

Manager Committee Meeting
TCVCOG Offices
May 20, 2015
10:00 am

In attendance: Moe Rayan, Penn Hills; Julie Bastianini; Edgewood; Tim Little, Monroeville; Craig Robinson, Churchill; Patty Logo, North Versailles; Annette Dietz, Pitcairn; Clyde Wilhelm, Swissvale; Debra Brown, Braddock

LED Lights

Monroeville is going to be replacing their LED light bulbs in the traffic lights. While they are old the lights may have some life in them. If any of the municipalities are interested in taking them please let Amanda know.

Cable Franchise

Some of the managers have already received letters from Verizon that the cable franchise agreement will expire within the next 18 months. In 2007 the COG municipalities joined together to receive a discounted rate from Cohen Law Group to represent the individual municipalities and negotiate the franchise terms. The last time the COG paid Cohen Law group about \$28,000. Amanda said there is some money in the Manager's Advisory Committee fund that can substantially reduce the out-of-pocket costs for municipalities that are interested in coming together. The managers were very interested in working together and using the funds to pay the legal costs.

Amanda asked if there was anything they were unhappy with from the last negotiations that occurred. There were none. Many of the managers were interested in negotiating for internet for municipal buildings in this next franchise agreement. This is something that will be looked into.

The group was comfortable asking Cohen to provide a proposal. Although most municipalities collect the highest percentage available by law, Cohen Law Group has been making sure the cable companies are including all costs in the gross revenue. Some companies were not including penalties and interest in the gross revenue, 5% of which should be given back to the municipalities. Monroeville passed a resolution this week to enter into a class action lawsuit to recoup these payments.

Code Enforcement

Our code enforcement program is up and running in Wilkins and Churchill. Craig said that he is very happy with the program and that Jason has been very proactive.

The COG will be getting a GIS system this summer. A summer intern will be setting up the program and begin mapping data for interested communities. If any of the communities have data (vacant land, catch basins, vacant housing) we will be happy to provide maps.

Moe announced that Penn Hills has been working on a new land lord registration ordinance that has been passed in Penn Hills. They are requiring an inspection whenever there is a change in tenant. The fee offsets the cost of inspection. Monroeville was thinking about passing a similar ordinance but needed to think about when inspections and fees would be required.

Annette talked about her experience at the Bayardstown Social Club, on the edge of town between Lawrenceville and the Strip District. This was a vacant piece of land that backed an industrial lot. The land was bought by a non-profit or co-op type organization. Members pay a minimal monthly fee. Members are then allowed to have parties on the vacant lot. This is just one example of how a vacant lot, where in the past would be a place for dumping and/or drug use, has been transformed into a community asset. We need to be thinking about new ways in which our communities can use vacancies to our advantage.

Other:

Swissvale is hiring a Public Works Director and Monroeville is hiring a Planning Director. If anyone has qualified candidates in mind please let Clyde or Tim know.