

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at Forest Park Water Treatment Plant in Chalfont on June 7, 2012 and called to order by Consortium President Carolyn McCreary at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township	Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Eileen M. Bradley, New Britain Township	Andrea Coaxum, Perkasie Borough
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Jason Wager, Springfield Township
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority	Rich Shilling, Springfield Township
Keith Truman, Bristol Township	Jo Anne Lapp, New Britain Township
John Boyle, Yardley	Ted Taylor, Lower Southampton Township
Rich Manfredi, Warminster Township/ BCATO	Joe Czajkowski, Newtown Township
Joe Golden, Upper Southampton	

Sponsors:

Tom Hough, Hough Associates
Ryan Ingram, Hough Associates

Guests:

David Gilmartin, Greater Philadelphia Media

Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2012:

The meeting minutes from the May 3, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion by Joe Czajkowski that was seconded by Ted Taylor.

Treasurer’s Report and Payment of Bills:

The details of the May Treasurer’s Report were reviewed. The Report was approved on a motion by Bob Pellegrino, seconded by Stephanie Mason.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced David Gilmartin from the Greater Philadelphia Media. He is responsible for what goes on to the Intelligencer and Courier Times websites. Mr. Gilmartin explained that one of the benefits of the website is that content can be posted immediately. Also, the “comments” section under each article allows for people to respond to comments made by others.

Mr. Gilmartin then detailed a few other features that may be of interest to municipalities. There is a calendar that municipalities can post events on at their convenience. The papers also welcome letters to the editor or guest columns – both can be a helpful tool for municipalities to communicate to constituents. “My Town” packages bundle the day’s articles by school district so that customers can get news that is relatively local. Also on their site is a “News Tips” section where anyone can report news tips.

He then discussed some of the more popular social media tools available and how they are being used by local government every day.

Community Updates:

Bob Pellegrino, the manager with Northampton Township, talked to the group about the 4G cell tower issues he has been going through in Northampton. He explained that these companies are using the towers to fill in the gaps in their service. Northampton is working with Dan Cohen to rewrite their Right-of-Way Ordinance.

The Second Class Code prohibits from charging certain fees for what is put in the ROW. He is encouraging Second Class Townships to contact their state legislators about cost recovery.

Other Business:

Tom Hough gave members an update on the Act 101, Section 904 grants.

Eileen Bradley gave an update on the TCC. There has been a lawsuit filed because of the Philadelphia Supercredit. On another note, she told the group that since the meetings have been moved to 4 pm, the group has achieved an 80% attendance rate.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am on a motion by Ted Taylor, seconded by Eileen Bradley.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator