

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

June 21, 2023

The meeting took place at the Ben Avon Borough Building (7101 Church Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202) 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 7:01 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

Aleppo:

Avalon: Roberta Edwards*

Bell Acres: Lane Grafton*

Bellevue: Dan McKelvey*

Ben Avon: Tavia Washington

Edgeworth:

Emsworth: Paul Getz*

Sewickley Heights: Nate Briggs*

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Glenfield: Joel Kaminski

Haysville:

Kilbuck: Jean-Sebastien Valois*

Leet:

Leetsdale:

Sewickley: Julie Barnes*

*Attended the meeting via Zoom.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of May 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Washington moved to approve the May 17, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

Executive Director Connors noted that currently the QVCOG is working with Case Sabatini to complete the 2022 Annual Audit. He highlighted that a final report of the Audit should be provided at the July Board meeting.

President's Report:

President Carrier highlighted that there are multiple presentations on the Agenda and in an effort to be respectful of everyone's time no report was provided.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that he had met with Ms. Kathryn Schlesinger, Project Manager for Michael Baker International (MBI), on Monday June 19th via Zoom. He noted that the Route 65 summary and sales pitch for the prior study and efforts is coming along nicely. He stated that the final product and report will be provided at the July Board of Delegates meeting. He outlined that once the final product is in hand the QVCOG can begin to form a binding agreement expressing support for the continued evaluation of Route 65 for each member community to consider for approval.

CDBG Status Report:

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active and awarded CDBG projects.

Executive Director's Report:

Keystone Communities Grant – Executive Director Connors reported that with advocacy from Representative Valerie Gaydos (PA-44) the Quaker Valley Council of Governments has been allocated \$100,000.00 through the Keystone Communities Program for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of traffic cameras and automated license plate reader (ARLP) technology. He highlighted that per DCED's website, "The Keystone Communities Program (KCP) is designed to encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors that jointly support local initiatives such as the growth and stability of neighborhoods and communities; social and economic diversity; and a strong and secure quality of life. He noted that the Program allows communities to tailor the assistance to meet the needs of their specific revitalization effort. He cited that the QVCOG has submitted a formal application through the DCED's application portal on Friday, June 16th. He thanked the Police Chiefs Group and Detective Ryan Ging (Ohio Township Police Department) for their assistance in completing the application. He cited that within the application a total of six intersections were identified by the Police Chiefs Group for consideration. He highlighted that once the funding is secured and the project is put out for bid the final locations (three-to-four expected) will be selected.

2023 QVCOG Annual Dinner Date Announced – Executive Director Connors announced that the 2023 Annual Dinner will be returning to the Edgeworth Club (511 East Dr, Sewickley, PA 15143). He cited this location was available due to the generosity of Mr. Kevin Flannery's sponsorship. He stated that this year's event will take place on Thursday, October 5th. He concluded by reporting that additional details regarding the event will be announced in the coming months.

New Business:**Presentation - Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP):**

Executive Director Connors introduced Mr. Patrick Campbell, Executive Director of the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) to the Board. He highlighted that GASP very kindly provided two PurpleAir monitors to the QVCOG (the devices were then awarded to Ben Avon Borough and Edgeworth Borough, respectively). Mr. Campbell

provided a brief history of GASP as an organization as well as the region's relationship with industry and air quality. He then outlined various methods and tools that are used to monitor air quality, including PurpleAir monitors. He concluded by citing resources that can be used by municipalities to better inform their residents about air quality. The Board thanked Mr. Campbell for his time and presentation.

Presentation – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Funding Opportunities:

Ms. Catherine Tulley, Manager of Environmental Programs for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), came before the Board to discuss SPC's Electric Vehicle (EV) planning initiatives underway with local communities across the region. She highlighted SPC's partnerships with Duquesne Light, CONNECT and other entities working on EV infrastructure and decarbonization efforts. She proceeded to outline numerous federal grants and funding opportunities for the installation of EV charging stations. Ms. Tulley cited that Bellevue Borough had recently installed two EV charging stations within a municipal parking lot with the assistance of available grants. Mr. Kaminski inquired regarding the average electrical cost of charging an EV. A discussion ensued. Ms. Barnes cited that Sewickley Borough recently engaged in a discussion with Duquesne Light regarding their EV charging program, but did not ultimately agree to have stations installed. She stated her desire to speak further with SPC regarding available opportunities. After some further discussion, the Board thanked Ms. Tulley for her time and presentation.

Motion Authorizing Letter of Support for Proposed House Bill 589:

Executive Director Conners reported that within an email dated June 4, 2023 Pennsylvania State Representative Valerie Gaydos (PA-44) requested that the QVCOG Board of Delegates submit a letter of support for Proposed House Bill 589. He noted that Pennsylvania Representative Emily Kinhead (PA-20) also co-sponsored the aforementioned legislation. He stated that PA House Bill 589 proposes to establish a "Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence and Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program". He highlighted that per the request, landslide and sinkhole damages have long plagued residents in the Commonwealth with no available remedy through the private insurance market. He cited that the proposed legislation seeks to correct this by establishing a Program to aid individuals and local government agencies as they work to repair the damage caused by landslides and invest in prevention efforts.

Ms. Washington moved to authorize a letter of support regarding proposed House Bill 589 which will be sent to Environmental Resources and Energy Chairs Rep. Greg Vitali & Rep. Martin Causer for consideration. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Act 152 Resolution:

Executive Director Conners reported that the Act 152 Allegheny County Blight Removal Program provides funding for demolition and blight remediation planning. He cited that the Program uses established blight conditions focusing on demolishing hazardous structures, site preparation for development projects, and multi-phase

planning efforts. Councils of Governments are authorized applications through the Program and may apply on behalf of their members. He noted that applications are evaluated on several criteria including inclusion on existing demolition lists, community impact, and potential re-use of the property.

