

Minutes of the Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee Meeting March 27, 2012

The Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee (STCC) held a meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, in Courtroom 1 of the Schuylkill County Courthouse, 401 North Second Street, Pottsville, PA 17901.

Larry Padora, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. It was verified that a quorum was present.

Officers Present: Larry Padora (Chairman), Leo Schwartz (Co-Chairman), Gail Stehr (Secretary), Kim Umphrey (Secretary), Laine Mack (Asst. Secretary)

Others Present: Paul Datte (Solicitor), Rodger Heydt (Centax)

Members Present:

Blue Mountain SD	Auburn Boro	Cressona Boro	Deer Lake Boro
East Brunswick Twp.	New Ringgold Boro	North Manheim Twp.	Orwigsburg Boro
Wayne Twp.	West Brunswick Twp.	Mahanoy Area SD	Delano Twp.
Gilberton Boro	Mahanoy City Boro	Minersville Area SD	Branch Twp.
Cass Twp.	Frackville Boro	Ringtown Boro	Pine Grove Area SD
Frailey Twp.	Pine Grove Boro	Pine Grove Twp.	Tremont Boro
Washington Twp.	Mechanicsville Boro	Mt. Carbon Boro	Norwegian Twp.
Pottsville City	Blythe Twp.	New Castle Twp.	St. Clair Boro
Schuylkill Haven Area SD	Schuylkill Haven Boro	Shenandoah Boro	West Mahanoy Twp.
Tamaqua Boro	Tri-Valley SD	Barry Twp.	Hegins Twp.
Hublely Twp.	Upper Mahantongo Twp.		

Members Absent:

Mahanoy Twp.	Rush Twp.	Ryan Twp.	Foster Twp.
Minersville Boro	Reilly Twp.	North Schuylkill SD	Ashland Boro
Butler Twp.	Conyngham Twp.	Girardville Boro	Gordon Boro
Union Twp.	Tremont Twp.	Pottsville Area SD	Palo Alto Boro
Port Carbon Boro	Saint Clair Area SD	East Norwegian Twp.	Middleport Boro
New Philadelphia Boro	Landingville Boro	Port Clinton Boro	South Manheim Twp.
Shenandoah Valley SD	Tamaqua Area SD	Rush Twp.	Schuylkill Twp.
Walker Twp.	West Penn Twp.	Eldred Twp.	

I. Delegate/Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

II. Approval of Minutes

It was questioned what the General/Miscellaneous was on Solicitor Datte's invoice, to which he explained that was the balance paid from the last invoice and the new amount for the current invoice. Julian Milewski (Ringtown Boro) also questioned two items regarding a phone call on December 23, 2011. Solicitor Datte responded that those two items should not be there and he will remove them from the invoice.

Jim Wosochlo (Deer Lake Boro) made the motion, which was seconded by Julian Milewski, to approve the minutes from December 27, 2011. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. Treasurer's Report

Jack Hurst (Mahanoy Area SD) made the motion, which was seconded by Jim Wosochlo, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. (Copy of report on file.)

IV. Old Business

A. Appointment of Auditor for 2011

Kim Umphrey (Schuylkill Haven Area SD) mentioned that Rich Pitcavage of Jones & Co. told her that they took a loss for the audit of 2010; they underbid the proposal. The proposal they submitted for 2011 is a more accurate one. Hopefully everything is in order for 2011, and in the future, they might be able to cut the cost.

Jack Hurst made the motion, which was seconded by Dave Shipe (Pine Grove Area SD), to appoint Jones & Co. as the auditor for 2011 at the cost of \$1,400. The motion passed unanimously. (Copy of quote on file.)

