

Manager Committee Meeting
TCVCOG Offices
July 14, 2015
1:00 pm

In attendance: Julie Bastianini; Edgewood; Craig Robinson, Churchill; Clyde Wilhelm, Swissvale; Debra Brown, Braddock; Rebecca Bradley, Wilkins; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Amanda Settelmaier, TCVCOG; Liz Kozub, TCVCOG; Yongzhe Zong, TCVCOG; Qianyu Mo, Churchill Intern

Guests: Beth O'Donnell and Sam Bozzolla, from Allegheny County Economic Development Divisions Department; Dan Cohen, Cohen Law Group

Municipal Mapping

Yongzhe talked about the different types of maps he could produce for towns that are interested. These can include maps based on crime statistics. He would just need the location of the crime, type of crime, time of the crime, or any additional information towns are interested in having mapped.

Authorities of Allegheny County Economic Development

Sam and Beth talked about the different Authorities in the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development and how municipalities can take advantage of some of the programs. Authorities that were discussed include the Redevelopment Authority, Authority for Improvement in Municipalities, Industrial Development Authority, Hospital Development Authority, Higher Education Building Authority, and the Residential Financial Authority. There was a question if the COG could be the recipient of a bond on behalf of a multi municipal project. Sam and Beth were not sure if that has ever been done or if that is even a possibility.

Cable Franchise Agreement

Dan Cohen presented on the joint negotiations with Verizon for the Cable Franchise Agreement. He expressed that there will be a few differences from the first time the contract was negotiated. The first change is that when the last agreement was in place, almost 10 years ago, Verizon was new to the cable industry. At that time they may have been looser with their negotiations because they were just entering the market. This time around they have existing customers and have established some leverage in their negotiations.

Prior to conducting any negotiations Cohen Law Group will conduct an investigation to determine if Verizon abided by the terms and agreements in the contract from 2007. Cohen

Law Group has determined in some of the towns they represented that cable companies have not been paying the full 5% of fees to municipalities on all the charges they should. Since 2007 cable companies have been increasing in the number of fees that they are collecting, and the municipalities should get a portion of those fees.

The managers were in agreement that the proposal from Cohen Law group was good. The COG may have some money from the Managers Committee fund to offset some of the costs. The Managers will be talking to their councils at their August and September meetings. The COG would like to have a firm commitment from communities by the end of September. This is because the proposed price to engage Cohen Law Group is contingent on the amount of communities that participate. Establishing which communities are participating by September will allow municipalities to incorporate the correct costs into their budget for 2016.