

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

April 16, 2025

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

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:

\*attended via Zoom

<b>Aleppo:</b>	<b>Glen Osborne:</b> Barbara Carrier
<b>Avalon:</b>	<b>Glenfield:</b> Paul Carmody
<b>Bell Acres:</b>	<b>Haysville:</b> Amy Paff*
<b>Bellevue:</b> Dan McKelvey*	<b>Kilbuck:</b> Daryl Hartman
<b>Ben Avon:</b>	<b>Leet:</b> Donna Adipietro*
<b>Ben Avon Heights:</b> Steve Stiller*	<b>Leetsdale:</b> Maria Napolitano*
<b>Edgeworth:</b>	<b>Sewickley:</b> Julie Barnes
<b>Emsworth:</b> Paul Getz	<b>Sewickley Heights:</b> Nathan Briggs*

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Mark Rengers, President of the Sewickley Valley Chamber of Commerce (“the Chamber”) came before the Board to introduce himself as well as the Chamber. He cited that the Chamber is pursuing a campaign to integrate businesses and nonprofits from across the Quaker Valley region. He highlighted that newly hired Executive Director Erica Parr would be attending the QVCOG’s Managers and Secretaries Committee meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He concluded by encouraging collaboration amongst regional partners and invited QVCOG communities to join the Chamber. The Board thanked Mr. Rengers for his time.

**Approval of March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Getz moved to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Ms. Barnes abstained from the vote citing that she was not in attendance for the March Board meeting.

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

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

**President's Report:**

President Carrier highlighted an initiative by America250 which is coordinating celebrations for the United States' 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 4, 2026. She noted that later in the meeting, the Board would be asked to consider a resolution supporting Pennsylvania's chapter (America250PA). She concluded by stating that grant funding is available through America250PA to assist communities in their individual celebration programs.

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Conners invited members of the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) to update the Board regarding their project partnership with the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC). Mr. Mark Chimel, Ms. Dana DePasquale, and Dr. Ramona Crawford all provided updates, citing that their cohort has been contacting QVCOG member communities to understand their concerns and desires for the future of Route 65. Mr. Chimel proceeded to highlight an in-person engagement that will be hosted by the MCC at their facility (1319 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233) on May 15th (specific time TBD). He invited all interested officials from QVCOG member communities to participate in the engagement. He continued by citing the MCC's interest in joining the QVCOG's Route 65 intergovernmental agreement. He concluded by reporting that a final presentation regarding LDI's project would be provided at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Delegates Meeting.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

Executive Director Conners reported that the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee will convene on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Grant Status Report:**

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

**Executive Director's Report:**

Remembering Harry Dilmore – Executive Director Conners somberly reported that Mr. Harry Dilmore, longtime Municipal Manager for both Avalon Borough (2001-2017) and Kilbuck Township (2008-2022) passed away on Sunday, April 6th.

QVCOG Intergovernmental Reception Details Announced – Executive Director Conners reported that the QVCOG will again be hosting an interactive and engaging reception to recognize the value of intergovernmental collaboration and those who make it all possible. He stated that the event will take place at the Edgeworth Club on August 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He encouraged all public officials and staff from member communities to attend. He reported that further details regarding the event and information on how to register/sponsor the reception will be available on [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org) in the coming weeks and months.

Scott Electric Foundation Grant Opportunity – Executive Director Conners cited that the Scott Electrical Foundation, Inc. is a private foundation focused on funding electrical industry-related initiatives that seeks to benefit the communities served by the Scott Electric Company. He reported that in an effort to assist in this mission, the

Foundation is soliciting grants to fund projects in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and New York. He highlighted that the Foundation gives grants to non-profits, municipalities and schools/training centers mostly related to lighting/energy efficiency projects. He cited that recent grant awards include \$14,750.00 for the Munhall Borough's Volunteer Fire Hall and \$24,694.00 for the North Strabane Township's Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that additional details regarding this opportunity, including the two-page application, can be found by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org).

Tree Adoption Event Update – Executive Director Connors reported that at its Tree Adoption event (in partnership with Tree Pittsburgh) on April 12<sup>th</sup>, all one hundred trees were adopted by 62 households within QVCOG member communities. He thanked Mr. Daryl Hartman and Avalon Borough Manager Lorraine Makatura for volunteering at the event.

Meeting with Sewickley Hills Borough – Executive Director Connors reported that he met with Sewickley Hills Borough Council on April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the potential of their community joining the QVCOG. He stated that the meeting went well, and he anticipates the discussions to be ongoing.

