

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at Doylestown Borough on March 1, 2012 and called to order by Ms. McCreary at 9:45 a.m.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Daniel P. Olpere, Perkasie Borough	John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Andrea L. Coaxum, Perkasie Borough	Eileen M. Bradley, New Britain Township
Jeff Vey, Milford Township	Tom Petrucci, Doylestown Township
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority	Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township
Tim Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority	Joseph W. Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Ted Taylor, Lower Southampton Township	Joe Czajkowski, Newtown Township
Linda McNeil, Tincum Township	Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township	Robin Trymbiski, New Britain Borough
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township	Gail Weniger, Warwick Township
Darrell Card, Chalfont Borough	Stephanie Teoli, Upper Makefield Township

Sponsors:

Geoff Beauchamp, Esq., DVMMA
David Jones, Boucher & James Inc. Engineers
Rick O'Brien, Keystone Municipal Services, Inc.
Rick Borgerson, First Niagara
Matthew Shortall, Constellation Energy
Jean Pugh, PA. League of Cities/ Municipalities
Rich Schuettler, PA. League of Cities/ Municipalities
Lew Cohen, Utility Solutions, Inc.

Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2012:

The meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Pellegrino, which was seconded by Joe Czajkowski.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

There was no Treasurer's Report available.

Presentation:

Carolyn McCreary introduced the first speaker, Paul Bencivengo, the Marketing Director from *Visit Bucks County*. Paul began by explaining that *Visit Bucks County* is funded by 2.5% of the hotel tax. They work to market the County as a destination, and work to bring businesses and visitors into the County. Last year, they hosted more than 35 events generating over 42,000 room nights in Bucks County facilities. Events like bridal shows, sports tournaments, group tours, and business meetings are just a few examples of groups that this group markets to.

With a budget of \$500,000 for marketing the County, *Visit Bucks County* uses traditional media such as magazines, billboards, and bus posters, along with new trends such as social media and bus wraps. His employees work hard on public relations for the County as well, landing more than 50 stories online and in print media last year.

Local municipalities can get copies of their Destination Guide for distribution, and can take advantage of free advertising opportunities of “destination” type events through them.

Geoff Beauchamp, Esq. gave the group an update on the County Tax Collection Committee. He let the managers know that the TCC had voted to adopt the apportioned method for collection as opposed to the super credit. His best estimate is that the County could see \$1 million increase in collection as a result. Geoff told the group that seven TCC’s have formed a coalition because the collection method may result in a legal dispute.

Rick Schuettler, Deputy Director of the PA League of Cities & Municipalities, explained the Municipal Utility Alliance (MUA) created by his organization and now serving over 225 municipalities across the Commonwealth. He introduced Lew Cohen, of Utility Solutions, who is a resource for MUA members.

Mr. Cohen talked a little bit about the current state of the energy market. He told the group that right now, energy can be purchased out until 2016 at rates that haven’t been seen since 2002. He then went on to explain the three actual pricing components: Energy (including losses and PJM charges), Capacity, and Transmission.

He then introduced Matt Shortall from Constellation Energy. Matt explained how his organization helps municipalities analyze their load profile and develop an energy strategy to help control their prices. Constellation is in the process of being acquired by Exelon, and will then be a generator, natural gas marketer, and energy marketer. They serve over 100,000 commercial customers.

Rick Schuettler from PLCM took front stage to give a legislative update to managers. He spoke briefly about several pertinent issues: the Governor’s budget cuts and the impact on local municipalities;; Act 11 reform, which is proposing the removal of pensions from collective bargaining, increasing the number of arbitrators to select from (to 7), and set a

limit on awards to a set formula; prevailing wage; bid limit increase; Marcellus Shale; Manager's contracts (APMM has draft language for those interested).

Community Updates:

Gail Weniger announced that she has tentatively scheduled a discussion meeting for managers on March 15th. This meeting will be for those managers who will be negotiating police contracts in the near future and want to discuss and share strategies and ideas.

Stephanie Teoli asked if any member objected to allowing Villanova MPA students to attend Consortium meetings. No objections were spoken.

Other Business:

On behalf of Stephanie Mason, the president of APMM, Carolyn McCreary requested a donation of \$1,000 for the annual APMM conference. The members asked that the vote be put off another month so that a Treasurer's Report could be reviewed before a vote is made.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator