

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, February 7, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at the Warwick Township building on February 7, 2013 and called to order by Consortium President Carolyn McCreary.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township	Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Joe Golden, Upper Southampton Township	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township	Andrea Coaxum, Perkasie Borough
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township
Stephanie Teoli, Middletown Township	Tim Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority
Jeff Vey, Milford Township	Bill C'Morey, Bensalem Township
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township	Jack McGinley, Bensalem Township
Kurt Ferguson, Newtown Township	Sally Slook, Upper Makefield Township
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township	Bill Wert, Dublin Borough
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township	Sheri Baringer, West Rockhill Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township	Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township
Gail Weniger, Warminster Township	

Sponsors:

David Jones, Boucher & James
Brian Jeter, Comcast
Tom Hough, Hough Associates
Ted Dorand, PECO

Guests:

John D. Harding, Bucks County Bank
Joe Nelson, Bucks County Bank
Dave Woglom, Lafayette Meyner Center

Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2012:

The meeting minutes from the October 4, 2012 meeting will be ready for approval at the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

The details of the Treasurer's Report were reviewed by Vivian Bell. The Report was approved. President Carolyn McCreary presented a detailed spreadsheet of Consortium expenses dating back to 2009. She then presented a draft 2013 budget for the Consortium. The budget was approved by the membership.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced John Harding, the Chairman, President and CEO of Bucks County Bank.

Mr. Harding gave a brief history of the bank. He explained that in the current economy, banks want to lend money and the rates are at historic lows. He then reviewed some of the recent economic trends, showing an increase in real estate sales with is encouraging. The stock market has been positive, according to Mr. Harding, and the auto industry is doing well, while the businesses related to housing are still struggling.

He noted that the unemployment charts show that we still need to grow jobs. The unemployment numbers don't include those young people that are fresh out of college and without a job.

A hardship for some looking to buy or sell a house is the fact that appraisers are forced to use distressed sales/foreclosures as comparables which is making it difficult for people to get a mortgage on a house.

He then explained that the Federal Government will most likely keep low interest rates in place until the unemployment is less than 6.5%, inflation gets to 2.5% and the longer term financial picture looks more stable.

Mr. Harding told the membership that Bucks County Bank is looking to lend money to businesses, but the process is a lot different these days and involves more paperwork than ever before. In his opinion, it's worth it because of the low interest rates.

Community Updates:

None.

Other Business:

Eileen Bradley gave an update on the TCC. As stated at a prior meeting, the attendance at meetings has improved since moving the meeting time to 4:00 pm. She reminded managers to

make sure they have appointed a delegate and two alternates so that they can have a representative at each meeting.

She went on to give an update on the litigation pertaining to the Philadelphia Super Credit. The judge allowed it to remain in place, but the group of TCC's is appealing the judge's decision to the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court.

Ms. Bradley then explained that delinquent collections should have been turned over to Keystone. The group's website, www.buckstcc.org, has a lot of useful information on it for municipalities.

She reminded managers that they should send delegate changes to herself or Carolyn McCreary. Also, all delegates must fill out an Ethics form.

Carolyn McCreary then discussed the proposal by Dan Cohen to review telecommunication and right-of-way ordinances at a cost of \$6,000. He said he would reduce that number by 5% increments as more municipalities signed on with a floor of \$4,500 for each municipality. Bob Pellegrino offered a copy of the ordinance that Mr. Cohen created for him for free to any municipality.

Gail Weniger with Warwick Township told the group that her Township is still having meetings concerning communication issues during Hurricane Sandy.

Sandra Zadell with Doylestown Township asked if any municipalities have started to use social media. A few responded yes. DVIT has a sample social media policy available for anyone interested.

Carolyn McCreary stated that the Red Cross and the Mormon Church had a meeting with several Central Bucks municipalities. The Red Cross has created a list of all buildings which they evaluated as possible shelters. The Mormon Church provided the meals at the shelter in Upper Bucks during Hurricane Sandy, and also assisted with tree removal for residents. The group also discussed reaching out to the National Guard to obtain generators on trailers for a shelter that may not have one.

Dave Woglom with the Meyner Center of Lafayette College announced a training program that he is offering in March for Managers and Department Heads specifically related to managing in local government. It will be held on March 27th.

Tom Hough gave members an update on the Act 101, Section 904 grants. Letters have gone out to haulers and processors. He asked that any data received back to the municipality be forwarded to him.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator