

Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee

Meeting Agenda

Schuylkill County Court House, Courtroom No.1

Monday, November 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call/Quorum Determination
- III. Action on Minutes for October 12, 2009 Meeting
- IV. Introduction of County & State Representatives
- V. Public Comment on Agenda Items
- VI. Future Meeting Dates and Plans
- VII. Old Business
 - a) TCC Solicitor
- VIII. New Business
 - a) Budget Committee Report – Kim Umphrey
 - b) Bylaw Committee Report – Steve Pellman
 - c) Establish Treasurer
 - d) Establish Treasurer Bond
 - e) Establish Bank Account
 - f) Approve Loan Agreement
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Adjourn

Minutes of the Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee Meeting November 16, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee (STCC) held a meeting on Monday, November 16, 2009 commencing 6:03 p.m. in Courtroom 1 of the Schuylkill County Courthouse, 401 North Second Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901.

Chairman Jack Hurst called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. All present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A quorum was verified.

Officers Present: Jack Hurst, Patricia Reazor and Solicitor Robert Frycklund.

Municipalities Present:

Cressona Boro	Deer Lake Boro	East Brunswick Twp	New Ringgold Boro
North Manheim Twp	Orwigsburg Boro	Wayne Twp	West Brunswick Twp
Delano Twp	Gilberton Boro	Mahanoy City Boro	Rush Twp
Cass Twp	Foster Twp	Conyngham Twp	Butler Twp
Frackville Boro	Girardville Boro	Frailey Twp	Pine Grove Boro
Pine Grove Twp	Tremont Boro	Washington Twp	Norwegian Twp
Port Carbon Boro	Pottsville City	Blythe Twp	East Norwegian Twp
Middleport Boro	New Castle Twp	New Philadelphia Boro	St Clair Boro
Shenandoah Boro	West Mahanoy Twp	Landingville Boro	Port Clinton Boro
Schuylkill Haven Boro	South Manheim Twp	Eldred Twp	Upper Mahantango Twp
Branch Twp	Mechanicsville Boro	Mt Carbon Boro	Hegins Twp
Hubley Twp	Blue Mountain SD	Mahanoy Area SD	Minersville Area SD
Pine Grove Area SD	Saint Clair Area SD	Shenandoah SD	Schuylkill Haven Area SD
Tri-Valley SD			

Municipalities Present:

Auburn Boro	Mahanoy Twp	Ryan Twp	Minersville Boro
Reilly Twp	Ashland Boro	Gordon Boro	Ringtown Boro
Union Twp	Tremont Twp	Palo Alto Boro	Rush Twp
Schuylkill Twp	Tamaqua Boro	Walker Twp	West Penn Twp
Barry Twp	North Schuylkill SD	Pottsville Area SD	Tamaqua Area SD

Delegate/Public Comment on Agenda Items: No comment was given at this time.

Minutes: On Motion by Michael Van Allen, Gilberton Borough. 2nd Anthony Demalia, Shenandoah Valley School District and a vote by show of hands clearly showed a majority of the delegates in favor of approving the minutes as a matter of record from the October 12, 2009 STCC meeting.

Visitors Present: PA Representatives Jerry Knowles, Tim Seip, Neal Goodman, Christine Verdier of Senator Dave Argall's Office, and Mitch Hoffman from DCED.

Chairman Hurst opened the floor for discussion with the Representatives.

Representative Seip summarized the background of the Act 32 Legislation and the finance committee hearings. What they were looking at was about 540 different entitles collecting Earned Income Tax and the task of consolidating the effort to Improve collections, reduce the cost and relieve the municipalities of the burden of oversight of the tax collection system. Representative Seip responded to a request for state funding

for this unfunded mandate stating that he understands there is a weighted startup cost and the cost is a very small amount for some municipalities and a higher cost for large municipalities and school districts. However, in the end as the tax collection becomes more efficient and more money is collected, municipalities will be far ahead.

