

TURTLE CREEK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MEETING Virtual
October 24, 2024
6:30 pm

NO QUORUM

VOTING DELEGATES:

Chad Hoover, Max Spencer, Sylvia Martinelli, Matt Castiglia, Ben Love, Angelo Baiocchi, Angela Stribling, Joe Hartzell.

STAFF:

Amanda Settelmaier, Natalie Merola, Molly Valentine

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:40

Motion to approve minutes/Treasurer's Report - unable to vote without quorum.

Old Business:

- Call for Appeals Board Applicants – Amanda asked attendees if they knew of anyone that is qualified and may be interested on serving on our Appeals Board
- Bid & Concurring resolution approvals – See attachment A
- Motion to appoint David Chase to the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals.
- Motion to approve MAP funding resolution 2024-MAP-1 for CodeNforce Tech Enhancements in the amount of \$100,000 with a 50% match over 3 years.
- Motion to approve MAP funding resolution 2024-MAP-2 for a shared financial management program in the amount of \$100,000 with a 50% match over 3 years.
- Annual Dinner update.
- Motion to approve the 2025 Meeting & events calendar.

New Business: (unable to vote)

- Bid approvals: Please see attachment A
- Motion to approve 24-1 approving the NPPFA Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and 401(a) Money Purchase Plan documents.
- Motion to increase employer Retirement Savings Contribution to 12.65% (7.65% +5%). TCVCOG does not contribute to Social Security

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

- Amanda informed board of upcoming meetings- Holiday dinner Dec 12th (tentative)
- Amanda informed Board that the new Manager of Monroeville has indicated that he may have plans for our existing office space which means a move of our office is likely. Amanda is working on identifying alternative locations for us to move. There is office space available at the Monroeville Municipal Authority as well as options through RIDC.

- Members were encouraged to spread the word to possible candidates for open positions on both the UCC Appeals Board & our Property Maintenance Board. This is a three-year commitment and cannot be an elected official of the community.
- An Lewis has secured philanthropic funding to investigate the feasibility of a new planning & economic development arm that sits between our two COG's. The effort will begin in the new year
- There is no update on our PA tax exempt appeal. A decision should be rendered on or before January 2025.
- TCVCOG has entered into an agreement with ACHD to help facilitate participation from targeted TCVCOG communities. The main goal is to improve climate change resilience and engage in climate change preparedness. We have received resolutions from Braddock, North Braddock, Swissvale, and Wilkinsburg.
- Amanda, Natalie & Claire attended a press event held by Summer Lee about the Rail Bridge Safety and Transparency Act. The Act would address the urgent need for greater transparency & accountability for the safety of our Nation's rail bridges by establishing higher safety standards for rail bridges, improving the quality of inspections, and increasing public transparency regarding the safety of these structures.
- Amanda discussed changes taking place at the TCVCOG office including changes to our retirement savings plan, accounts payable system & payroll software.
- Utility billing – please reach out if we can assist with your town's refuse, stormwater or sewage billing.
- Natalie provided an update on our Code Enforcement Department & our CodeNforce database. We are currently onboarding Sharpsburg & Etna. Natalie will also be meeting with West Homestead to discuss joining CodeNforce. The team is also making progress with the Rental Registry & working with the County to see what information would be useful to include for their purposes. The Code Enforcement team is also seeing an increase in inspection fees which is now subsidizing the cost to our Municipalities.
- Amanda will be researching options to move our Accounts Payable to fund accounting software with an anticipated switch in January 2026.
- Upon recommendation from Kristen Gusten, our shared finance professional with SRCOG and TCLB, we will move our payroll to Gusto. Costs are about the same and Kristen will process payroll for us.
- Amanda met virtually with Senator Costa to update him on the progress of CodeNforce, to discuss the proposed regional planning and economic development arm of TCGCOG & SRCOG, and to discuss COGs as eligible applicants on State grants.

Open Forum

- Since we have not had a quorum at our last two meetings, attendees discussed possible ways to increase attendance at our Board meetings. Some ideas included regular attendees reach out to those members who do not attend, COG employees attending our member Town's Council meetings to stress the importance of their attendance or possibly making changes to our by-laws.
- Discussed possible speakers at the Annual Dinner

Meeting adjourned at 7:11