The Westmoreland County Tax Collection Committee (WCTCC) met on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, 2 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA.

CALL TO ORDER: The WCTCC Chairperson Joe Koluder called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following members present:

WCTCC Chairperson	-Joe Koluder	-Derry Area School District
WCTCC Secretary	-Mary Perez	-Greensburg City
WCTCC Treasurer	-Diane Figg	-East Huntingdon Township, Everson Borough-Fayette County
WCTCC Solicitor	-Lawrence Maiello	
Eileen Navish	-Belle Vernon Area School District	
Jennifer Callahan	-Burrell School District, Lower Burrell City	
George Safin	-Franklin Regional School District	
Tammy Tuccarello	-Jeannette City School District	
Peggy Gillespie	-Kiski Area School District	
James J. Meyer	-Greensburg Salem School District	
Barbara A. Lyman	-Norwin School District	
Greg Primm	-Avonmore Borough, East Vandergrift Borough, Hyde Park Borough, Oklahoma Borough, Vandergrift Borough, Allegheny Township, Bell Township, Washington Township-Westmoreland County	
Paul A. Fry	-Ligonier Borough	
Kris Long	-Youngwood Borough	
David Amatangelo	-Rostraver Township	
Ronald D. Martz	-Salem Township	
Mary E. Ralston	-Parks Township-Armstrong County	
Judy Gilpin	-Upper Tyrone Township-Fayette County	
Joe Grata	-Washington Township	
Debbie Kelly	-Irwin Borough	
Mary Jane Snyder	-Laurel Mountain Borough	
Caprice M. Mills	-Mt. Pleasant Township	
Gordon Stoves	-North Irwin Borough	
L. Bud Santimyer	-Scottdale Borough	
Cynthia Delissio	-Export Borough	
Scott C. Sistek	-New Stanton Borough	

Mr. Koluder, "We do not have a quorum present so we won't be able to approve the minutes or the bills."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NEXT MEETING: Mr. Koluder, "I'll put the minutes from the August 24th meeting on next month's agenda to be approved. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2010. We have two meetings remaining this year; one will be in October and one will be in November. We're going to have to make sure we have a quorum at least at the November 23rd meeting; we'll send out reminders. We will have to approve our budget for next year and we'll talk about that shortly."

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee-Joe Koluder. Mr. Koluder, "Everyone received a copy of the bills to date. I also sent everyone the checkbook register through September 29, 2010. I will send out with the next meeting's agenda the tentative budget; it will be a little under half of what we had this year. We're also going to send out starting next meeting a profit/loss statement so you can see where we stand with the money we collected so far. Through the end of September we still have about $39,739.39 remaining of our monies from this year. If you need something sooner than next month for your budgets, figure on half of what you paid last year approximately. So, again, we'll have the budget ready for the October 19th meeting for your initial review. You'll have 30 days and then we'll ask you to approve it at the November 23rd meeting."

Tax Collector RFP Committee-Joe Koluder. Mr. Koluder, "We did get the agreement. It has been signed by the officers and Berkheimer has received it. Did we have to send a copy of that to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)?"
Mary Perez, "We didn't have to but I did send them a copy and everyone received a copy of the signed agreement for their files also."
Mr. Koluder, "Just a reminder, if anyone is interested in moving to the new Tax Collector for the 2011 calendar year, you're on your own to contact Berkheimer and work out those arrangements directly with them. Also as a reminder at the January meeting we'll also need a quorum to appoint an Operating Board. Our Bylaws state starting next year and into the future we will have a 10-member Operating Board; five will be from the municipalities and five representatives from the school districts. They will meet as often as they feel they need to. The full TCC will have meetings, at least initially, probably quarterly. There are larger items as stated in the Bylaws that this group will have to pass and I believe the budget is one of them, for example. The Operating Board, if they feel the need to get the whole committee back together more often than quarterly, then they will notify us all and we would meet at that time. Everyone start thinking about anyone that may be interested in serving on the Operating Board, because we'll need to have that transition in January. Mary, Diane and I will come in January, call the meeting to order and we'll open up the floor for nominations to choose that 10-member Operating Board. Are there any questions?"
Joe Grata, "Have you had any feedback from the school districts and municipalities that intend to opt in early, January 1st, and what sort of reaction and/or feedback have you received?"
Mr. Koluder, "I did get an e-mail from someone asking that question."
Eileen Navish, "I heard that Kiski is opting in early. The other municipalities that responded said either no or they were thinking about it. That was all."
Mr. Koluder, "Obviously the ones who are already with Berkheimer would remain with them. I have not heard anything yet. I know Eileen asked for a survey and maybe she can get back to us at the next meeting with the results of her survey."
Ms. Perez, "I have not heard anything myself other than to know that our school district, Greensburg Salem, and our municipalities are not opting in early basically just for time to get everything in order and work out all the details. The cost for us from what we're currently paying to what we're going to pay is really going to be a wash, so we didn't feel any great need to rush into it because we were going to be saving a ton of money. So really it's just time to get everything implemented and ready."
Paul Fry, "If the municipality in our community would wish to opt in early, would the school district have to also?"
Mr. Koluder, "As of right now it's still on an individual basis until January 2012. Many years ago I was in a district where we pulled from one Wage Tax Collector to another. We had four municipalities and the school district. The school district and two municipalities pulled out and

the two other ones stayed with the old collector and that lasted about one year. There were a lot of people that were upset because then you had to file two separate wage taxes. If you happened to be in that municipality you had to file two separate wage taxes so just from experience I know it's great if everyone can get together and do it all from one."
Ms. Perez, "I actually had a phone call from a local newspaper reporter asking a lot of questions about what we've done, what we've accomplished and where we were going and the whole Act. That was one of his main questions; did we have any kind of feel for as to who is going to early implement and who wasn't. I told him it was up to everyone individually and he said he heard there was another county who chose a collector and the entire TCC, the entire county, was early implementing."
Solicitor Maiello, "There was a county out east, I'm fairly sure."
Ms. Perez, "So he thought it was part of the law that we all had to implement or nobody, and I told him no."
Mr. Koluder, "We work together but as you all recall from the last meeting I think that would have been a reach for us to do that."
Mr. Grata, "There are 69 TCCs and of course there's this one and I think this one has progressed very well but do you have any idea as to what some of the surrounding, contiguous tax collecting districts have done and where they stand; are they further along, further behind? Does anybody have any feel for that?"
Mr. Koluder, "I get e-mails from other chairmen across the State and we've all updated on an ongoing basis what our committees have completed so far, and almost all of them have chosen someone. It's spread out a little bit but obviously it's a lot fewer than it was. I know Keystone, Berkheimer and CenTax all received counties they're collecting from so they've all fared very well. We had a very good group to select from. I don't have exact numbers but I do know that all three of the ones we looked at have received counties, so, when and if we would ever look in the future, I'm sure those three would still be players as well."
Mr. Grata, "Thanks for that insight and information. It's just nice to know what everyone else is doing entering into Act 32."
Mr. Koluder, "Interestingly enough there are a few that did go with the Bureau. I think those probably already had a bureau-type of collection, but most of them I saw had chosen a collector. If I ever get a complete composite of that, I'll share it with the group if anyone would be interested in that."

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment this evening.

ADJOURNMENT:

Joe Koluder closed the meeting.
Time: 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Perez
WCTCC Secretary
City Treasurer/Fiscal Director
City of Greensburg