

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

October 18, 2023

The meeting took place at the Edgeworth Borough Building (301 Beaver Road, Edgeworth, PA 15143) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

President Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

**Aleppo:** Art Williams\*

**Avalon:** Roberta Edwards\*

**Bell Acres:**

**Bellevue:** Dan McKelvey\*

**Ben Avon:**

**Edgeworth:**

**Emsworth:** Paul Getz\*

**Sewickley Heights:**

**Glen Osborne:** Barbara Carrier

**Glenfield:** Joel Kaminski\*

**Haysville:** Amanda Muzichuck\*

**Kilbuck:** Daryl Hartman

**Leet:** Martin McDaniel

**Leetsdale:**

**Sewickley:** Julie Barnes

\*Attended the meeting via Zoom.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes:**

Ms. Barnes moved to approve the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of September Financial Reports, Payroll, and Unpaid Bills:**

Subsequently, Mr. Hartman moved to approve the September financial reports, unpaid bills, and employee payrolls as presented. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**President's Report:**

President Carrier thanked Executive Director Connors for his efforts in organizing and facilitating the 2023 Annual Dinner event.

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Connors stated that the Route 65 flyer was completed/produced by Michael Baker International and illustrated at the September 20th Board meeting. He noted that the flyer can be accessed at [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org). He highlighted that the product would

be utilized to encapsulate the organization's past efforts regarding Route 65 as well as future collaborative efforts to improve the corridor.

### **Grant Status Report:**

Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects.

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

Flagger Certification Training – Executive Director Conners reported that the QVCOG will again be partnering with Mr. Tyler Lukart of Optimus Risk Services to provide a flagger certification training for QVCOG member communities and their public works departments. He noted that in May of 2022 the QVCOG put on a similar event which was well attended and received. He highlighted that this year's event will take place on December 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Aleppo Township Public Works Garage (100 North Drive Sewickley, PA 15143). He cited that attendees will receive a 3-year flagger certification upon completion of the course. He encouraged interested participants to contact him in order to register ([pconners@qvcog.org](mailto:pconners@qvcog.org)).

Mobile Fingerprint Scanner Delivered – Executive Director Conners stated that in September the Edgeworth Borough Police Department (host department) took delivery of a shared mobile fingerprint scanner which was awarded to the QVCOG via the PA Chiefs of Police Association. He cited that all QVCOG member communities and their affiliated police departments are encouraged to utilize the device when needed. He noted that the mobile fingerprint scanner requires a cellular connection and software maintenance package totaling \$1,025 annually. He stated that the QVCOG has budgeted accordingly and has/will pay for the required services in 2024.

Keystone Communities Grant Contract Finalized – Executive Director Conners reported that the QVCOG is in receipt of a Keystone Communities project contract in the amount of \$100,000.00 through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the procurement of Automated License Plate Reader (ARLP) cameras and affiliated software. He stated that over the coming weeks and months, the QVCOG Police Chiefs Group will discuss the final locations of the cameras prior to the project being put out to bid. He highlighted that the expectation is for 3-4 regional intersections to be equipped with ARLP cameras. He noted that the host municipalities will be responsible for any legacy costs associated with the equipment (i.e. internet connectivity, software licensing, etc.).

### **New Business**

#### **Annual Dinner Recap:**

Executive Director Conners stated that the 2023 Annual Dinner was a great success noting that 68 attendees celebrated intergovernmental collaboration at the Edgeworth Club. He cited that the organization secured 11 sponsorships for the event resulting in over \$4,000.00 in revenue. The event's keystone speaker was Mr. Tom Baker, Executive Director for North Hills Community Outreach. He continued by highlighting that Ms. Diane Vierling was recognized for her public service for both Sewickley & Glen

Osborne Boroughs. Lastly, he cited that over \$660 was raised through a 50/50 raffle with proceeds benefiting Animal Friends of Pittsburgh. The group proceeded to discuss the overall dynamic of the event, noting that some changes could be beneficial moving forward for future dinners.

### **Approval of Resolutions for LSA Grant Applications:**

Executive Director Connors reported that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments has been asked to submit a total of 5 Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Applications for the 2023 cycle. Per The PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (Act 2004-71), as amended, provides for the distribution of gaming revenues through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to support projects in the public interest within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He noted that 2023 is the first year were Councils of Governments (COGs) can apply for funding through this Program. He highlighted that the accompanying Resolutions will be relayed through the Department of Commercial and Economic Development (DCED) Application Portal in advance of the announced deadline of November 30, 2023.

The requested projects can be found below:

- Emsworth Borough – Mayernick Field LED Light Replacement Project
- Glen Osborne Borough – Sanitary Sewer Lining Project
- Leet Township – Municipal Building Interior Renovation Project
- Leet Township - Procurement of Public Works and Police Equipment
- Sewickley Heights Borough - Quarry Road Sanitary Sewer Line Project

Ms. Barnes moved to approve 5 resolutions on behalf of member communities that will be submitted with 2023 Local Share Account (LSA) grant applications. Mr. McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Concurring Resolution for CDBG Year 50 Applications:**

Executive Director Connors reported that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments was asked to submit a total of 10 CDBG Year 50 pre-applications. Of the aforementioned pre-applications, 9 applications were authorized for full submission by Allegheny County Economic Development. If approved by the Board of Delegates, a Concurring Resolution will be signed and submitted to County officials for each of the projects in advance of the CDBG Year 50 application deadline of November 17, 2023.

