

Minutes of the Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee Meeting March 26, 2013

The Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee (STCC) held a meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 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. A quorum was not present. Discussion took place regarding Green Tree Litigation and other TCC matters; however, no motions were made at this meeting.

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

Others Present: Paul Datte (Solicitor), Jim Hunt (Berkheimer)

Members Present:

Auburn Boro	Cressona Boro	Deer Lake Boro	East Brunswick Twp.
New Ringgold Boro	North Manheim Twp.	Wayne Twp.	West Brunswick Twp.
Gilberton Boro	Minersville Ares SD	Branch Twp.	Cass Twp.
Foster Twp.	Minersville Boro	Conyngham Twp.	Girardville Boro
Frailey Twp.	Tremont Boro	Washington Twp.	Mechanicsville Boro
Mt. Carbon Boro	Norwegian Twp.	Port Carbon Boro	Pottsville City
Saint Clair Area SD	Blythe Twp.	East Norwegian Twp.	New Castle Twp.
Schuylkill Haven Area SD	Port Clinton Boro	Schuylkill Haven Boro	Schuylkill Twp.
Tri-Valley SD	Hublely Twp.	Upper Mahantongo Twp.	

Members Absent:

Blue Mountain SD	Orwigsburg Boro	Mahanoy Area SD	Delano Twp.
Mahanoy City Boro	Mahanoy Twp.	Rush Twp.	Ryan Twp.
Reilly Twp.	North Schuylkill SD	Ashland Boro	Butler Twp.
Frackville Boro	Gordon Boro	Ringtown Boro	Union Twp.
Pine Grove Area SD	Pine Grove Boro	Pine Grove Twp.	Tremont Twp.
Pottsville Area SD	Palo Alto Boro	Middleport Boro	New Philadelphia Boro
St. Clair Boro	Landingville Boro	South Manheim Twp.	Shenandoah Valley SD
Shenandoah Boro	West Mahanoy Twp.	Tamaqua Area SD	Ruch Twp.
Tamaqua Boro	Walker Twp.	West Penn Twp.	Barry Twp.
Eldred Twp.	Hegins Twp.		

I. Delegate/Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

II. Treasurer's Report

Kim Umphrey (Schuylkill Haven Area SD) noted that the \$16,647.07 in the STCC checking account includes payments received so far for the weighted share fees. The insurance was \$2,213 and previously it was close to \$7,000.

III. Solicitor's Report – Legal Update

Solicitor Datte reviewed the memo the TCC delegates received regarding the Green Tree Litigation. The two main issues are (1) the receiver filed a motion to destroy records Centax has on hand and (2) the receiver filed a motion to wind up receivership and the distribution of the remaining funds. His recommendation to the TCC officers is to not oppose the motion. He does not think it is worth wasting the time to find records with Centax; most likely Berkheimer has the records. He suggested the delegates go to the Alleghany website to find the docket regarding this litigation. Solicitor Datte also noted the he is waiting for a response from Travelers on the initial claim submitted for the difference in the commission rates and solicitor fees.

Solicitor Datte will circulate a by-law amendment regarding quorum size. No motions can be made when there is no quorum but the TCC still needs to conduct business.

IV. Old Business

A. Centax/Berkheimer Update

Joe Chiaretti (Girardville Boro) stated there is about \$18,000 - \$20,000 owed to the boro from Centax. They only received about \$1,800 from a quarter for which Centax was the collector. He looked at previous years and the amount is repetitious of what they received. Solicitor Datte responded that the contact person from the boro should contact Berkheimer regarding this issue. Solicitor Datte mentioned that the boro would have the right to go after Traveler's directly, but the TCC could also do that. He suggested that the municipalities/districts get their money out of PLGIT and Luzerne first.

Jim Hunt (Berkheimer) noted they are verifying the payments for all four quarters for 2012. The PLGIT account for Luzerne County is not fully processed and that money still needs to be distributed. There is about \$600,000 that needs to be distributed for 2012 and files are still being processed for 2011. The key issue for 2013 is to finalize 2012. Berkheimer is working with Harry Ebling to try and get things in order. They are also working on stale date checks. Leo Schwartz (Pottsville City) noted that since Berkheimer took over, there has not been a physical office in the county. He was under the assumption that Berkheimer would have sittings at certain times and he requested Mr. Hunt to get a list to the TCC of where they have been and where they are going to be in Schuylkill County.

B. Insurance

Larry Padora (New Ringgold Boro) explained to the TCC that he gave insurance proposals to three agencies. They will be staying with Philadelphia Ins. Co. as they lowered the price. Previously the TCC was insured as if they were the collector.

V. New Business

A. Quorum Amendment

Leo Schwartz stated Solicitor Datte will draw up two draft amendments to lower the quorum that is needed to hold meetings and vote on issues. Mike Van Allen (Gilberton

Boro) commented that those attending the meetings are wasting their time when enough delegates do not show up to make a quorum since no action can be taken. He suggested phone calls be made to the delegates to try and get more to attend.

VI. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Gail A. Stehr, TCC Secretary