Mitch Hoffman's office of the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) and the Governor's Center for Local Government Services was given the primary responsibility of Implementing Act 32. Mr. Hoffman gave an overview of the issues of standardization, oversight and accountability with this Legislation. A question and answer discussion was held regarding Act 32.

Representative Goodman stated there is no discretionary money in the state budget. As Act 32 moves forward there will be growing pains in the beginning, but In the long run this legislation will save the tax payers of this Commonwealth money.

Representative Seip interjected stating that the Representative's are in support of the Tax Collection Committee and have offered their technical assistance.

Chairman Hurst commented stating that he understands both sides here. The system we have now is a fractured system. There was a PEL study stating that 237 million dollars is slipping through the cracks of the system. We need to focus on the fact that in two years the savings we may realize will be in our hands and there will be potentially additional revenue that is floating out there that we do not have now. If the majority of the board wants to go right to RFP and that is the process we think is the best method to Implement Act 32, we can do that within a year or as early as January 1, 2011. We all deal with unfunded mandates but in the end Act 32 is going to be successful.

Representative Knowles gave a brief history of this legislation and urged all elected officials to follow legislation and contact Senator Argall's office with feedback.

Future Meeting Dates: A discussion was held regarding meeting dates. The majority of delegates by a show of hands are in favor of staggering the meeting dates. The delegates established the next meeting date of December 14, 2009 at 6 p.m. A **Motion** was made by Linda Tarlecki, Conyngham Twp, 2nd Leo Swartz, the city of Pottsville, and by a show of hands the majority voted yes.

Old Business:

STCC Solicitor: Solicitor Bob Frycklund excused himself for a candid discussion by the delegates. Solicitor Frycklund has been serving as the TCC Interim Solicitor at no cost. Solicitor Frycklund submitted a proposal to the TCC. It is the Officer's recommendation to ratify this contract for the next year until we can discuss further what will be done in the future. A discussion was held regarding the solicitor fees and the length of the contract. A Motion was made to approve the contract conditioned upon amending the contract to three (3) months, the end of February 2010 by Leo Schwartz, 2nd Larry Padora, New Ringgold Borough, and by a show of hands the majority voted yes.

New Business:

Budget Committee Report: *on file*

The report was reviewed by Kim Umphrey and the delegates. A Motion was made to approve the budget from September 2009 thru December 2010 by Thomas Oblas, Mahanoy City Borough, 2nd Michael Van Allen, Gilberton Borough, and by a show of hands the majority voted yes.

Bylaw Committee Report: *on file*

The report was reviewed by Steve Pellman and the delegates. A discussion took place regarding the idea of one man, one vote and the weighted vote system in comparison with the United States Senate and House. The TCC has until April 15, 2010 to approve bylaws. The delegates should review and provide comment for the December 14, 2009 meeting. No action taken.

Establish Treasurer: A Motion was made to table establishing a treasurer at this time by Tom Qblas, 2nd Albert Lubinsky, Blythe Twp, and a roll call vote is necessary as a show of hands did not show a clear majority. Result of roll call vote, 29.89% yes-28.77% no. **Tabled.**

Establish Treasurer Bond: No action taken.

Establish Bank Account: A Motion was made to establish a bank account with M & T Bank by Ann Pascavage, Delano Twp, 2nd Anthony Demailis, Shenandoah Valley SD, and by a show of hands the majority voted yes.

Approve Loan Agreement: A Motion was made by Leo Schwartz, 2nd Larry Padora, and by a show of hands the majority voted yes to approve the loan agreement with the County.

Delegate/Public Comment:

Robert Crist, Pine Grove Twp asked when would the municipalities be required to submit their portion of operating costs. Chairman Hurst replied the due date is the end of January as a lump sum payment.

Francis Burke, Mahanoy City opposes Article 1 section 5, 7, and 8 of the draft bylaws. Duly noted.

Adjourn: With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Jack Hurst adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

