

DAUPHIN COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE

SUMMARY MINUTES

May 19, 2021

- Roll Call – A quorum was established.
- Delegates Present: D. Grbich, Dauphin Borough; W. Evans, Middle Paxton Township; V. Shaw, Penbrook Borough; J. Fosselman, Swatara Township; A. Memmi, Derry Township; G. Shade, Halifax Borough; R. Wentzel, Wayne Township, Halifax Township, Jackson Township, Halifax Area School District; D. Hummer, Hummelstown Borough; A. Jackson, Millersburg Borough; M. Stonbraker, Highspire Borough; K. Thoma representing Boroughs of Berryburg, Elizabethville, Gratz, Lykens and Pillow; K. Thoma representing Townships of Jefferson, Lykens, Mifflin and Washington and Upper Dauphin School District; R. Horney, Central Dauphin School District; L. Shaw, Derry Township School District; M. Shuler, Lower Dauphin School District; D. Franklin, Middletown Area School District.
Solicitor: G. Beneventano

Keystone Collections: Joe Lazzaro, Esq.
- The Chairman, A. Memmi, called the meeting to order.
- The Chair noted that no one from the public is participating in the meeting; therefore, there are no public comments.
- Summary Minutes of the meeting from March 17, 2021 were presented – A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 17, 2021 summary minutes --accepted and APPROVED.
- Financial report as of April 30, 2021 was presented for approval – A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 2021 financial report -- accepted and APPROVED.
- Mr. Joe Lazzaro of Keystone Collections provided the tax collector report. Collections in 2019 were \$115,839,069.57. As of the date of this meeting, 2020 collections are at \$117,391,383. That is a 1.3 percent increase. The first quarter of 2020 had collections of \$36,266,353. For 2021's first quarter, collections were \$39,477,160 – up 8.9%.
- Keystone continues to go after taxpayers who are currently employed but did not pay their taxes before the pandemic. In 2019 Keystone brought in \$603,000.00 in delinquent taxes and in 2020, \$757,471.00 was collected.
- Mr. Lazzaro reported that the federal government and the state government changed the filing date of 2020 taxes until May 17, 2020, but the local taxes were still due on April 15th. DCED did not want to take a position on this or change the date. Keystone like

other taxing authorities did not charge a late fee for those filing by May 17th. The state did pass Act 10 to help alleviate this problem in the future.

- The Chairperson reported that he and the solicitor have had discussions with Mr. Nick Mackereth at DCED regarding Act 10. With the Chairman's assistance, Mr. Mackereth will be preparing a survey to send out to all TCCs to gauge their level of activity and help DCED structure a response method to the tax collection committees.
- The solicitor stated that DCED really does not have anyone left on their staff experienced with Act 32. Mr. Mackereth is working to create a small group within DCED committed to working with the TCCs. Act 10 was approved by Governor Wolf on April 22nd. The Chairperson never received any information directly from DCED regarding this. The bill also provides temporary authority to the DCED to deal with local taxation while the COVID-19 disaster declaration is in effect. This includes requiring DCED to coordinate with the governing bodies and local agencies of political subdivisions to extend filing and payment deadlines for local taxes so that local deadlines coincide with the filing deadline for a state tax return. DCED has to find a way to communicate with the taxing authorities in the near future. Act 10 reads as follows: "This subsection shall provide permanent authority to the Department of Community and Economic Development to deal with local taxation. Notwithstanding the local tax enabling act, the filing deadline for the final return under Chapter 5 of the local tax enabling act and related statutory provision, ordinances, and resolutions shall coincide with the filing deadline for a tax return under the state tax code." It also states that this shall not expire. The solicitor stated that this "fix" may not be applicable to the 2021 taxes. Mr. Lazzaro has been asked to check with his contacts to see if the 2021 taxes are covered under Act 10.
- The Chair of the Audit Subcommittee discussed whether there is a need to have an RFP for audit services. A motion was made to have an RFP for audit services for the 2020 tax audit. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need for an RFP. The motion was DEFEATED.
- A motion was made to approve the contract for Boyer & Ritter for FYE 12/31/2020 to audit collections made by Keystone, plus the TCC's finances. The motion was seconded and unanimously APPROVED.
- A motion was made and seconded to cancel the July meeting. Motion APPROVED.
- The solicitor reported that the committee had been able to meet remotely due to the Governor's Declaration of Emergency. This option will end when the Declaration of Emergency finally ends. Act 32 does not allow for remote meetings outside of the Declaration.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.