

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

December 20, 2023

The meeting took place exclusively via Zoom and was made available on the QVCOG's 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: John Schwend

Emsworth: Paul Getz

Sewickley Heights: Nathan Briggs

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Glenfield:

Haysville: Amy Paff

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman

Leet:

Leetsdale:

Sewickley: Julie Barnes

Public Comment: None.

Approval of November 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Paff moved to approve the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Schwend seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of November Financial Reports, Payroll, and Unpaid Bills:

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

President's Report:

President Carrier thanked the entire Board for their time and efforts over the past year. She cited a number of accomplishments that were made possible due to the intergovernmental collaboration of each of the 15 QVCOG member communities. She lastly thanked Executive Director Connors for his leadership in guiding the organization in 2023.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors highlighted that the recently formed Route 65 Committee would seek to meet early in the new year to begin to develop an organizational strategy regarding Route 65. He cited the group would be able to utilize the strategic design guide

and newly minted flyer produced by Michael Baker International to bring awareness to and build consensus among each member community.

Grant Status Report:

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

Executive Director's Report:

2024 Fuel Cost Adjustment – Executive Director Conners stated that per the current waste and recycling contract specifications, participating QVCOG member municipalities will permit an annual diesel fuel cost adjustment for garbage and recyclable collection throughout the length of the contract. He stated that after conducting the associated calculation and confirming with the WM team, there will be no increase for consumers in the new year. Please note, the following communities participate in the aforementioned agreement: Aleppo Township, Avalon Borough, Bellevue Borough, Ben Avon Borough, Edgeworth Borough, Emsworth Borough, Glen Osborne Borough, Glenfield Borough, Kilbuck Township, Leet Township, and Sewickley Borough.

Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program – Executive Director Conners reported that the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the design, acquisition, and construction of a regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement project. He stated that RACP projects are authorized in the Redevelopment Assistance section of a Capital Budget Itemization Act, have a regional or multi-jurisdictional impact, and generate substantial increases or maintain current levels of employment, tax revenues, or other measures of economic activity. He noted that RACP projects are state-funded projects that cannot obtain primary funding under other state programs. He highlighted that the RACP funding round will open Friday, December 8, 2023 and will close Friday, January 12, 2024. He concluded by stating that more information regarding this funding opportunity can be found at qvcog.org.

Franchise Fee Cooperative – Executive Director Conners stated that in the recent past the Cohen Law Group has represented and worked on behalf of many QVCOG member communities when their franchise fee agreements were near expiration. He cited that a major advantage provided by this cooperative is reduced rates charged by the aforementioned firm. He highlighted that the current proposal as outlined commits a 20% discount if 7 or more QVCOG members join the cooperative. He continued by noting that the proposal also includes a franchise fee audit to determine whether Comcast has paid each of the municipalities all the franchise fee revenue to which they may be entitled. He encouraged anyone with questions to contact Mr. Daniel Cohen via email dcohen@cohenlawgroup.org or by phone at (412) 447-0130, ext. 110.

2024 Board of Delegates Meeting Dates and Locations – Executive Director Conners outlined the 2024 meeting dates and host locations can be found below (all meetings will continue utilizing a hybrid model and are set to commence at 7:00 p.m.).

January 17th - Sewickley Public Library
March 20th - Sewickley Public Library

February 21st - Sewickley Public Library
April 17th - Sewickley Public Library

May 22nd - Sewickley Public Library
July 17th – Leetsdale Borough.
September 18th - Leetsdale Borough
November 20th - Leetsdale Borough

June 19th - Sewickley Public Library
August 21st - Leetsdale Borough
October 16th - Leetsdale Borough
December 18th - Leetsdale Borough

New Business

Approval of Concurring Resolution – CDBG Year 50 Admin:

Executive Director Connors highlighted that any Council of Governments requesting funding to reimburse for administrative costs within the Community Development Block Grant must approve and submit a Concurring Resolution annually within Allegheny County Economic Development's application portal. He cited that for the CDBG year 50 cycle the QVCOG is applying for a maximum reimbursement of \$47,500.00.

Mr. Getz moved to approve a concurring resolution for the CDBG year 50 administrative cycle in the amount of \$47,500.00. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Honorary Proclamation Recognizing Mr. Jeff Weatherby and Mr. Paul Getz for their Service to the QVCOG:

President Carrier cited that at the November Board meeting Mr. Paul Getz and Mr. Jeff Weatherby indicated that their terms on their respective Borough Councils would be coming to an end at the conclusion of 2023. Executive Director Connors proceeded to read aloud honorary proclamations thanking both men for their service to their respective communities as well as the QVCOG. Mr. Schwend thanked both for their many years of service to the organization.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve honorary resolutions recognizing Mr. Paul Getz and Mr. Jeff Weatherby for their service to the QVCOG. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

2023 Annual Report:

Executive Director Connors provided a brief outline of the prepared 2023 Annual Report which highlights the accomplishments of the QVCOG over the past year. He stated that he would send the report out to the Managers and Secretaries of member communities as well as the Board in the coming days.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Avalon Borough – Ms. Edwards reported that Avalon has received two American Rescue Plan Act grants totaling over \$450,000.00 for storm and sanitary sewer projects. Additionally, she stated that after a number of tests and analysis the Avalon Borough Council has decided to not open their community pool for the 2024 season. She cited a large unfound leak and a large deficit for the pool as the primary reasons for the decision.

Bellevue Borough – Mr. McKelvey noted that Bellevue's current Borough Manager Cindy Bahn would be leaving the position at the end of the year. He stated that the Borough is currently seeking applicants to fill the position.

Edgeworth Borough – Mr. Schwend stated that two Borough Employees recently received promotions. Police Officer Bill Och was promoted to Lieutenant and Ms. Ellen Politi was promoted to Assistant Borough Manager.

Glen Osborne Borough – Ms. Carrier stated that for the first time in recent memory Glen Osborne Borough has applied for a number of grants to repair and replace infrastructure within the community. She encouraged all member communities to pursue these funding sources and thanked the QVCOG for bringing many opportunities to her attention in 2023.

Kilbuck Township – Mr. Daryl Hartman reported that the Kilbuck Township Supervisors successfully voted to reduce the millage rates for their residents for 2024.

Sewickley Borough – Ms. Barnes reported a successful “Light up Night” event. She also highlighted the abundance of federal grants available citing that Sewickley Borough was recently awarded a number of American Rescue Plan Act grants to help facilitate renovations to their regional water treatment plant.

Adjournment: Mr. Schwend moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143) on January 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director