

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Director's Report – July 2023

Act 101 Section 904 Awards – The QVCOG has been informed that it is expected to receive a total award amount of \$26,133.32 for its joint 2021 Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Please note, this is a \$2,441.77 (10.3%) increase year over year. In the coming weeks participating communities will receive payment via check from the QVCOG which will be based on their respective residential recycling tonnage rates in addition to a bonus amount based on population and commercial tonnage collection rates. The remaining amount will be rolled into the QVCOG's joint recycling fund, a separate line item within the organization's capital saving's account. This fund has been utilized to help subsidize the glass drop-off recycling program and will be the basis for future collaborative recycling initiatives.

Joint Franchise Fee Committee – At the behest of multiple requests from member communities, at its June 21st meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously approved the re-formation of the joint-franchise fee committee. This committee has been utilized in the past to discuss and review changes to the Verizon and Comcast franchise fee agreements for participating member communities. In cooperation with the Cohen Law Group, the QVCOG has been able to leverage efficiencies which have resulted in lower legal rates for participating communities. On July 6, 2023 Executive Director Conners met with Mr. Dan Cohen and Mr. Phil Fraga of the Cohen Law Group to discuss the history of the partnership as well as a path forward in regards to the renegotiation timelines for the Comcast and Verizon franchise fee agreements. It is expected that a brief survey will be sent out in the coming months to all member communities in an effort to plan a comprehensive franchise fee negotiation strategy. Elected officials and municipal staff interested in serving on the joint franchise free committee are asked to contact Executive Director Conners.

Police Chiefs Committee Updates – In 2023 the Police Chiefs Committee has convened a total of five times. Throughout the year the group has identified various issues and needs and has worked together to find collaborative solutions to various challenges including staffing and equipment shortages, traffic enforcement, etc. With the assistance of the QVCOG the group has applied for and received a shared digital camera and fuming/drying chamber through the PA Chiefs of Police Association's (PACPA) Latent Evidence Program. Additionally, the group has applied for and has been awarded a shared mobile fingerprint scanner (also through PACPA). Note, the unit has yet to be delivered. Most recently, the group worked together to identify regional traffic intersections that will be considered for Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras which are set to be funded through a PA Keystone Communities Grant in the coming year. Throughout each grant application shared polices were developed and approved by each participating municipality/department. In addition to the open dialogues within each meeting there also educational/informational presentations and trainings.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Emergency Planning Committee Meeting – Tuesday, July 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

QVCOG Board of Delegates Meeting – Wednesday, July 19, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

QVCOG Managers and Secretaries Meeting – Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.