

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2016**

Warwick Township
1733 Township Greene
Jamison, PA 18929

CALL TO ORDER

Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township, Chairman convened the meeting of the Bucks County Tax Collection (TCC) at 4:05 PM and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township, Secretary called the membership roll. There was a quorum to conduct the Committee business.

REORGANIZATION

Nominations were sought for the Officers of the Committee. Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township advised that while several people expressed interest in serving if there is a vacancy the consensus of the Nominating Committee was to recommend the reappointment of the current Officers, Management Committee, Tax Appeals Board and Open Records Officer. Motion was made and seconded to reappoint the current Officers, Management Committee, Tax Appeals Board and Open Records Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that there is a vacancy on the Tax Appeals Board and Tom Stinnett of Riegelsville Borough had agreed to serve in this capacity if needed. Motion was made and seconded to appoint Mr. Stinnett to the Tax Appeals Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Officers

Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township – Chairman
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township– Vice Chair
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township – Secretary
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township – Treasurer

Management Committee

Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Robert Reinhart, Council Rock School District
Ann Alker, Upper Southampton Township
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough

Tax Appeals Board

David Matyas, Central Bucks School District
Tom Stinnett, Riegelsville Borough
Lorraine Leslie, Hilltown Township
Patricia Roeder, Milford Township (Alternate)
Barry Luber, Warrington Township (Alternate)

Open Records Officer

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township

Motion was made and seconded to appoint Geoffrey Beauchamp, Esq. as the TCC Solicitor. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to appoint Bee Bergvall & Co. as the auditor for the TCC. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to appoint Penn Prime as the TCC Insurance Broker. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made and seconded to appoint Penn Community Bank as the TCC depository. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting dates for 2016 were reviewed with the delegates, as they had been previously approved at the November 30 meeting. Meetings dates are as follows:

Thursday, January 28, 2016
Tuesday, May 31, 2016
Tuesday, August 30, 2016
Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Tuesday, January 31, 2017 (Reorganization Meeting)

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 30, 2015 minutes. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Ratify Paid Invoices

Ms. Bradley reviewed the expenditures for the period totaling \$5,005.75 and stated that the largest is for the insurance coverage. She noted that the premium for 2016 has again gone down and is now \$4,764. A motion was made and seconded to ratify the expenditures. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bradley also reviewed the details of the Treasurer's report, noting the prorated shares of the \$10,000 assessment will be deducted towards the end of April when the earned income tax receipts are generally larger.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Beauchamp spoke about the recent U.S. Supreme Court case, *Wynn v. Maryland*, noting that Keystone is in full compliance with that decision, so there is nothing further to address or discuss. He also stated that there is no movement on any pending legislation that would amend Act 32, primarily because of the state budget impasse.

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pellegrino recognized the delegates from Bensalem Township and welcomed them, stating that Bensalem's Board had voted to begin collecting the earned income tax for 2016.

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group stated that he previously reported that 2014 was the strongest in EIT collections, but he can now report that 2015 will surpass that with collections coming in at \$165,451,696.

He advised that the year-end packets had been sent to employers and a special mailing would be sent to approximately 35,000 residents and 250 businesses because of Bensalem's recent enactment of the EIT. A separate mailing is going to out-of-state employers and all payroll companies are being notified. Keystone has designed a weblink for Bensalem to add to their website to aid everyone moving forward.

Mr. Lazzaro stated that they continue to chase down people who did not pay any earned income tax in the past, and this can account for the increase in current year revenue, as individuals don't want to have additional penalties and interest levied on them. Non-compliant employers are also still being dealt with.

Ms. Bradley reminded everyone that the annual Ethics Statements for delegates and alternates are due by May 1, and can be sent or emails to Ms. McCreary.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

There being no further business, Chairman Pellegrino adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn McCreary, Secretary