## **New Business**

### **Resolution Supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the USA's Semi-Quincentennial**

Executive Director Connors reported that in an effort to raise awareness and support the efforts of America250PA in their initiative to engage all Pennsylvanians in all 67 Counties throughout the Commonwealth, the QVCOG has been asked to approve a Resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the USA's Semi-Quincentennial (250<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1776-2026). He stated that if approved by the QVCOG Board, the supportive Resolution will be forwarded to the organization. He noted that QVCOG member communities are encouraged to follow suit, for there are grants available (approved by the Pennsylvania Legislature during the 2024-25 session). He cited that the Semi-Quincentennial Grants are intended to create, uplift, improve, and expand programming, projects, and events from eligible Pennsylvania communities and organizations, which contribute to a full calendar of activities, engaging every single Pennsylvanian, around the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He highlighted that a second and final grant period will run from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> with awards being announced no later than June 15, 2025 with a total of \$500,000.00 in funding available.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the presented Resolution. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Pittsburgh Regional Transit Funding Crisis**

Executive Director Connors introduced Ms. Amy Silbermann, Chief Development Officer of Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) to the Board. Ms. Silbermann cited that recently, PRT announced a plan to cut route service by up to 40% along designated bus and light rail routes throughout the region. She also cited that the plan also calls for a reduction of the footprint of paratransit ACCESS service by 62% for the County, an increase of fares, and closure of facilities and infrastructure. Several of the proposed

service cuts are set to directly impact stops within QVCOG member communities (see below).

#### QVCOG Routes Impacted by Cuts

- **Route 13 – Bellevue** – Major Route Reduction - No service past 11:00 p.m., Increased wait times;
- **Route 14 – Ohio Valley** – Route Eliminated;
- **Route 16 – Brighton** (crosses into Bellevue and Avalon) - Major Route Reduction No service past 11:00 p.m., increased wait times; and
- **Route 19L – Emsworth Limited** – Route Eliminated;

Next, she highlighted that PRT is also proposing the closure of three of their seventy-nine bridges. The bridges are: Avalon/California Avenue Bridge (Avalon Borough), Ben Avon/Church Avenue Bridge (Ben Avon Borough), Emsworth/Camp Horne Bridge (Emsworth Borough).

She highlighted that if the proposed plan is not revised or delayed without additional state funding for public transit included in the upcoming budget, the plan would take effect in February 2026. She stated that PRT faces a \$100 million deficit starting on July 1, 2025 that grows exponentially every year after. She reported that in an effort to keep their current levels of service, PRT is asking the state for a \$117 million increase in their subsidy to sustain current levels of service for 10 years. She cited that PRT receives more than half of its funding for operations from the Commonwealth as established by Act 89 of 2013. She highlighted that those funding levels were always meant to be a 10-year solution. She continued by citing that the funding crisis is not unique to Allegheny County, with many transit agencies across the state facing similar situations.

She encouraged impacted residents and communities to make their voices heard by participating in the public comment period which will run from March 31<sup>st</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. She stated that an online survey has been made available on PRT's websites, also noting that interested parties could phone in or write PRT regarding their concerns.

Lastly, she encouraged interested parties to register and attend one of three in person public hearings (listed below).

- **HEARING #1:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 29 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center
- **HEARING #2:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum
- **HEARING #3:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on June 12 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center

She stated that the input gathered during the public comment period will be shared with state officials to demonstrate the far-reaching impact of potential transit cuts and the urgent need for a sustainable funding solution. Most importantly, she stated that interested parties are encouraged to contact their elected state representatives and senators (QVCOG elected officials listed below).

#### Regional Legislators

[Representative Valerie Gaydos](#) - PA House District 44 (*Aleppo, Bell Acres, Edgeworth, Glenfield, Glen Osborne, Haysville, Leet, Leetsdale, Sewickley, Sewickley Heights*);

[Representative Arvind Venkat](#) - PA House District 30 (*Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Emsworth, Kilbuck*)

[Representative Emily Kinkead](#) - PA House District 20 (*Avalon, Bellevue*)

[Senator Devlin Robinson](#) - PA Senate District 37 (*Aleppo, Bell Acres, Ben Avon Heights, Edgeworth, Glenfield, Glen Osborne, Haysville, Kilbuck, Leet, Leetsdale, Sewickley, and Sewickley Heights*)

Senator Wayne Fontana – (*Avalon, Bellevue, Ben Avon, and Emsworth*)

After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes to authorize a letter to PRT outlining concerns regarding the proposed cuts impacting QVCOG member communities and expressing support for additional funding from the state. Ms. Carrier seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

## **Old Business**

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

Ben Avon Heights Borough: Ms. Stiller introduced himself to the group noting that Ms. Jill Berardi would be serving as the Alternate Delegate for the Borough. He also reported that three digital speed signs have been installed along the state roads within the Borough which are often utilized as shortcuts through the community. He concluded by stating that phase two of a sewer lining project is underway in the Borough.

Glen Osborne Borough: Ms. Carrier reported that a sewer lining project within the Borough is also underway.

Leet Township: Ms. Dipietro noted that on April 26<sup>th</sup> the Township would be conducting a community clean-up event in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations.

Leetsdale Borough: Ms. Napolitano reported that Leetsdale Borough is conducting a clean-up event and tree planting event through the TreeVitalize Program on April 26<sup>th</sup>. She also provided a brief update regarding ongoing grant projects in the Borough. She also noted that that a Purple Air monitor was installed on the Borough Building. She concluded by providing an update regarding the Borough's Fourth of July celebrations.

Sewickley Borough – Ms. Barnes reported that Borough Council also approved the installation of a Purple Air Monitor. She also noted various park improvements throughout the community. She concluded by highlighting that a pedestrian walkability safety study would be performed by Gateway Engineers.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Getz moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartman. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on May 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners  
Executive Director