

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at Buckingham Township on October 6, 2011 and called to order by Ms. Teoli at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township	Dennis Carney, Solebury Township
Jill Pistory, Buckingham Township	Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	Stephanie Teoli, Upper Makefield Township
Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township	Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Municipal Authority
Terry Fedorchak, Lower Makefield Township	Ann Alker, Upper Southampton Township
Ted Taylor, Lower Southampton Township	Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Joe Czajkowski, Newtown Township	Tim Hagey, Warminster Municipal Authority
Bob Armelin, Northampton Township	Bob Tate, Warminster Township
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township	Vivian Bell, Warrington Township
Andrea Coaxum, Perkasie Borough	Tim Tieperman, Warrington Township
Dan Olpere, Perkasie Borough	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township	John Boyle, Yardley Borough
Stephen Sechriest, Richland Township	

Other Guests:

John Fry, Revelstone
Mark Nelson, Revelstone
Ted Dorand, PECO
David Jones, Boucher & James Inc. Engineers
Rick Lee, DVIT
Rick Borgerson, Citizens Bank
Jim Gray, Citizens Bank

Approval of Minutes – 06/02/11 & 09/01/11:

The meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Vivian Bell presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of July, August & September 2011. The reports were approved.

Presentation:

- Herb Taylor, Vice President & corporate Secretary of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, discussed the state of the economy and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank.
 - Mr. Taylor explained that there are 12 Federal Reserve banks across the country that provides basic services for banks. They are the official banker for the U.S. Treasury and control the supply of money and credit. Goals are set by Congress and support the foundation for good decision making in the economy.
 - He went on to say that he expects the recovery from the recession to be inordinately slow – this recession has been named “The Great Recession” because it has been the longest recession since the Great Depression. Nine million jobs were lost, unemployment peaked at 10%, and it lasted from December 2007 to June 2009, with the worst month being September 2008.
 - He said the long recovery was caused by several things:
 - No bounceback in real estate because of an oversupply;
 - When banking industry is the cause of a recession, there is a slower bounceback because the financial turmoil must be sorted out.
 - From 2007 to 2011, there was basically zero growth in the economy. Normally, the economy has a potential to grow about 2.5% per year. So essentially, Mr. Taylor explained that the economy is 10% below where it should be. Out of the 9 million jobs lost, only 2 million have been restored to date. He expects the recovery to continue modestly with ups and downs – it won't be even.
 - Mr. Taylor said that the biggest challenge to the recovery is the uncertainty in the stock market.
- The Consortium had two guest speakers discussing performance measurement.
 - Dan Olpere, the manager of Perkasio Borough and Adjunct Faculty member with Villanova University began the discussion.
 - Mr. Olpere discussed the theory of performance measurement, explaining exactly what performance measurement is and why it is so important for municipalities.
 - He detailing some important definitions for Consortium members to remember when looking at performance measurement: input, outputs, outcomes, intermediate outcomes, end outcomes, performance indicator, efficiency, productivity, the impacts, and benchmarking.
 - Mr. Olpere detailed why it is so important to measure performance and how you can get started with a formal performance measurement program. He then introduced the next presenter that continued on the topic.
 - Mark Nelson, Chief Operating Officer with Revelstone, discussed web-based performance software with the group.
 - Mr. Nelson described his unique software that helps communities manage what they are doing. Subscription to the software is based on population.

Community Updates:

Bob Pellegrino informed the group that Northampton was headed to arbitration with their officers in January. Stephanie Mason said that Doylestown Township went to arbitration in September and the officers were awarded 2% increases for each year on the contract. Stephanie Teoli told the group that Upper Makefield's 2012 budget was looking favorable and she was proposing a .5 mill decrease in taxes.

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator