

**TURTLE CREEK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 25, 2014**

VOTING DELEGATES: TIMOTHY BRIDGE, MAX SPENCER, DENNIS SIMON, DARRELL RAPP, TOM WILSON, STEVE ARNOLD, PAIGE TRICE, PETER MCGINTY

ALTERNATE DELEGATES: DIANA YANKES, JOE COSTA, KAREN PETERSON

STAFF:

Amanda Settelmaier, Barb Fallon, Liz Kozub

OTHERS:

Voelker Contracting

Tim Bridge called meeting to order at 6:35

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Tom Wilson, seconded by Dennis Simon to approve the June 26, 2014 Minutes and Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

Barb asked for a motion to pay the Community Development Block Grant bills. Motion to pay CD bills by Karen Peterson, seconded by Dennis Simon. Motion passed unanimously.

Bid Results were opened for the East McKeesport East Field Phase II:

U&S Construction	\$198,656
Voelker Contracting	\$222,691.89
Tedesco Construction Company	\$262,685
Mann Construction Inc,	\$227,360
Satira Construction Inc.	\$248,575
Raffle Construction, LLC	\$146,177

The lowest bidder was Raffle Construction. Need a motion from the delegate from East McKeesport to select bid. Peter McGinty made a motion to select the bid, seconded by Dennis Simon. Motion passed unanimously

PA UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BILL

Amanda talked about the reimbursable employer status under the PA Unemployment Compensation Law. The COG received a bill in the amount of \$962.50 that needs to be paid. This money is used as collateral with the state in case we go over our unemployment. We have investigated this bill and we do in fact have to pay it in its entirety. The state will likely hold this check and it will be not used. The last time we got a bill from them was in the 1980's. Deb is researching what happened to the money that was sent in 1980's. The bill we have received has to be paid by Nov 1st. Motion by Karen Peterson to pay the bill, seconded by Peter McGinty. Motion passed unanimously

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND ALLOCATION

The vote for the spending of the special projects fund was tabled from our last meeting because we did not have a quorum. Last year the Board of Directors approved setting aside unbudgeted RAD money into a Special Projects Fund for the Managers Committee to use for special projects. The spending of that money was to be recommended by the Managers Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors based on that recommendation. There is currently \$18,000 in the fund. It is the recommendation from the managers committee that the money be spent on a vehicle for the code enforcement program. We are asking tonight for permission to purchase the car when we are ready.

Tom asked what areas of code enforcement would be a part of the program. Amanda responded that in Churchill the enforcement officer will be conducting occupancy permitting and property maintenance and in Wilkins he/she will be conducting fire inspection and property maintenance

Joe and Dennis both suggested looking to other municipalities that sell retired police cars and other municipal vehicles. Tom also suggested some municipalities may be able to donate a vehicle or sell at a low cost.

Motion by Joe to allow the COG to research the purchasing of a vehicle not to exceed \$18,000, seconded by Peter McGinty. Motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP IN PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING ALLIANCE

Amanda asked for a motion from the delegates for membership with the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance. The cost of membership is \$150 per year. The Housing Alliance has been extremely supportive in our blight work and land banking initiative. They also helped us to secure Irene McLaughlin who wrote the legal documents for the land bank business plan. As we move forward with our code enforcement program the Housing Alliance will be a valuable partner.

Motion by Darrel Rapp to become a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance, seconded by Karen Peter. Motion passed unanimously

DIRECTORS REPORT

Please see the attached report.

The biggest project we have been working on this summer has been land banking. We have been meeting with municipal councils and school districts to discuss land bank membership. This Tuesday Wilkins will be hosting the Woodland Hills School District and the communities in which it is comprised of to talk about the land bank.

Joe advised that they had a meeting last Tuesday morning and an interesting connection came about from it. There is an organization in the area who accepts donated houses in order to repurpose them. The organization gets supplies donated from home improvement retailers. It then sells the property for the amount of money that was put into it. This is an example of a great partner for the land bank, in which the land bank can assist with the acquisition and title clearing process and this organization can be a place for disposition and rehabilitation.

Amanda went to the PABCO conference and the big take away was that there is a lot of state legislation that could assist with blight mitigation and code enforcement. The bill numbers are listed in the director's report. Darrell asked if any of the bills are to the point where they need pressure from municipalities to get passed. Amanda will reach out to Liz Hersh from the PA Housing Alliance to see where the bills are in terms getting passed and if resolutions from the COG would be worthwhile. There is a committee in Harrisburg that talks about the issue of Blight and the PABC is on the committee. Overall the conference was very valuable and a lot of great connections were made.

The Public Works department purchased a new backhoe with assistance from an Act 47 grant. Dennis asked how much it was. - \$100,000. Delegates were asking if other municipalities were able to use the backhoe. Dennis suggested if there was a need for the machine to purchase it in the same way the vactor was purchased.

Amanda provided a status update of the vactor program. Usually the program goes through mid-November but as we stand Ray does not have anything scheduled after the end of September. It would be great if we could have usage through October. Otherwise we need to weatherize the truck and get it ready for storage over the winter. We are not understanding why municipalities are not using the service, it is less expensive than the market rate and cleaning these lines is a mandated by law. Darrell asked if the COG tracks which storm inlets are drained and how often. Tim advised that under the wet weather program there is a certain percentage that needs to be drained each year. Amanda also advised that the COG does keep a record of all of the inlets that we do. Next year we will offer a 15 day opt-in and an 8-day opt-in program. The information regarding costs has been sent to municipal managers and we hope councils consider this program as they make their budgets for next year. Tim said that

this is important because the EPA does audit communities for complying with sewer and catch basin maintenance. Tom suggested that the delegates talk to their councils and see if they could use the vactor. Pete asked if we have ever talked to the engineers group. Amanda advised we work a lot of Glenn Engineering and they have helped getting other municipalities to use the service.

OPEN FORUM FOR DISCUSSION

Darrell spoke about some new programs being offered by the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission (SPC). Through the end of this year they will be offering free online classes. The pamphlet that Darrell passed around has a list of the topics and specific sub courses that are offered. The SPC also has economic development and small business oriented programs. He has one extra copy of the information. Amanda can scan and send them out to those who are interested.

Tim wanted to add that since everyone is going to be working on their budgets, please consider using the vactor. If not, the program is going to go away.

Dennis wanted the delegates to know that the Eastern Regional Democratic Organization is having a rally where people can meet Tom Wolf, candidate for Governor. It is a free event. It will be held at the Garden City Hall in Monroeville on Sunday Oct 12th.

The owner of Voelker contracting wanted to make a comment. He did not get the bid tonight but he wanted to introduce himself. He is a service disabled veteran. He is around to speak with people after the meeting about disabled veteran's construction opportunities.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom Wilson. Motion passed unanimously