The requested projects can be found below:

- Avalon Borough – 525 Spruce Run Road Blight Remediation Project - \$60,600.00
- Edgeworth Municipal Authority - Big Sewickley Creek Road Water Line Replacement, Phase I - \$327,000.00
- Leet Township - ADA Sidewalk Improvement Project - \$50,000.00
- Sewickley Borough - ADA Sidewalk Improvement Project - \$50,000.00
- Edgeworth Borough - Municipal Building ADA Parking Project - \$39,229.00
- Leetsdale Borough - Henle Park ADA Parking Project Phase II - \$39,600.00
- Leetsdale Borough - 175 Beaver Street & 90 Ohio River Boulevard Blight Remediation Project - \$46,000.00

- Bellevue Borough - Bayne Park Retaining Wall Replacement Project (Phase II) - \$50,000.00
- Emsworth Borough - Emsworth ADA Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Project - \$42,000.00

He cited that as the “recipients” of requested funding, all participating municipalities will be subject to the QVCOG’s utilization fee policy.

Mr. McDaniel moved to approve 9 concurring resolutions on behalf of member communities that will be submitted with CDBG Year 50 grant applications. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote

**Consideration of a Proposal from the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) to Conduct a Hard to Recycle Collection Event in 2024:**

Executive Director Connors reported that 2023 was the first year in the recent past where the QVCOG region was not selected to host a “Hard to Recycle” event facilitated through the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC). He highlighted that these events offer households an outlet to responsibly and conveniently dispose of items that are not eligible for curbside recycling such as e-waste (TVs & monitors), cell phones, Freon-containing appliances, tires, and more. He noted that these regional events were traditionally well attended with the 2022 event having over 600 registered attendees and become a staple for our member communities and their summer calendars. Per PRC, “In the past when there has been a Hard to Recycle event within the boundaries of QVCOG those costs were covered by Allegheny County as part of their services provided to all residents of the County.” He cited that Allegheny County has been more selective in putting on HTR events and in an effort to guarantee an event in 2024 the QVCOG met with PRC via Zoom on October 18, 2023.

He cited that the conversation was productive with PRC offering their services in an effort to bring another HTR event to the QVCOG region in 2024. He referred to the attached proposal stating that PRC would charge the QVCOG a “Mobilization Fee” of \$8,500.00 which would secure a date on PRC’s 2024 HTR calendar. He reported the fee covers the cost of the various affiliated recycling vendor(s) travel, PRC staffing and labor, as well as essential tasks such as digital advertising and the production and distribution of advertisement materials. He stated the proposed event would take place during the summer of 2024 (date TBD) at the Quaker Valley High School (625 Beaver St, Leetsdale, PA 15056). He noted that all past events have taken place at this location. Should the Board wish to move forward with the proposed partnership, both the PRC the QVCOG would work with the Quaker Valley School District Administration to identify an agreeable date for the event.

He continued by citing that the event would be paid for via the QVCOG’s joint recycling fund noting that in 2023 the organization received \$26,133.62 through the DEP’s Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Program (based on 2021 data). He highlighted that of that award, a significant portion was distributed to the 14 participating member communities based on their residential recycling rates with the remaining amount being transferred into the organization’s joint recycling fund. He reported that this fund has grown significantly over the years currently standing at

\$45,042.44. He noted that at its August 16th meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates voted unanimously to take over all financial costs associated with the glass recycling program, also utilizing the joint recycling fund. He stated the glass recycling program is expected to cost \$7,680.00 annually based on current usage and hauling costs. Should the HTR event and glass program remain annual costs paid by the QVCOG, he cited the annual Recycling Performance Grant award could sustainably fund both initiatives without significantly impacting the current level of the joint recycling fund.

Ms. Barnes expressed her concern with the overall cost of the proposal. Mr. Hartman noted his experience attending a recent HTR event citing that all patrons had to register in advance of the event and received a designated time slot to avoid traffic congestion.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hartman to approve an agreement between the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) and the QVCOG for a “hard to recycle” event within the 2024 calendar year. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Other Concerns of the Delegates:**

Haysville Borough: Ms. Muzichuck inquired to the group regarding the issuance of building permits within a municipality’s flood plain. Mr. McDaniel noted that municipalities must report annually regarding the number of building permits, etc. that are filed and approved within the federally designated floodplain. He cited the federal government subsidizes many insurance policies and the program is reliant on accurate reporting at the municipal level. Ms. Muzichuck noted that Haysville’s engineer has declined to review/issue building permits within their floodplain. Mr. McDaniel highlighted that the Borough could sub-contract with another engineering firm. Ms. Barnes stated that the Borough could pass on the review charges along to the applicant if such a process is outlined within their fee schedule.

Bellevue Borough: Mr. McKelvey inquired about the regulation of outdoor music events and municipal noise ordinances. Mr. McDaniel stated that if a municipality passed a noise ordinance it is ultimately responsible for purchasing/maintaining equipment to monitor the decibel levels when a complaint is filed. Ms. Barnes noted that Sewickley Borough is facing a similar situation. Executive Director Connors cited his experience regarding the enforcement of municipal noise ordinance violations that are connected to businesses in possession of liquor licenses. He encouraged Mr. McKelvey to consult with the Borough’s solicitor on the matter.

Sewickley Borough: Ms. Barnes invited everyone to attend Sewickley’s “light up night” on December 1st.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Hartman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next meeting will be hosted by Leet Township and is scheduled for November 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at 194 Ambridge Avenue, Fair Oaks, PA 15003. 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