

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 29, 2017**

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 4:15 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 not a quorum to conduct the Committee business, so the meeting was for information purposes only.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (None)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the May 30 meeting could not be approved, and will be placed on the November 30 agenda.

**TREASURER REPORT**

Mr. Pellegrino reviewed the Treasurer's report noting there were no expenditures for the month. He reviewed details of the proposed 2018 budget and the proposed \$10,000 assessment, stating that this would allow the TCC to maintain a fund balance of \$50,000.

Mr. Pellegrino informed those present that the certificates to calculate the 2018 weighted vote and assessment will be distributed next week, and need to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Geoffrey Beauchamp, Esq. advised the members present that he had sent out a memorandum to Bucks and Montgomery County TCC delegates regarding Act 172 accompanied by the PSATS model ordinance, which he amended to fit the TCCs' needs and streamline the appeals process

Mr. Beauchamp discussed alternatives to enacting Act 172 and providing either an earned income tax or real estate tax credit. He noted that several municipalities are considering stipends to the volunteer firefighters, but as a block payment to the fire companies who would

in turn distribute the funds. He noted that the certification process identifying active firefighters would still be a part of this process. Ms. McCreary stated that New Britain Township has chosen to forego Act 172, and instead issue a lump sum to the fire companies representing \$500 for each active firefighter residing in the Township. Mr. Card indicated Chalfont Borough is also taking this approach.

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group provided an update on Act 172, stating that the earned income tax information put together by the Bucks and Montgomery County TCC representatives is a very workable model and will meet the timeframes that are required by the Act.

Mr. Lazzaro provided an update on the collection numbers, advising that collections remain strong, and the extension returns are due by October 15. He noted that "failure to file notices" will be issued during the last two weeks in October. He stated that collections are 12% higher than the previous year when factoring in Bensalem Township, and over 6% when you take their receipts out of the equation. Delinquent collections are about \$4 million based on identifying filers using the PA Department of Revenue reports. He outlined the notification process to delinquent taxpayers prior to wage garnishment notices being sent to their respective employers.

Mr. Lazzaro spoke about two pending pieces of legislation at the state level that the Committee should be aware of. Senate Bill 653 would add taxes for the TCC to collect with the exception of real estate taxes. It would also eliminate a tax collection agency's ability to collect the 10% collection fee on delinquent accounts. House Bill 866 would allow all out-of-state income tax payments to be applied as credits to all earned income tax including EIT that is dedicated to open space. He noted that HB 866's effect would be minimal to Bucks County.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

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

The next meeting of the Committee is Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Carolyn McCreary, Secretary