

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of
December 15, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.
31st Floor – Regional Enterprise Tower – 425 Sixth Avenue – Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The seventy-second meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Dan Onorato.

Commission Members present were: Tom Balya, Shirl Barnhart, Bracken Burns, Charles Camp, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Dave Coder, Steve Craig, Terry Daughenbaugh, Kevin Gray, Lynn Heckman, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Larry Maggi, Robbie Matesic, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Larry Morris, Dan Onorato, Andrew Quinn, Rodney Ruddock, Kelly Shroads, Pam Snyder, Joe Spanik, Vincent Vicites, and Gealy Wallwork.

Commission Members absent were: Tony Amadio, Peter Behrman, Stephen Bland, Rick DeBlasio, Joseph Dubovi III, Karl Eisaman, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, David Frick, James Gagliano, Jessica Greathouse, Dana Henry, Michael Herron, David Johnston, James Kennedy, Donald Kinosz, Allen Kukovich, James Lokhaiser, Jack Machek, William Peduto, Dale Pinkerton, William Piper, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, Carmen Rozzi, Daniel Santoro, James Scahill, Robert Schiffbauer, Mark Schneider, Richard Shaw, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Anthony Spossey, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Joe Szczur, Letitia Thompson, Daniel Vogler, Jake Wheatley, Jr., Norma Wintermeyer, Vincent Zapotosky, Angela Zimmerlink, and Yarone Zober.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Chuck DiPietro, Vince Massaro, Marge Nalesnick, Shannon O'Connell, Dee Pamplin, Matt Pavlosky, Kay Tomko, Debbie Tritsch, and Lew Villotti.

Others: Shawn Fox, Allegheny County; Wayne Barnett, Wells Fargo Bank; Robert Lent, Maher Duessel; Jon Smith and John Verbanac, SPC Consultant

1. Action on Minutes of the November 17th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Maggi which was seconded by Commissioner Ruddock. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Audit Committee Report

Rob Lent reported that there has been one big change this past year related to new audit standards. They changed the audit process to risk assessment process that makes us think about audits differently and helps us think of an organization in a different way and focus on the areas of risk for that organization. The summary of the auditor's report on the financial statements was an unqualified clean opinion.

David Miller asked about the new auditing guidelines - have you changed the process by which you make that assessment and be able to make sure that the amount of billing we do for projects is consistent with the monies we have.

Rob Lent responded that what you are asking about has not changed because the accounting policy for how you recognize revenue is always tested in great detail. The new audit standards make you get a better understanding of the control systems.

Gealy Wallwork complimented the SPC accounting staff stating that they have performed exceptionally well year after year with the help of entire SPC staff.

Commissioner Camp motioned to accept and approve the Audit Committee Report which was seconded by Commissioner Balya. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

4. Community Energy Savings Program Briefing

Dr. Hassinger informed the Commission of a program, Community Energy Savings Program, that SPC has been operating during this year that is available to the entire region and allows SPC to recommend energy savings projects. This is beyond and related to work that has been done in the RET building that we've initiated. For information, some of the lighting in this room already has been replaced with higher energy efficiency florescent bulbs. There also are some LED fixtures, the highest efficiency type possible. By the end of June, the entire 31st floor will be powered by solar energy and the rest of the building will be more efficient.

Lew Villotti gave a briefing specifically on the Community Energy Savings Program for local governments, schools, hospitals and non-profits to look at ways they can save money on energy.

- Vision Statement
 - The LDD Energy Program provides technical assistance, training, and education, empowering communities to make informed energy consumption decisions.

- Workshops Year One
 - Energy 101
 - Strategic Energy Planning
 - LED Workshops (8)
 - Energy Savings Seminar

- Utility Bill Analysis
 - 2 Utility Bill Analyses (UBAs) completed
 - Green Tree Borough
 - Urban Redevelopment Authority
 - 7 additional local governments requested UBA

- Data charts obtained from Utility Bills
 - Charts produced from data include monthly cost analysis, as well as kilowatt and kilowatt/jour charts
 - These charts allow municipalities to visually gauge usage patterns.

- Excel Spreadsheets
 - Municipalities are provided with the same electronic data that we use to do our analysis. They can then more easily monitor future usage and do their own future analysis.

- Goals for Year Two
 - 34 technical assists
 - 4 workshops, trainings or seminars
 - 3 completed UBAs
 - LED traffic signal bulk purchase
 - Energy Advisory Committee

5. Other Business/Announcements

Dr. Hassinger reminded the Commission that it was time again to refresh the PPP panels and they would be receiving letters in this regard.

We've been informed that retired staff member Richard DePietress that he has passed away. He was with the Commission for about 17 years in local government services. He was a recipient of The Joe James Award and he was also recognized by a lot of people from other agencies for his work on behalf of local governments. We will miss Rich.

I also want to update the Commission on the status of a project that you were briefed on earlier in the year that we referred to as the Imagine Greater Pittsburgh project and our participation in it. There is a briefing scheduled for new members of the project steering committee that is forming and we have a large committee which is about one-third public sector related. From this steering committee there will be additional committees that will be asking for appointments for the Imagine Greater Pittsburgh project that is being facilitated through IOP and being funded by the foundation community. At this time, public sector related appointments are Jerry Andree, Tom Balya, Stan Caldwell, Dan Guida, from Weirton, WV, Jim Hunt, former Mayor of Clarksburg, WV, Ron Justice, Mayor, Morgantown, Linda Nitch, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Kathy McKenzie, from Dan Onorato's office, Pam Snyder, Rob Stephany, URA, Pamela Tokar-Ickes from Somerset County, Jay Williams, Mayor, Youngstown, OH, immediate past Chairman, Bracken Burns, current Chairman Dan Onorato, and myself. That group is going to be briefed this evening on the status of the project.

Dan Onorato briefed the Commission on Port Authority's contract. The Port Authority board voted unanimously to approve the contract today. Under this new 4-year contract the Authority will save about \$95M. I will also avoid picking up \$25M of new expenditures because of unfunded healthcare. The \$95M is over 4 years and the \$25M is per year. This allows the Port Authority to avoid going to a 30-40% cut in service. This is the first time in the history of the agency, that 4 years from now the post retirement healthcare cost will be less than they are today.

Commissioner Ruddock commented on the passing of Commissioner Charlie Camp's father. On behalf of the Commission we extend our condolences to you and your family. And now realize why you're such a successful businessman and really believe in yourself; you had great shoes to follow.

David Miller said on a positive note that Commissioner Camp and Shannon O'Connell have completed their first semester in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs working on their Masters degree. I think a round of applause is due.

Next meeting date is January 26, 2009, which is our annual meeting where we will-elect officers.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Ruddock
Secretary-Treasurer