

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 31, 2018**

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 4:10 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 January 30, 2018 minutes. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Treasurer's report noting the fund balance is currently \$44,007.87 and the lone expenditure for the month was for the 2017 TCC audit performed by Bee Bergvall & Co. in the amount of \$1,650.00

She advised the members that the annual audit resulted in no findings and no errors. She advised that the audit will be posted to the TCC website.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Jonathan Calpas, Esq. spoke about SB653 which is designed to extend Act 32 to other taxes being collected. He noted real estate tax collection has been carved out as the exception. He stated while there is bipartisan support, there may be a heavy influx of amendments proposed.

Mr. Calpas reported on House Resolution 291, which involves a study with the PA Department of Revenue to determine if the state would be better equipped to collect the Act 32 taxes. He noted that DCED does not see a need for such a study.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group stated the tax collection and operations audit (Yellow Book) was completed in April and will be released. Collections of EIT are 3.97% higher than in prior year. The increase over prior year is largely related to employer compliance, with wage growth being minimal. Wage attachments and notifications have been sent out. An additional \$7.2 million was collected from delinquent taxpayers this year. Wage attachments and notifications have been sent out. Over 98% of filed tax returns for 2017 have been processed. Those that have not involve additional questions, missing information or some other issue that needs to be investigated. E-filing has increased over 10% from the prior year.

Mr. Lazzaro reports that under Act 18 those PA residents who work out-of-state and are taxed there will be permitted to take a credit against the open space portion of the EIT and the occupation elimination tax (Pennridge and Quakertown School Districts). He indicated that would impact ten municipalities, and have a < 1% impact.

Mr. Lazzaro was asked to step out of the meeting, so the Committee members could discuss the proposed amendment to the tax collection agreement with Keystone Collections. The amendment would extend the term of the contract from 12/31/19 to 12/31/24. It was noted the same termination language would remain. It would reduce the commission rate from 1.39% to 1.34% and close the satellite office in Warrington.

The members discussed the proposed changes, noting there are some issues with the municipalities that most recently instituted the EIT, as employers and residents come into compliance with the law and its collection and reporting requirements.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the contract amendment with Keystone Collections extending the contract to 12/31/24, reducing the collection commission from 1.39% to 1.34% and closing the Warrington office. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

There being no further business, Chairman Pellegrino adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is Tuesday, August 28, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn McCreary, Secretary