

Minutes of the Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee Meeting December 17, 2013

The Schuylkill Tax Collection Committee (STCC) held a meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 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. It was verified that a quorum was present.

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

Others Present: Paul Datte (Solicitor)

Members Present:

Auburn Boro	Cressona Boro	East Brunswick twp.	New Ringgold Boro
North Manheim Twp.	Orwigsburg Boro	Wayne Twp.	West Brunswick Twp.
Minersville Area SD	Branch Twp.	Cass Twp.	Foster Twp.
Conyngham Twp.	Ringtown Boro	Pine Grove Area SD	Pine Grove Boro
Tremont Boro	Washington Twp.	Mechanicsville Boro	Mt. Carbon Boro
Norwegian Twp.	Pottsville City	East Norwegian Twp.	New Castle Twp.
St. Clair Boro	Schuylkill Haven Area SD	South Manheim Twp.	Schuylkill Twp.
Tri-Valley SD	Barry Twp.	Upper Mahantongo Twp.	

Members Absent:

Blue Mountain SD	Deer Lake Boro	Mahanoy Area SD	Delano Twp.
Gilberton Boro	Mahanoy City Boro	Mahanoy Twp.	Rush Twp.
Ryan Twp.	Minersville Boro	Reilly Twp.	North Schuylkill SD
Ashland Boro	Butler Twp.	Frackville Boro	Girardville Boro
Gordon Boro	Union Twp.	Frailey Twp.	Pine Grove Twp.
Tremont Twp.	Pottsville Area SD	Palo Alto Boro	Port Carbon Boro
Saint Clair Area SD	Blythe Twp.	Middleport Boro	New Philadelphia Boro
Landingville Boro	Port Clinton Boro	Schuylkill Haven Boro	Shenandoah Valley SD
Shenandoah Boro	West Mahanoy Twp.	Tamaqua Area SD	Rush Twp.
Tamaqua Boro	Walker Twp.	West Penn Twp.	Eldred Twp.
Hegins Twp.	Hublely Twp.		

I. Delegate/Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

II. Treasurer's Report

Kim Umphrey (Schuylkill Haven Area SD) reviewed the Treasurer's Report dated December 17, 2013. The balance is \$13,252.23 and all the bills are paid in full other than what is to be approved at tonight's meeting.

Julian Milewski (Ringtown Boro) made the motion, which was seconded by Mike Lonergan (Orwigsburg Boro), to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously. (Copy of report on file.)

III. Old Business

A. Berkheimer Update

Larry Padora (New Ringgold Boro) noted that all the money received is being distributed and the collections are on the right track.

IV. New Business

Meeting Conducted by Solicitor Datte

A. Appointments for 2014

1. Schuylkill TCC Officers & Tax Appeal Board

Julian Milewski nominated the same people for 2014 that held the positions in 2013. Linda Tarlecki (Conyngham Twp.) moved that the nominations be closed. Mike Lonergan made the motion to approve the following appointments for 2014, which was seconded by Jennifer Laudeman (Minersville SD). The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson – Larry Padora
Vice-Chairperson – Leo Schwartz
Secretary – Gail Stehr
Assistant Secretary – Laine Mack
Treasurer – Kimberly Umphrey
Tax Appeal Board – Wendell Gainer, Laine Mack, Mike Lonergan, Sol. Datte

Meeting Conducted by Larry Padora

2. Appointment of Solicitor

Linda Tarlecki made the motion to retain Solicitor Datte for the Schuylkill TCC. The motion was seconded by Julian Milewski, which passed by a unanimous vote.

B. Approval of Invoices

Mike Lonergan made the motion, which was seconded by Julian Milewski, to approve the following invoices. The motion passed unanimously.

Gail Stehr	\$204.38 (copies/postage 3/25/13 to 9/20/13)
Jones & Co.	\$1,500.00 (Audit 2011 & 2012)

C. Budget

Leo Schwartz suggested keeping the budget for 2014 the same as the previous year. The TCC will see how things progress with Travelers Insurance. There was a change in the insurance the rate changed from \$8,000 to \$7,000. The amended budget for last year was \$20,700.

On a motion by Julian Milewski and seconded by Linda Tarlecki, the 2014 budget in the amount of \$20,700 was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

D. 2014 Meeting Dates

Brian Canfield inquired if the December meeting date could be changed from the 23rd to the 16th. The meeting dates will be as follows:

March 25, June 24, September 23, December 16

On a motion by Linda Tarlecki and seconded by Charles Hosler (Schuylkill Twp.), the meetings for 2014 were unanimously approved.

E. Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Datte noted the TCC is required by Travelers to provide as much detail as possible. He contacted their attorneys today and submitted information from the timeframe of June 2012 to September 2013. The two items on the claim are: difference in commission paid to Berkheimer compared to if Centax would have been paid; TCC attorney fees. He calculated the amount of the claim to be \$150,882.92 (\$124,634.37 for EIT; \$16,624.42 for LST; \$11,624.13 for attorney fees). Solicitor Datte feels it should be discussed how the money will be disbursed once it is received from Travelers.

F. Resolution Regarding Distribution of Travelers Claim Money

Linda Tarlecki made the motion, which was seconded by Julian Milewski, for the TCC to discuss how to disburse the money when it is received from Travelers insurance and approve a resolution to that affect. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Resolution to Pay Invoices Between Meetings

Julian Milewski made the motion, which was seconded by Linda Tarlecki, to adopt a resolution to pay invoices between meetings and then to ratify the payment at the next TCC meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Information Regarding Berkheimer

Larry Padora noted that the contract with Berkheimer is up in 2015. They are now the largest tax collector in the state. He would like to explore collecting the taxes in-house. He feels with Berkheimer being so big, there is nothing to keep them from charging a higher rate. Berks County collects in-house and he would like to explore what they do. Solicitor Datte agreed and feels the TCC would be doing a dis-service to the tax payers if they do not explore this option. He does have a legal concern with Berkheimer being the only option at this time.

Harry Ebling (Mechanicsville Boro) agreed and said he thinks the TCC will find a lot of in-house collectors. He has some concern with Berkheimer; they want to do it their way. Larry Padora did note that Patty McNamara (Berkheimer) does update him and is good to work with, but he also wants to protect Schuylkill County. Solicitor Datte noted it is very unlikely the TCC will get another collector; it will either be Berkheimer or in-house. He also contacted the DCED and they suggested the TCC set up a how-to-do set up in-house.

I. Audits for 2011 & 2012

Linda Tarlecki made the motion, which was seconded by Julian Milewski, to approve the audits for 2011 and 2012. The motion passed unanimously. (Audits on file.)

V. Delegate/Public Comment – None

VI. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion by Julian Milewski and seconded by Linda Tarlecki, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Gail A. Stehr, TCC Secretary