

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 26, 2013**

Warwick Township
1733 Township Greene
Jamison, PA 18929

CALL TO ORDER

Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township, Vice-Chairman convened the meeting of the Bucks County Tax Collection (TCC) at 4:10 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 29, 2013 minutes. On vote to approve the minutes, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township, Treasurer stated there were no expenditures for the period with the YTD expenditures totaling \$19,606.43. There is \$51,220.08 remaining in the account. Ms. Bradley reviewed the details of the proposed 2014 budget, reminding the Committee members that there would be no assessment required for 2014. She stated the proposed budget reflects an \$18,000.00 fund balance at the end of 2014. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed 2014 budget. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Geoff Beauchamp advised the Committee that the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court had upheld the decision of the Commonwealth Court which affirmed the validity of the Super Credit and rejected the Tax Collection Committees appeal. He stated it may be possible to address this at the legislative level, but the Tax Collection Committees would have to desire to pursue this.

Mr. Beauchamp provided an overview of the policies that the Committee will be asked to consider and approve under New Business. He stated they mirror those already adopted by the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee, but expanded some of the procedures. He noted that the policies are required by the Local Tax Enabling Act and the TCC bylaws.

OLD BUSINESS

Barry Luber, Warrington Township noted that 743 notices had been sent out to Warrington residents and he asked if there is a provision for waiving the penalty for 2012, since in some cases the resident is only now becoming aware of their 2011 liability and they are likely to find themselves in a similar position for 2012.

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group responded by stating that 8,700 taxpayers had received delinquent notices for 2011 because this was the most recent year that the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue provided data for. He informed the Committee that \$885,000 had been collected so far, noting that a letter of inquiry is always sent to the individual first before any additional collection efforts commence. He stated that as the tax collector, Keystone will not automatically waive penalties and/or interest as this is the decision of the municipality or school district. It was stated that since 2012 filers had until 10/15/13 to file if they had filed an extension then Keystone would not have accurate data if it received it sooner.

Mr. Pellegrino advised the members that there were currently two vacant positions on the Management Committee with the resignations of Sue Snyder and Gail Gordon. He asked for nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough to the Management Committee. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Ann Alker, Upper Southampton Township to the Management Committee. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pellegrino presented the policies for consideration, noting that they had been sent to the members in advance of the meeting. The policies considered were the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, Tax Collector Interest Payment Policy, Tax Collector Unidentified Funds Policy, Taxpayer Penalty Policy and the Appeals Board Regulations. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the policies. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Pellegrino adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Carolyn-McCreary, Secretary