He continued by stating that Bell Acres Borough has asked the QVCOG to submit an Act 152 Program application on their behalf for the demolition of a property located at 109 North Avenue, Sewickley, PA 15143. He highlighted that the Borough is seeking \$25,000.00 for the project. He stated that a required component of the application is a Concurring Resolution which has been prepared for the Board's consideration. He highlighted that due to an extension, applications are now due by Friday, June 23rd. He concluded by noting that per the QVCOG's program utilization fee (adopted November 2016), Bell Acres Borough will be charged a \$500 application fee. Additionally, he stated that all grants awarded to member communities through applications submitted by the COG are subject to a 2% fee.

Ms. Washington moved to approve a Concurring Resolution authorizing the QVCOG to submit an Act 152 application on behalf of Bell Acres Borough for the demolition of a single-family dwelling located at 109 North Avenue. Mr. Grafton seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion Regarding Joint Franchise Fee Committee:

Executive Director Connors reported that within an email dated June 12th, Ms. Betsy Rengers (Leet Township Manager) relayed a request from Mr. Marty McDaniel (Leet Township Supervisor & QVCOG Delegate) inquiring if the QVCOG could gauge interest in reviving the Joint Franchise Fee Committee. He stated that Ms. Rengers cited that Leet Township is currently engaging in discussions with Verizon to outline the parameters of an updated Franchise Fee Agreement. He noted that the following communities participated within the last Franchise Fee Committee (2019-2020): Leet Township, Emsworth Borough, Glen Osborne Borough, Bellevue Borough, and Leetsdale Borough. He reported that the Committee worked through the QVCOG in a partnership with the Cohen Law Group to negotiate the existing Franchise Fee Agreement with Verizon.

He outlined that should the Board wish to revive the Joint Franchise Fee Committee, the QVCOG would reach out to the Cohen Law Group to discuss the past cooperative as well as to municipal staff within each member community to gauge interest in partnering for any future negotiation.

Ms. Washington moved to authorize the re-formation of the QVCOG's Joint Franchise Fee Committee. Ms. Kaminski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Recycling Update:

WM Greenstar Recycling Center Tour

Executive Director Connors reported that on June 7th the QVCOG facilitated a tour of WM's Greenstar Recycling Center located on Neville Island. He noted that five guests from four member communities attended including all three Local Government Academy interns. He cited that the facility would be undergoing a comprehensive upgrade to increase efficiencies and the QVCOG will advertise another tour once the upgrades are completed. He highlighted that a video outlining the current Neville Island Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is available for member communities upon request.

Glass Recycling Update

Executive Director Connors proudly announced that since the glass recycling initiative began in March of 2022, over 100 tons of mixed glass has been dropped off at the Sewickley Borough and Avalon Borough glass recycling dumpsters.

Sewickley Borough Dumpster (launched March 2022)

- 81.12 tons (18 pulls)

Avalon Borough Dumpster (launched June 2022)

- 24.26 tons (8 pulls)

Yard Waste Drop-off Program

Executive Director Connors reported that since its launch in October of 2022 the QVCOG's Yard Waste drop-off partnership with the Michael Brothers Companies has seen moderate use. He cited that a total of 3.96 tons of yard waste has been dropped off at the Reserve Township facility (408 Hoffman Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212). He then highlighted that nineteen patrons from five member communities have participated (see below). He stated that due to the minimal use of the program, the QVCOG has not been charged for the program. He encouraged member communities to continue advertisement of the program.

- Aleppo Township (11);
- Avalon Borough (1);
- Bellevue Borough (1);
- Ben Avon Borough (4); and
- Sewickley Borough (2)

Old Business:

Executive Director Connors highlighted that an ad-hoc committee of elected officials have been meeting to discuss the topic of railroad safety and emergency response preparedness. He cited that involved communities include Haysville Borough, Glenfield Borough, and Glen Osborne Borough. He noted that in a recent meeting Cochran Hose Company Fire Chief Shayne Quinn and Emsworth Volunteer Fire Department Chief James Kohl were in attendance and noted the feasibility of using a rescue boat to evacuate potentially inaccessible households in the event of a railroad blockage in Glen Osborne and Haysville Boroughs. The group discussed the possibility of pursuing grant funding to procure the vessel and necessary equipment. Executive Director Connors

highlighted that when contrasted with pursuing costly planning grants and infrastructure investment, this approach could result in a more immediate solution for a complex issue facing the aforementioned communities. He concluded by citing that the QVCOG is a party to these meetings, rather than the facilitator.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Kilbuck Township: Mr. Valois noted that he would be resigning as a Kilbuck Township Supervisor on June 27th citing that he would be moving full-time to Vermont with his family. He thanked the QVCOG for the opportunity to serve as the organization's President and noted that he would take his intergovernmental experiences with him into his future endeavors. Ms. Carrier and Executive Director Conners thanked Mr. Valois for his numerous years of service and invaluable contributions to the organization.

Sewickley Borough: Ms. Barnes noted that Sewickley Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), Michael Mullins, has expressed his interest in meeting with regional EMCs. Executive Director Conners noted that he has sought to coordinate a meeting with all QVCOG member community EMCs, but has not heard back from many of the appointed officials. He stated that he would continue to work towards the desired regional meeting.

Adjournment: Ms. Washington moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaminski. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 830 p.m.

The next meeting will be hosted by Sewickley Borough and is scheduled for July 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Sewickley Borough building (601 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143). The meeting will be simultaneously broadcast on the Zoom platform, open to the public, and recorded. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director