

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at the Doylestown Borough building on March 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
Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Andrea Coaxum, Perkasie Borough
Stephanie Teoli, Middletown Township	Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township
Judy Caporiccio, Upper Makefield Township	Tim Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township	Sally Slook, Upper Makefield Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township	Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township	John Davis, Doylestown Borough
John Nagel, Whitpain Township	Mike Solomon, Northampton Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough	Robin Trymbiski, New Britain Borough
John McMenamin, Lower Southampton Township	Judy Decker, West Rockhill Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	

Sponsors:

David Jones, Boucher & James
Brian Jeter, Comcast
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets

Guests:

Lynn Bush, Bucks County Planning Commission
Dave Woglom, Lafayette Meyner Center
Charles Winslow, GHD Consulting Engineers

Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2012 & February 7, 2013:

The meeting minutes from the October 4, 2012 & February 7, 2013 meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

The February Treasurer's Report was approved by the membership.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced Lynn Bush, the Bucks County Planning Commission Director and County Chief Clerk. Ms. Bush had prepared a report for the membership on economic development initiatives in the County.

She explained that back in 2009, a survey of businesses and municipalities in Bucks County revealed that 97% of those that responded were not aware or using the economic development programs provided by the County.

The Planning Commission announced their new initiatives at the Grange Fair in 2012. The Planning Commission would focus resources on assisting with economic development at no cost. A packet was sent out to all municipalities in the County. The Bucks County Planning Commission staff members and Board went through a training program and then started to work with municipalities.

Ms. Bush then reviewed the programs available, including loan programs, and some new programs listed on her report. She then went over a list of municipalities participating in their economic development initiative. Consortium President Carolyn McCreary asked Ms. Bush if this is a long term commitment for the County, and Ms. Bush confirmed that it is. She explained that times have changed, shopping trends have changed, and this has to be a sustained effort. The function of downtown stores has shifted.

Ms. Bush answered specific questions about guidelines and the process for some of the programs, explaining that the details would be ready soon.

Brian Jeter, the Senior Director of Government Affairs with Comcast, was the next speaker at the meeting. Mr. Jeter asked the membership to consider Comcast to provide phone line service to their municipality. They have been able to save some municipalities 20% off their bill. If a community is interested, they should send Mr. Jeter a copy of their bill showing the number of lines and IT infrastructure.

On the residential side, Comcast has partnered with NBC so customers can now watch content on a variety of platforms. Universal Studio and their filmed content is now available to customers. ESPN and HBO To Go as well. Mr. Jeter said that Comcast has changed their guide, so when their service technicians go out to service a box, they will put in the new box at no cost.

Their internet now has increased speeds and they have unlocked caps on e-mail traffic, which is good for people that work from home.

He noted that there has been a recent billing error on some municipality's bills. He told members to check their bills for a DTA charge. They should contact him to get that charge removed from their bill.

Mr. Jeter said that the process for setting up a government access channel is stretched more than 180 days, so if you want to launch in 2014, you should call Brian now. He then told the membership about some of the work Comcast has been doing through a program they created called "Buck Up Bucks" to help 80 families in a shelter. He reminded the members that they have 800 employees that live and work in Bucks County.

Bob Pellegrino, from Northampton Township, told the group that his town will save \$9,000 a year on their phone bill as a result of switching to Comcast.

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.

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 reminded everyone about the upcoming PELRAS Conference. The hotels have sold out. APM is coming up in May.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator