

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 27th, 2022**

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 4:05 PM and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Becki Wilhelm, Warwick Township, Secretary called the membership roll. There was a quorum of 52.41% to conduct the Committee business.

PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Pellegrino noted that the Committee needed to reorganize, and that the Nominations Committee recommended the following slate of Officers for 2022:

Officers

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

Management Committee

Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Angela Benner, Plumstead Township
John Ramey, Warminster Township

Nominations Committee

Barry Luber, Warrington Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Jill Pistory, Buckingham Township

Tax Appeals Board

Thomas E. Stinnett, Riegelsville Borough
Lorraine Leslie, Hilltown Township
Jason Harris, Council Rock School District
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

Stephanie Mason, Doylestown 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 SOLICITOR RETENTION AGREEMENT

Mr. Beauchamp has agreed to continue to serve as the Committee's Solicitor for 2022 with an annual retainer of \$1,000. Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township, made a motion, seconded by John Ramey, Warminster Township, 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 Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township, and seconded by Angela Benner, Plumstead Township, to approve the minutes from April 29, 2021, August 31, 2021, and November 30, 2021. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Treasurer's report noting the fund balance is currently \$32,205 with the insurance and legal retainer paid for the year.

A motion was made by Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township, and seconded by Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough, to adopt the 2022 presented budget with the \$17,000 assessment as Resolution #2022-01 to be collected by Keystone in May of 2022. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township, and seconded by Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough to approve bills in the Treasurer's Report. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The TCC Audit information has been sent to Bee Bergvall for completion. Ms. Bradley requested the Delegate Appointment Resolutions be updated and sent to the Board.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT (None)

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group presented the year in review to the Committee. In the beginning of the pandemic, there were warnings of a shortfall in EIT but Bucks County communities did not experience shortfalls. There was an increase of 11.5% in 2021. School districts EIT increased between 8.7% and 18.1% in 2021.

Bucks County delinquent EIT was reduced in 2020 but did increase in 2021 because of the reduced collections in 2020. The information from delinquent collections comes from the State so it will always be behind two years.

Individual mailings have been sent. The business paper packets were mailed out on December 14, 2021, with over 98% of businesses filing electronically. This was a record year for online payments at \$165,828,949.

John Pinkerton, Keystone's Community Liaison, spoke about the process of collecting the occupation and per capita tax including 3 notices and ability to garnish wages. Keystone's goal is to get acquire people from the delinquent list and ensure that they are on the current list in the future.

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 will be on Thursday, April 28th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becki Wilhelm, Secretary