

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

August 17, 2022

The meeting took place at the Sewickley Borough Building (601 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Board President Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

<b>Aleppo:</b>	<b>Glen Osborne:</b> Barbara Carrier
<b>Avalon:</b>	<b>Glenfield:</b>
<b>Bell Acres:</b> *Carmee Murphy-Horton	<b>Haysville:</b>
<b>Bellevue:</b> *Sabreena Miller	<b>Kilbuck:</b> *Jean-Sebastien Valois
<b>Ben Avon:</b>	<b>Leet:</b> *John Stephansky
<b>Edgeworth:</b>	<b>Leetsdale:</b> Jeff Weatherby
<b>Emsworth:</b> Paul Getz	<b>Sewickley:</b> Julie Barnes
<b>Sewickley Heights:</b> Nathan Briggs	

**Public Comment:** None.

In an effort to allow the attending emergency medical technicians to exit the meeting early, President Carrier moved Agenda Item 8C to the beginning of the meeting.

**Proclamation Recognizing Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority:**

President Carrier asked Mr. Brian Herskovitz and Mr. JR Henry to stand and outline the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations planned by both the Valley Ambulance Authority & the Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority. Mr. Herskovitz thanked the Board for the invitation to speak concerning the celebration. He stated he was in attendance to accept a formal proclamation.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the honorary proclamation for the Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority as presented. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Executive Director Connors read aloud the Proclamation. The Board thanked both representatives and their respective Departments for their service to many QVCOG member communities.

**Omnibus Motions:** Executive Director Connors provided a brief update regarding the meeting minutes, financial statements, and outstanding payments.

After a brief conversation, Mr. Getz moved to approve the July 20, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote:

Subsequently, Mr. Getz moved to approve the July financial reports, unpaid bills, and employee payrolls as presented. Mr. Weatherby seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Executive Director Connors stated that he would address the items outlined within the August Executive Directors report throughout the meeting.

### **New Business:**

#### **2021 Annual Audit Report – Case Sabatini:**

Executive Director Connors reported that on February 16, 2022 the QVCOG Board had appointed the firm Case Sabatini to perform the 2021 Audit. He stated that Mr. Eric Spann was scheduled to speak concerning the Audit, but was not in attendance. He summarized the 2021 audit report highlighting that no significant findings were reported or cited. He highlighted that the QVCOG is in strong financial shape. He stated that the annual audit is a requirement due to the QVCOG's involvement with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. He noted that should the Board accept and approve the 2021 Audit, a copy would be sent to Allegheny County Economic Development.

Mr. Weatherby moved to accept the 2021 Audit as presented. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Consideration of an Updated Police Mutual Aid Agreement:**

Executive Director Connors reported that after an inquiry from a QVCOG member community, on April 20, 2022 the Board of Delegates moved to direct the convention of the QVCOG Police Chiefs Committee to review the current Police Mutual Aid Agreement which was approved and enacted in 2009. He stated that after two meetings (May 19<sup>th</sup> & July 19<sup>th</sup>) the Police Chiefs Committee contributed towards and agreed upon the proposed mutual aid agreement. He noted that the agreement was heavily influenced by the Char-West COG's police mutual aid agreement which was enacted in 2021. He cited that in order to ensure that the language met all current municipal requirements, QVCOG Solicitor Racunas also reviewed and contributed towards the agreement.

He highlighted the Agreement included updated verbiage concerning officer(s) response to calls outside of their department's jurisdiction as well as an updated liability insurance threshold for participating communities. Additionally, he highlighted that Leet Township and the Quaker Valley Area School District are seeking to admittance into the pact.

He continued by reporting that should the QVCOG Board of Delegates move forward in approving the proposed agreement, each participating Police Department and community

would be asked to approve the agreement as well. He cited that the following member Police Departments are included within the proposed agreement: (Avalon Borough, Bell Acres Borough, Bellevue Borough, Edgeworth Borough, Leet Township, Leetsdale Borough, Ohio Township (serving Aleppo Township, Ben Avon Borough, Emsworth Borough, and Kilbuck Township), Quaker Valley Area School District, Sewickley Borough (additionally serving Glen Osborne Borough), and Sewickley Heights Borough.

