

**TURTLE CREEK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
October 22, 2015  
6:30 pm**

**DELEGATES:** Tim Bridge, Lucky Price, Karen Peterson, Darrell Rapp, Peter McGinty, Jack Wilson, Joe Costa

**STAFF:**  
Amanda Settelmaier and Liz Kozub

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:34**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Karen seconded by Lucky to approve the Minutes and Treasurer's Report from October 1, 2015. Joe wanted to make one point of clarification. In the Police Chief Meeting Notes Edward A. Krancic was listed as Police Chief of Edgewood. He is actually the Police Chief in Wilkins Township. Correction noted.

Motion passed unanimously.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Jim Kelly from Allegheny County Health Department came to talk about the county's recent ordinance changes surrounding open burning regulations in the county.

Pittsburgh is top ten dirties regions in the country. This is because of the criteria pollution (More information regarding criteria pollution is listed on the PowerPoint distributed by Jim). Fine particulates is a big issue in this region and open burning has a lot to do with that. It causes a lot of direct health effects in our communities.

Fine particular matter is dust so small it can pass through your lungs and into your blood stream. It can cause heart problems and cancers.

There are a lot of river valleys in this region. There are meteoritic events that happen at night and the valleys become sealed off. During these times particulate matter in the air stays sealed in the river valleys. Open burning has been on the rise over the past few years and contributes to the particular matter in the air. All the recreation burning in valleys are being trapped in at night and the cancer rates are higher than national average.

You can still do open burning (camp fires) but as long as you following Allegheny County Code. There are people in the public that tend to be excessively sensitive to open burning. For more information on the code please see the handouts given by Jim or visit the Allegheny County Health Department's website.

Jim asked if the board members know what Air Quality Action day is and how they receive information. He explained there is a review of the air quality every day and

determination if action needs to be taken that day. If they announce the air quality is at an Orange or Red level, people should stay inside.

Jack said he hears it on the radio. Others agreed.

On an orange day or above you cannot legally do recreational burning.

Darrel asked, is there more air quality action days relative to specific seasons?

Jim replied that in the summer it's usually related to ozone. October and November days usually have the most issues with particulate matter in the air.

Local municipalities can enforce the county's rules. Jim is trying to find if any of the local codes are less stringent than the county's code. Some are. He is asking the leaders to look at their codes to ensure the local code is not less stringent. You can outright adopt the county code or write a more specific/stringent code.

Tim said when the county changed the property line regulation (burning has to be 15ft from property line), in North Braddock there was an issue and the police had to be called because they were too close to the neighbors.

Jim said a lot of times neighbor's disputes happen is usually because there are existing feuds.

Jim offered his time and support if municipalities had questions regarding the county code or wanted to update their own burning policies to be more in line with the new county regulation.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:**

Tim explained that our next meeting will be the first week in December. There are four positions that are open Chairman, Vice Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary.

Joe and Paige have already agreed to be on the nominating committee as they were in years past. Time asked Pete if he would be interested in serving and he said he could. Tim told the directors if they were interested in an executive position to let the members of the nominating committee know. We will vote on December 5<sup>th</sup> for positions.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Amanda went to the Great Pittsburgh Nonprofit downtown. It was the media kickoff for the Regional Data Center. Rich Fitzgerald and Bill Peduto were there and are very supportive of the data center. The initiative is to make basic data accessible.

She went to a session on Poverty. The highlight is that poverty is moving out from the city and into the suburbs. This means that the social service agencies will have larger challenges to reach people in suburbs and other places.

Liz talked about a conversation she had with Eric--- who set up a self-sufficient code enforcement program in Allentown. The connection to Eric was made by Liz Hersh of the Housing Alliance, who met with us to talk about our code enforcement program. Eric set up a ticketing system in Allentown that gave residents “tickets” of small monetary value for property maintenance infractions. The money that was generate from the tickets was able to pay the property maintenance inspectors’ time. Their annual rental registration also was able to pay their inspectors salaries. There are some things we are looking into at the COG,

Karen said Pitcairn is using a ticketing system for property maintenance violations. Wilmerding is having an issue with code enforcement. This is why she asked the COG to come talk about the program. Council seemed in agreement that the town could benefit from the COG but were unsure about the price and loss of control. Joe and Diane offered to attend a council meeting to explain their satisfaction with the program if that would help.

Motion to adjourn by Jack, seconded by Pete. Motion approved unanimously.