

Manager Committee Meeting
TCVCOG
September 17, 2014

In attendace: Tim Little, Monroeville; Moe Rayan, Penn Hills; Greg Bachy; Plum; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Patty Logo, North Versailles

Blight Busters will be held Monday September 22nd at 2:00 pm. Attorney George Pettrone will be discussing small estate administration with a focus on how it has been used as a method to acquire properties. He has been doing this in Wilksburg so it will be interesting to learn the process. This is also something that we plan to incorporate into our Land Bank acquisition strategies.

Amanda talked about the Land Bank Business Plan and progress being made with council meetings. To date we have attended nine council meetings to present on the details of the plan. Monroeville has been the first municipality to pass the ordinance. We are sticking to our timeline of getting the first members to join the land bank to pass their ordinance by the end of the year. The founding members will solidify the policies and procedures, which is why it is important to come on in the beginning. Land Banking is a new tool and so there will be a learning curve as we move forward.

Amanda went to the PABCO conference yesterday, and learned a lot about code enforcement legislation and requirements. There is a bill in the state legislature for a funding source for multi-municipal code enforcement programs. The managers talked about the new bill that would require municipalities that use third party inspectors for UCC to hire two agencies so that applicants for permits and inspections can have a choice. Connie said this would be a big issue for the smaller communities but would likely not affect the larger ones who typically have in-house employees with UCC certifications. There was also discussion about getting BCO certifications. If towns are interested we can arrange for paper and pen test for municipal employees who wish to obtain certifications. There is a minimum of 25 tests for a representative from the ICC to come out and provide the tests. The COG is still on track for a March 1st start for the pilot code enforcement program with Wilks and Churchill.

There has been some information disseminated about small cell towers being placed in municipalities and one of the managers asked that a discussion about ordinances be placed on the agenda. Liz mentioned that the Allegheny Conference on Economic Development has heard concerns that the Eastern suburbs do not have the greatest cell phone reception and broadband connections, which may be limiting developing in this area. There will likely be more development in the areas of information technology so it would be beneficial for municipalities to have ordinances in place that would allow for some control over where cell towers can go and how they can look.

As of next year the COG will be offering both a 7-day and 15-day opt in programs for the vector. We are hoping the managers will consider this new offer as they prepare their budgets.

The next managers meeting will be October 22nd due to the Three Rivers Wet Weather Annual Conference conflicting with the committee's normally scheduled meeting time.