalities to create case studies and to figure out how to improve water quality.

Classic Towns: Mr. Linn stated that Classic Towns is a marketing campaign to promote downtown revitalization in local communities.

Mr. Bryant asked what the timing on phase 2 of the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program will be. Mr. Linn stated that he hopes phase 2 will be within the next year. Mr. Wert suggested to Mr. Linn that DVRPC changes when they host mandatory meetings, so that they are not on a Friday at 4:00pm.

6. Discussion:

Verizon Franchise Renewal Update: Jamie Gwynn stated that there are 35 municipalities that are participating in the Verizon Franchise Renewal. The next step would be the negotiating committee to have a meeting and then to bring Dan Cohen to meet with the group.

Traffic Light Consortium Bid Update: Mr. Gwynn stated that there are currently 14 municipalities that indicated that they want to participate in the traffic light bid. The next step will be to collect location information from each of those municipalities in addition to obtaining what each municipality is paying maintenance per hour.

Proposed Legal Advertisement Reimbursement Policy: Mr. Wert stated that the executive committee has discussed reimbursement of legal advertisement to the municipalities that host the different consortium bids. It is the executive board's recommendation to authorize reimbursement of the legal ads effective January 1, 2016.

Upon motion by Sam Bryant, seconded by Stephanie Mason, reimbursement of legal bids for consortium joint bidding was authorized effective January 1, 2016.

Meeting Topics for 2017: Mr. Wert asked the members to contact Angela Benner if they have any meeting topic suggestions for 2017.

7. Other Business:

Warwick Township Police Contract: Gail Weniger announced that Warwick has finalized their 5 year police contract and it will be posted on the Consortium Website.

DCED: Jamar Kelly with DCED introduced himself and stated that although he will be presenting at the February Meeting, he state that the can assist municipalities with obtaining grant funding for sewer projects.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled on October 6, 2016 at Newtown Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner
Consortium Coordinator