Mr. Weatherby moved to approve the Police Mutual Aid Agreement as presented. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion was passed on a unanimous voice vote.

### **2022 Annual Dinner Update:**

Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG's 2022 "Annual Dinner" will take place at the Edgeworth Club on Wednesday, October 5th. He noted that he is set to meet with the Edgeworth Club's Events and Sales Manager on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to finalize details regarding the event. He concluded by noting that additional details including the Keynote Speaker(s) and registration information will be distributed in the coming weeks.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Municipal Intern Program Final Report - Ms. Anna Richard:**

Ms. Richard provided a brief summary of her background citing that she is a rising senior at Washington and Jefferson College studying political science with a public policy minor and a concentration in conflict and resolution studies. She reported that throughout the internship, she experienced the multifaceted nature of local government and engaged with the 15 QVCOG member municipalities as well as the existing Councils of Governments in Allegheny County. She noted her participation in a number of local government activities including code enforcement/zoning and solid waste/recycling administration as well as more hands-on lessons such as a tour of ALCOSAN's sewage treatment plant and a WM recycling center tour. She also noted her personal engagement with municipal solicitors, officials, and Staff.

She continued by citing that her capstone project began with creation of a survey for the "InterCOG Council", which is a collaboration of the seven COGs within Allegheny County. She reported that the survey collected information concerning the various programs and services offered by the other COGs and identified their highlighted successes and shortcomings. Additionally, she noted that the survey resulted in the identification of practical solutions to common problems facing their member municipalities. She continued by citing the second step of her project was to create an additional survey out of the data from the Inter-COG questionnaire results for QVCOG member communities. The goal of the second survey was to evaluate the QVCOG's programs, services, and overall structure. She briefly went over the results of the survey with provided illustrations and data.

In addition to the survey, she noted that she was tasked with increasing engagement (both in person and digitally) with all member communities and their residents. She highlighted

the creation of an interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) map of community locations, such as community centers, libraries, schools, and municipal building as well as the construction of informational graphics which were used on the QVCOG's website and Facebook Page.

Executive Director Connors thanked Ms. Richard for her efforts and contributions throughout the internship. He highlighted the importance of LGA's Municipal Intern Program and cited the need to continue fostering the next generation of municipal leaders with opportunity and hands on experience. The Board thanked Ms. Richard for her presentation and wished her well on her future endeavors.

**President's Report:**

No report was submitted.

**Route 65 Update:**

Ms. Carrier noted that she, Executive Director Connors, and Ms. Barnes meet with several representatives of PennDOT District 11 on August 15<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the meeting was a continuation of various introductions that have taken place in recent weeks (Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission & PennDOT Connects). She continued by highlighting the need for continued communication between PennDOT and QVCOG member communities regarding the continuation of the Route 65 study(s).

Ms. Barnes emphasized the need for community buy-in in the form of the creation of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement. She noted the Agreement would not be a financial commitment at this point, but rather a commitment to work towards the continued reflection and evaluation on what is desired and needed along the Route 65 Corridor. She cited the acknowledgement that roadway continuity is a strong desire for PennDOT. Mr. Weatherby cited ongoing discussions between Leetsdale Borough and PennDOT concerning the elimination of left-hand turns along portions of Route 65. Ms. Barnes noted that there is strength in numbers and the collective group could help represent all communities in their discussions with PennDOT and other agencies.

**CDBG Status Report:** Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active CDBG projects. He then highlighted that Pre-Applications for CDBG Year 49 (2023) have opened for submission on August 8, 2022 and will be close for consideration on September 16, 2022. He encouraged interested municipalities and their engineering firms to reach out to discuss any potential projects.

**Other Concerns of the Delegates:**

Leet Township – Mr. Stephansky thanked the QVCOG for taking the lead regarding the update to the Police Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Briggs echoed the sentiment.

Leetsdale Borough – Mr. Weatherby highlighted that all regional Emergency Management Coordinators should be submitting their community events (i.e. light up night, trick-or-treat, fall festival, etc.) into the Fusion Center. He cited that by doing so local emergency service providers and first responders can be aware of such events and plan accordingly.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Weatherby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Ben Avon Borough Building (7101 Church Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202). The meeting will be simultaneously broadcast on the Zoom platform, open to the public, and recorded. Please visit [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org) for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners  
Executive Director