

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

February 20, 2024

The meeting took place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) and was broadcast via Zoom. A video recording 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

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Avalon:

Glenfield: Joel Kaminski*

Bell Acres:

Haysville: Amy Paff*

Bellevue:

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman*

Ben Avon: Tavia Washington*

Leet: Donna Adipietro

Edgeworth: John Schwend*

Leetsdale:

Emsworth:

Sewickley: Julie Barnes

Sewickley Heights:

Public Comment: None.

Approval of January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Williams moved to approve the January 17, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

President's Report:

President Carrier noted that landslides are increasingly occurring in the region noting an incident that impacted a property in Glen Osborne Borough. She thanked both Representative Valerie Gaydos and Emily Kinkead for their efforts in addressing the insurance void currently at hand regarding this matter. She also cited a Norfolk Southern rail road derailment incident that occurred in Pennsylvania earlier that day noting that many QVCOG communities are at risk for a similar event.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors highlighted that the recently formed Route 65 Committee met on February 9th and discussed key stakeholders along the boulevard (i.e. community

organizations, religious and educational institutions, etc.). He stated that he intends to integrate the organizations into an illustrative GIS map. Ms. Barnes noted that the Committee is set to meet again on March 8th and will review the informational flyer produced by Michael Baker International in 2023. She also noted the group plans to meet with the COG's solicitor to discuss the development of an intergovernmental agreement on the topic of Route 65.

Grant Status Report:

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

Executive Director's Report:

HTR Event Announced – Executive Director Conners reported that in partnership with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) the QVCOG will be financially supporting the return of a “Hard to Recycle” event to the region. He noted that the event has been scheduled for Saturday, July 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Final details regarding the location of the event are still under consideration. He cited that the Quaker Valley High School and Leetsdale Industrial Park are both under consideration. He highlighted that he would be meeting with PRC and the owners of the industrial park on February 22nd to discuss the possibility of hosting the event. He reported that Hard to Recycle events provide responsible and convenient disposal for items such as e-waste, cell phones, polystyrene, Freon-containing appliances, tires and more. These events require all participants to register in advance. Final details of the event, including disposal fees and registration details will follow in the coming months.

Letters of Support - Intersection of River Road and Route 65 – Executive Director Conners stated that per an email from the Office of Representative Valarie Gaydos (PA-44), the Route 65 corridor and intersection at River Road was a concern brought to her office's attention by several QVCOG municipalities. He cited that in an effort to advocate for impacted member communities, the QVCOG has submitted a letter of support to both SPC and PennDOT District 11. He highlighted that the letter template is available for any member communities that wish to utilize it. Mr. Williams, Ms. Carrier, and Ms. Barnes cited that their communities have submitted letters of support. A discussion regarding the history of prior studies of the intersection ensued.

Franchise Fee Agreement Cooperative – Executive Director Conners reminded member communities of an opportunity to join a franchise fee cooperative facilitated by the Cohen Law Group. He noted that in the 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 highlighted that in addition to renegotiating an agreement with Comcast, the proposal also includes a franchise fee audit to determine whether Comcast has paid each participating municipality all the franchise fee revenue to which they may be entitled. He reported that a major advantage provided by this cooperative is up to a 20% discount if seven or more QVCOG members participate. He cited that to date, three municipalities have agreed to participate in the cooperative (Aleppo Township, Glen Osborne Borough, and Leetsdale Borough). He stated that a tentative deadline of March

15th has been established for communities wishing to express their commitment to participate in the initiative.

New Business

Discussion with Representative Valerie Gaydos (PA-44) & Representative Emily Kinkead (PA-20) Regarding Proposed House Bill 589:

Representatives Valerie Gaydos and Emily Kinkead joined the Board meeting via Zoom to discuss proposed House Bill 589 which seeks to expand the Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Program was program to protect vulnerable homeowners across the commonwealth by giving them access to landslide and sinkhole insurance coverage at fair prices, setting up a mechanism to evaluate potential landslide risks, and providing tools and incentives to communities and individuals to reduce losses to landslides. Representative Gaydos noted that landslide insurance is not available for property owners in Pennsylvania. She highlighted that shortly after being sworn in she and Representative Kinkead identified the lack of landslide protections for Pennsylvania residents as matter to be addressed. Representative Kinkead cited this topic as bipartisan in nature and the proposed legislation would provide a real-world solution. They proceeded to discuss specifics of the legislation including a cap of \$150,000 for individual claims. Representative Gaydos highlighted that a hurdle to the legislation passing were concerns levied by the PA Department of Environmental Protection who would be responsible for administering the new program. She cited that an amendment to the original proposal is under consideration. Representative Kinkead highlighted that municipalities can play an active role on this topic by establishing proactive zoning ordinances addressing steep slopes and landslide prone areas in their communities. The group proceeded to ask the representatives a variety of questions regarding the proposed legislation and subsequently thanked them for their time and insight.

Approval of Agreement with Case Sabatini to perform 2023 Annual Audit:

Executive Director Connors stated that all organizations that participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program must be audited on an annual basis. He noted that in addition to being a requirement for the CDBG Program, an annual audit is a best practice for organizations of any size and sector. He noted that at the conclusion of the Audit a formal report is submitted to Allegheny County Economic Development. He highlighted that beginning in 2013, Case Sabatini has performed this function on behalf of the QVCOG. He reported that Case Sabatini has submitted an engagement letter (attached within the meeting packet) outlining their responsibilities if selected to perform the 2023 Audit. He cited the proposed quote is \$3,850.00 (an increase of \$200 from the 2022 Audit).

Mr. Williams moved to approve an agreement appointing Case Sabatini to conduct the 2023 annual audit on behalf of the QVCOG. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

No concerns were brought before the Board.

Adjournment: Mr. Williams moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143) on March 20, 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