

Skill Share RE Municipal Budgets in Crisis  
Friday | May 8, 2020 | 3PM  
Via Zoom



**CONNECT with GSPIA, ALOM, LGA, DCED**

**Municipal Attendees:** Diana Yankes, Churchill; RJ Susko, Town of McCandless; Ian McMeans, Mt Lebanon; Ben Estell, Dormont; David Montz, Green Tree; Jack Betkowski, Ross; Tim Rogers, Shaler; Kyle Thauvette, Collier; Betsy Monroe, Fox Chapel; Joanna Bouldin, Dormont; Doug Sample, Duquesne; George Zboyovsky, Brentwood; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Bruce Fromlack, West View; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Joe Varhola, Munhall; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont; Richard Minsterman, Crafton; Tom Hartswick, Castle Shannon; Wayne McVicar, Green Tree; Dawn Williams-Zabick, Collier; Andrew McCreery, Mt Lebanon; Eddie Figas, Millvale; Steve Beuter, Carnegie; Tom Rengers, Etna; Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Jean Warren, Whitaker; Jon Jaso, Sharpsburg; William Rossey, Sharpsburg; Rudy Milcic, Etna

**Other Attendees:** George Dougherty, GSPIA; Jason Davidek, ALOM; Joy Ruff, LGA; Aaron Lauer, IOP; Marita Kelley, DCED; Brian Jensen, Allegheny Conference; Emily Woodard, Steel Rivers COG; An Lewis, Steel Rivers COG; Gina Lewis, CMU; Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN; Laura Stephany, Allies for Children; Michael Foreman, DCED; Jennifer Slagle, Gateway Engineers; Eric Hulsey, Vital Strategies; Lori Rue

**CONNECT/GSPIA Attendees:** Lydia Morin, Eric Raabe, Tess De Jong, JoEllen Marsh, Ally Walker, Kaleigh Dryden

*10 additional attendees were unidentifiable from their name or phone number in Zoom.*

**Panel introduction and their goals for today**

- George Dougherty, GSPIA; Ben Estell, Borough of Dormont; RJ Susko, Town of McCandless; Marita Kelley; DCED; Joy Ruff, Local Government Academy; Jason Davidek; ALOM

**Discussion led by Dr. George Dougherty, GSPIA & Marita Kelley, DCED**

- Review of the spreadsheet of possible outcomes
- Some municipalities may not be affected this yet, but we are most concerned about 2020 and 2021
- You can play around with different scenarios to look at different strategies for cutting down
- We do this even before all the information is clear. Regions and municipalities both need unique tools. Your biggest responsibility is to the municipality you represent.

**Discussion led by Ben Estell, Borough of Dormont**

- Tour of his budget Excel sheet – the assumptions I made, the different decisions we can choose from to model different outcomes. All you must do is check a box if you want it to factor in that expense
- Happy to work with any municipality who is interested in adapting this to their budget
- Making predictions for the future by look at past data
- Many revenue decreases will hit mid-late summer
- You have the flexibility to format this in a way that already fits in what how you are budgeting and that is easy for the public to understand

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### **Group Discussion**

- How the predictions were made, where they got the information
- Assumptions about the real estate market
- Different capacities of municipalities
- How communities levy taxes differently, and how the makeup of your community will affect resiliency
- What we can learn from 2008 and how this is different
- We want to keep meeting, sharing and thinking about this issue innovatively together
- Ideas for next time: into the weeds on both spreadsheets and strategies RE MMOs/Pensions/etc