The Borough is Seeking a Resident to Serve on the Joint Board of Appeals

For as long as anyone can remember, Rev. Howard Kriebel served as Collegeville Borough's representative on the BOCA and Joint Appeals Board. Howard, who lived on Sixth Ave. in a replica of William Penn's famous "Leticia House" which he built himself, was a highly talented craftsman who also restored historic Model A Fords. Sadly, Howard died this July at the age of 91.

Collegeville Borough is now seeking a resident to serve on the Uniform Construction Code Joint Appeals Board, which has previously referred to as the BOCA Appeals Board prior to Pennsylvania adopting the Uniform Construction Code in 2002. The Joint Appeals Board is made up of a representative from Collegeville, Trappe, Schwenksville and Royersford Boroughs along with New Hanover, Lower Frederick, Skippack and Worcester Townships.

PA municipalities enforce the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). State regulations outline specific qualifications for who can legally sit on this board.
The primary legal requirements and duties under 34 Pa. Code § 403.121 are outlined below:

Key Member Qualifications:

- **Professional Background:** State law requires that board members have building construction training or experience. Municipalities typically look for licensed architects, structural or mechanical engineers, general contractors, or experienced construction/inspection professionals with at least 10 years of experience.
- **Disqualifications:** Members of the Borough's current Borough Council and code administration officials are strictly excluded from serving to avoid conflicts of interest.
- **Residency Flexibility:** While PA boroughs prefer to appoint local residents first, state law allows the borough to appoint out-of-municipality residents if qualified local professionals are unavailable.

Core Duties and Functions. The Joint Appeals Board member:

- **Hears Appeals:** Reviews applications from individuals who disagree with a decision, order, or refusal made by a building official or code enforcement officer;
- **Conducts Hearings:** Holds formal proceedings, reviews evidence, and hears testimony under oath from the parties involved;
- **Considers Variances:** Decides on requests for modifications or variances regarding construction methods, materials, or building code interpretations;
- **Renders Decisions:** Makes written rulings to reverse, modify, or affirm the decisions made by the building official; and
- **Maintains Records:** Keeps detailed minutes, records of proceedings, and written files of all official actions and decisions.

Term of the Appointment: Individuals serve for five-year terms.

Those appointed by the Borough to the Joint Appeals Board receive no compensation. They are encouraged to attend education and training seminars which are paid for by the Borough.

If you would like more information on this position, contact Borough Manger Tamara Twardowski at 610 489 9208. If you would like to apply for the position, you can e-mail a letter of interest to her at TTwardowski@borough.collegeville-pa.gov .