

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 31, 2020**

Virtual Meeting through GoTo Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township, Chairman convened the meeting of the Bucks County Tax Collection (TCC) at 4:12 PM and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was done electronically through the virtual meeting chat. There was a quorum to conduct the Committee business.

**APPOINTMENT OF OPEN RECORDS OFFICER**

Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township, made a motion to appoint the secretary, Becki Wilhelm of Warwick Township as the open records officer. Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough, seconded the motion. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Greg Garber, resident of Newtown Crossing stated that he received a refund check from Keystone but when he questioned Keystone, he was not successful in learning where the error was on his return. He wanted to voice his concern about the lack of transparency of the error and would like the issue resolved. Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group discussed the process of receiving returns and corrections and would like to speak to Mr. Garber about his concern privately.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Angela Benner, Plumstead Township, and seconded by Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough, to approve the January 28, 2020 minutes. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER REPORT**

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Treasurer's report noting the fund balance is currently \$53,130.66 with no expenditures for the month.

The 2021 budget was proposed with no assessment again. Angela Benner, Plumstead Township, made a motion to adopt the 2021 budget. Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough, seconded the motion. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT (None)

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group stated that 2019 ended in a strong position and 2020 was on target to become a strong 1st quarter with a 3.5% increase in Bucks County. The COVID-19 shut down occurred in the tail end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, so tax revenue is expected to be impacted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of this year. EIT was down 1.6% in July, year to date. The August numbers that are in are showing the Bucks County TCC is up 1.4% from last year.

The total impact will not be captured until 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter filings are completed. Keystone is still waiting for other filing areas to send in funds for Bucks residents. The State extended the filing deadline to July so they could be behind. Final returns have been down slightly from 2019.

The Department of Revenue data is used to assist with delinquents and/ or errors. The State has announced that data will not be available until March 2021 or later so delinquents may not be captured as quickly as they were in the past.

Mr. Lazzaro stated that the client services team is available for municipalities to request reporting on specific data in their area. They have the capability to create reports tailored to your needs. Jason Lawson is one of the main contacts that can help so please reach out to him for additional information.

Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township, stated that the TCC website has been redesigned and is the beta stage now. It will soon be announced that it is live with pertinent information available.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

There being no further business, Chairman Pellegrino adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:54 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday, November 30th, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Becki Wilhelm, Secretary