

NOT APPROVED

Mifflin County Tax Collection Committee (MCTCC)

March 10, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

Mifflin County School District Administrative Building

Delegates Present:

Linda Marks, Armagh Township

Holli Barger, Secretary- MCSD Alt 1, Armagh Township Alt 1

Teresa King, Brown Township

Rich Fultz, Decatur Township

N. Sue Reinke, Derry Township

Lisa Swisher, Treasurer- Granville Township

Rick Cook, Juniata Terrace

Robert Long, Vice Chairman- Lewistown Borough

Autumn Fiscus, Chairman- Mifflin County School District

Sherry Miller, Oliver Township

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present:

Keith Booher, Miffco Tax Services, Inc.

Betty Henry, Miffco Tax Services, Inc.

Debbie LeGuen, Miffco Tax Services, Inc.

Jeffrey Snook, Solicitor

Jyl Hayes, Burnham Borough

Steve Snook, on behalf of the Mifflin County Commissioners

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman, Autumn Fiscus

MEMBER TO APPROVE REFUNDS IN EXCESS OF \$1,000

Motion made by Lisa Swisher to revise the duties of Vice Chairman to include approving refunds in excess of \$1,000. The position of Vice Chairman is currently held by Robert Long. Rich Fultz seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 8, 2015 and January 14, 2016 minutes of the Mifflin County Tax Collection Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF BILLING:

Motion is made by Teresa King and seconded by Robert Long to bill all municipalities 75% of the 2016 budget. Motion carries unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS RELATING TO EXPIRING TCA:

Rich Fultz comments that spending taxpayer money is a big responsibility and should be weighed heavily before voting for RFP. He reminded members of the high cost for RFP and

asked what the School District was hoping to gain. Decatur Township leadership feels it is unfair for the Mifflin County School District to decide for everyone when the taxpayers put their trust in the MCTCC and its process. Teresa King voices a similar complaint that the issues and allegations regarding the current collector were not brought directly to the MCTCC and the complaint is vague. She stated that the members have put a lot of time in to forming and maintaining the committee to just be told that the only opinion that matters is that of the School District due to the weighted vote. Robert Long reviews the weighted vote with the membership. Lisa Swisher asks for specifics on the complaints brought to the School District and stated that it's hard for the smaller municipalities to swallow the fact that their votes don't matter. Sue Reinke and Linda Marks present letters of support for Miffco Tax Services, Inc. to the committee on behalf of their respective townships. Sherry Miller states that Oliver Township would like a report from the School District of complaints if they are valid. Teresa King asks for all of the information presented to the School Board. Rick Cook says he is concerned that the School Board with its much larger budget does not have sympathy for municipality and taxpayer financial concerns.

UPDATE OF WEIGHTED VOTE:

Attorney Jeff Snook educates the committee on the weighted vote and the updated calculations based on the 2010 census data and the collections from the 2014 EIT audit. Motion is made to adopt the updated weighted vote using the most recent data presented. Robert Long makes the motion, Rick Cook seconds. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Snook states that the Mifflin County Commissioners have asked him to attend the meeting to see what the committee does and how things work. He said the Commissioners were unaware of the committee and wondered if they had a say in the decisions made. Attorney Snook explains that county taxes are not part of the Tax Collection Agreement with the exception of delinquent taxes for which Miffco Tax Services, Inc. is the delinquent collector.

Keith Booher of Miffco Tax Services, Inc. states that collections are up 4.4% since the implementation of Act. 32. All of his employees are certified tax collectors. He has never had a complaint from any School Board member. There has only been one appeal since 2012. He said some of the complaints he receives are due to the harshness of his non-filing letters and notes that he quotes the state law in the letter, not his own words. He also states that while some complain about the customer service in his office, his employees go out of their way to work with taxpayers. He is shocked by what was reported in the newspaper and wishes complaints, if there are any, had been brought to him by the MCTCC.

**Next meeting April 14, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. or as needed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.**