B. Transition Update – Problems with Centax

Patsy Bowman (Tri-Valley SD) questioned Rodger Heydt, Centax, why they keep sending back LST money that was sent to Centax. Mr. Hight explained that if the municipalities/school districts have an agreement with Centax for them to collect the LST, they need to contact DCED with that information because otherwise Centax will not be able to collect the LST. Solicitor Datte explained that DCED was notified that Centax will collect the EIT, but each municipality/school district has the option of whether or not they want Centax to collect their LST, which is why each one needs to individually notify DCED about the LST collector. Mr. Hight stated that some of the municipalities have not yet returned information to Centax. Kim Umphrey noted that Berkheimer is still listed as their LST collector even though they sent Centax a copy of their resolution. Berkheimer mailed the 2012 LST information out to the businesses in her area, which has caused many problems. Wendell Gainer (Washington Twp.) mentioned that in September he left three emails and four phone messages with Centax and so far he has not heard a reply from them. He has also heard the same complaint from other people that Centax does not respond to inquiries.

Larry Padora (New Ringgold Boro) questioned if the local office is up and running, to which Mr. Heydt explained it was. Melissa is the secretary in the Pottsville office, which is located in the old Chamber of Commerce building on 91 S. Progress Ave., Pottsville. It was requested that Gail Stehr (Upper Mahantongo Twp.) send an email out to the delegates with the hours, phone number and address as soon as she is given that information from Centax.

Leo Schwartz (Pottsville City) believes those that previously had Berkheimer collect their LST should contact their attorney to see if they can be relieved from their contracts with Berkheimer. Gail Stehr was requested to send a copy of the email that the solicitor and officers had received from Mike Hill of Centax regarding EIT/LST/PIT Rates and Collectors information. Patsy Bowman questioned if this information should have been discussed back in December? Someone mentioned that a cheaper collector is not better. It was questioned how long after the EIT money is sent into Centax will they in turn mail it to where it belongs? Mr. Heydt replied that after April 30, the money should be sent out on a regular basis. Kim Umphrey asked if the employers will receive a form to mail in the EIT or if they need to print one out? Someone noted that if there are more than 50 employees, it is to be done online. Mrs. Bowman noted that the forms that are on the Centax website still say 2011. It was questioned if some of the small businesses do not have a computer, how are they to take care of filing their EIT? Mr. Heydt said he will find out if forms will be sent out in the mail.

Jack Hurst stated he **felt the letter that Centax sent out to all the taxpayers was ambiguous as to what taxpayers were to do with that letter. He also felt it was imperative for Centax to communicate with employers regarding quarterly tax reports.** Last year he noted that Centax said they would have a new software system to handle their new businesses and asked if they acquired one. Mr. Heydt noted the new system is ready to go. Leo Schwartz questioned if a password was needed to log in and Mr. Heydt said he would find out that information. Jack Hurst stated he thinks there needs to be more communication from Centax. Leo Schwartz asked Patsy Bowman to get him the information about the LST checks that were not cashed.

Wendell Gainer questioned how long the Schuylkill TCC has a contract with Centax, to which it was noted three years. He feels things need to be ironed out, to which Jack Hurst agreed. He also feels a letter needs to go out from Centax explaining what needs to be done by the employers. Larry Padora stated he thinks Centax should put out ads in the local papers.

C. Resolution to Appoint Delegates

It was noted that a new resolution to appoint delegates does not need to be done unless a member was replaced.

D. Statement of Financial Interests

It was explained that all the delegates for 2011 need to complete a Statement of Financial Interest.

V. New Business

A. Payment of Invoices

1. Solicitor Datte

Michelle Rudloff (Orwigsburg Boro) made the motion, which was seconded by Brian Canfield (Cass Twp.), to approve payment of the invoice to Solicitor Datte,

pending removal of .10 hour. The motion passed unanimously. (Copy of invoice on file.)

2. Gail Stehr

Jim Wosochlo made the motion, which was seconded by Judith Bubeck (Cressona Boro), to approve the invoice from Gail Stehr. The motion passed unanimously. (Copy of invoice on file.)

VI. Delegate/Public Comment – None

VII. Next Meeting Date

Leo Schwartz stated he feels there should be another meeting before June since there are still some issues with Centax. Mike Van Allen (Gilberton Boro) made the motion, which was seconded by Jim Wosochlo, to hold a meeting on April 17, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at the Schuylkill County Court House. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Mike Van Allen made the motion, which was seconded by Tom Oblas (Mahanoy City Boro), to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Gail A. Stehr, TCC Secretary