

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 29, 2021, 4:00 P.M.**

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 4:12 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (None)**

**RE-ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Pellegrino noted that the Committee needed to reorganize, and that the Nominations Committee recommended the following slate of Officers for 2021.

**Officers**

Chair – Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Vice Chair – Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township  
Secretary – Becki Wilhelm, Warwick Township  
Treasurer – Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township

**Management Committee**

Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough  
VACANT  
VACANT

**Nominations Committee**

Barry Lubber, Warrington Township  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Jill Pistorio, Buckingham Township

**Tax Appeals Board**

Bob Stone, Central Bucks School District

Thomas E. Stinnett, Riegelsville Borough  
Lorraine Leslie, Hilltown Township  
Patricia Roeder, Milford Township (Alternate)  
Barry Luber, Warrington Township (Alternate)

**Open Records Officer**

Becki Wilhelm, Warwick Township

**Solicitor**

Geoffrey L. Beauchamp, Esq., DVMMA

**Auditor**

Bee Bergvall & Co.

**Depository**

Penn Community Bank

**Insurance Broker**

PennPRIME

Barry Luber, Warrington Township, made a motion to appoint the entire slate of Officers as presented. Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough, seconded the motion. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**RATIFY LEGAL ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR GEOFF BEAUCHAMP**

Mr. Pellegrino stated that Solicitor Geoff Beauchamp had retired from the Delaware Valley Trusts. He recommended that the Committee appoint Mr. Beauchamp as Solicitor with an annual retainer of \$1,000.00. Barry Luber, Warrington Township, made a motion, seconded by Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, and unanimously carried by all present to appoint Geoff Beauchamp as Solicitor to the Tax Collection Committee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough, and seconded by Michael Walsh, New Britain Township, to approve the August 31, 2020 minutes. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. (Note that the 11/30/20 and 01/26/21 meetings had been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions).

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Treasurer's report noting the fund balance was currently \$42,142.38 with expenditures of \$1,282.66 for the month.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Beauchamp noted that the Governor had enacted Act 10 of 2021, extending the earned income tax filing deadline to May 17, 2021. This should have a limited effect on collections for Bucks County.

OLD BUSINESS (None)

#### NEW BUSINESS

Keystone Update – Mr. Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group stated that concern over possible reduction of EIT revenue due to the pandemic had been unfounded. Collections through April 29, 2021 had not dropped for Bucks County. The second quarter was a little shaky, but collections bounced back and were in the black by the end of 2020. Some of this was due to PPP loans. Bucks County as a whole is weighted to middle- and high-paying jobs, sectors that are withstanding the pandemic. There was a drop in LST collections, but those taxes are significantly smaller. 2020 collections were up 1.3% over 2019, despite the pandemic.

Delinquent taxes are still being collected. Keystone acted “firm but fair”. Those who had a job were expected to pay.

Matt Melinson, Ivyland Borough, asked about Philadelphia wage taxes paid by workers for Philadelphia companies who now work from Bucks County homes. Mr. Lazzaro explained that for 2020, those workers may have worked in Philadelphia more than 90 days, which would not necessarily benefit Bucks County. Those workers would need to file with Philadelphia for a refund of taxes. For 2021, if workers remained working from home, they should consider filing locally, as rates were significantly lower.

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls stated that the TCC could draft explanatory language for distribution to the membership. Each member could post this information on their websites to assist taxpayers in their decision.

Income 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.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

There being no further business, Chairman Pellegrino adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday, August 31, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Eileen M. Bradley, Treasurer