

**BUCKS COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 27th, 2023**

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 4:07 PM and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Becki Marencik, Warwick Township, Secretary called the membership roll. There was a quorum of 52.27% to conduct the Committee business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township, and seconded by Tom Stinnett, Reigelsville Borough, to approve the minutes from January 26, 2023. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Treasurer's report noting the fund balance is currently \$40,737 with no bills this month.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT (None)

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS

a. Keystone Collections Update

Joe Lazzaro, Esq. of Keystone Collections Group presented his report and stated that the tax generation was up nearly 8% over the prior year, which had been the Bucks Tax Collection

Committee's strongest year by Keystone. 2021 year to date EIT through December 2021 was \$234,831,038.92 and 2022 year to date EIT through December 2022 was \$252,694,3465.39. This is an increase of \$17,863,207.47 in one year. The revenue remains strong with the first quarter up 3.5% so far.

In delinquent EIT recovery over 2021 and 2022 up until March 2022, Keystone has added over \$29 Million in the Bucks Tax Collection Committee. At and 1% to 1.5% tax, that represents over \$3 Billion in previously unreported income.

The Yellow Book Audit has been completed and electronic copies are being distributed now. The SOC will be completed in July.

b. Sterling Act of 1932

Chair Pellegrino shared a draft Resolution and information grid showing the revenue lost from the effects of the Sterling Act with Bucks County municipalities. The committee is asking the municipalities to have the resolution adopted at their public meeting to urge legislators to change the law.

Stacey Mulholland, Wrightstown Township, discussed the Act and hearing that was held in Middletown Township a few weeks ago. She mentioned that the Commonwealth has found that the way school districts are funded are unlike municipalities, school districts are partially reimbursed by PA, not Sterling Act Taxes. There is a chance for Sterling Act reform in the bigger education funding reform. This will affect school districts soon. She has reached out to members of Montgomery and Chester Counties to make them aware of the Sterling Act issues.

John Mack, Newtown Township, had a question about people working at home and where they fell in this issue. Mr. Lazzaro, Keystone Collections, said that Philadelphia has rules in place that only if their employer mandates they work at home, are they eligible to not pay Philadelphia wage tax. He also mentioned that the lost revenue is probably lower than what is truly lost since these are estimates from Keystone and not from Philadelphia's sources.

c. Other new Business

Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township, asked if we could discuss offering Zoom meetings in the future. It will be put on the agenda for next meeting as this is a solicitor question.

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 Wednesday, August 30th at 4pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becki Marencik, Secretary