

MINUTES

Thursday, January 17, 2008
Halifax Township Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Alan Loesch with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Linda Ruff	Halifax Township
Flo Mallonee	Halifax Township
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Matt Mavretic	Millersburg Borough
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Rob Wentzel	Medic 6
Wendy Wentzel	Medic 6
Fred Sembach	Senate Staff
Mike Folmer	Senator 48 th District
Paul Shoop	Twin Valley Conservation
Shirley Shoop	Twin Valley Conservation
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Steve Allen	Reed Township Roadmaster
Betty Allen	Reed Township
Marty Sowers	Light Heigel

There were eight municipalities represented, seven are needed for a quorum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2008

President Loesch asked for nominations for the office of President for 2008. Norma Shearer nominated Alan Loesch. Ron Hepner seconded the motion. (Unan.)

President Loesch then asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President. Alan Loesch nominated Mrs. Norma Shearer. Mark Long seconded the motion. (Unan.)

President Loesch then appointed Robyn Loesch to the office of Secretary-Treasurer as an independent contractor at a fee of \$199.00 per month. Norma Shearer seconded the motion and also stated that Robyn Loesch had been selected for this position, by vote, during the October 18, 2007 meeting. (unan.)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 15 2007 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Ron Hepner, seconded by Norma Shearer. (Unan.) It was also noted that meeting minutes are posted on the COG website www.udcog.org.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance November 15	\$3,027.11
Receipts	0.00
Expenditures	460.00
Balance November 15	<u>\$2,567.11</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance October 18	\$5,286.69
Interest	34.78
Balance November 15	<u>\$5,321.47</u>

The following bills were submitted for payment:

Enders Technology	\$ 18.75
Halifax Township	\$ 15.00
Robyn Loesch	<u>\$199.00</u>
	\$232.75

The Treasurer’s report and payment of the bills was approved and on a motion by Jim Watson, seconded by Mark Long. (Unan.)

Financial Report

Bonnie Lidle then reported that the financial records for the COG for 2007 had been audited. The following is a summary of the financial activity of the COG for 2007:

2007 Beginning Balance	<u>\$7,651.90</u>
Receipts:	
Dues	\$3,423.48
Interest	204.74
	<u>\$3,628.22</u>
Expenditures:	
Salary of Sec-Treas.	\$2,625.00
Envelopes	59.54
Postage	242.00
Liability Insurance	164.00
Website	191.64
Hosting Meetings	90.00
Sentinel Ad	19.36
	<u>\$3,391.54</u>
2007 Ending Balance	<u>\$7,888.58</u>

The Financial Report for 2007 was accepted on a motion by Alan Loesch, seconded Norma Shearer. (Unan.)

CORRESPONDENCE

- Information on courses was received from The South Central Assembly about registration for the Jan.31 to Feb.1 workshop at HACC on best practices and collaboration.
- HATS (Harrisburg Area Transportation Study). Their Technical Committee meeting will be held on Jan 11 at 9:00 a.m. and the Coordinating Committee meeting will be held Jan 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Board Room of Capital Area Transit offices, 901 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg.

PROJECTS

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades

Alan Loesch reported that he had talked to Dale Shoop. Seven COG municipalities have completed the sign survey and Dale is requesting bulk purchase quotes. Rep. Sue Helm's office has let COG know that the latest PENN-DOT timetable for completion of upgrading signs has been extended to 2012.

UCC Appeals Board

Alan Loesch asked for a volunteer to lead the UCC project. The By-Laws for the Appeals Board have to be reviewed and then adopted. Each participating municipality will then have to pass a local Resolution, designating this group as their UCC Appeals Board. There is also a need to verify the status of the current four volunteer members of the UCC Appeals Board; Gary Grimm (Architect), James Eppley (Engineer), Randy Snyder and Lester Stence (Contractor). Norma Shearer volunteered to lead this project.

Recycling

Robyn Loesch said that a survey will be mailed with the next COG agenda, asking for information about local municipalities current recycling events. She found that a Carlisle computer recycler, the Computer Barn, will accept truckloads of used computer equipment. A general discussion decided that COG's goal for the upcoming year will be to include and coordinate COG area wide computer recycling with the current COG municipalities' recycling days.

Resolution – Amend the Amendments

The resolution to change the number of municipalities required to amend the amendments from 100% to 2/3 majority has been approved by all municipalities except Berrysburg Borough. Ray Kissinger offered to personally contact Berrysburg Borough to try and finish up this project.

Medic 6

Rob Wentzel gave an update on Medic 6. The number of 2007 Medic 6 calls, per municipality, has been posted on the COG website. A letter is being sent to the municipalities detailing the breakdown of ALS and BLS calls. Municipal donations for 2008 have already received from Jackson, Jefferson and Reed Townships. Medic 6 is actively pursuing grants and they are trying to raise \$250,000 through grants and loans to buy two new ambulances.

Gypsy Moth Spraying

Alan Loesch reported that the GIS information from the County Conservation District has made billing of the individual landowners much easier than it had been in previous years..

Pa Energy Consortium

Norma Shearer commended the work that Jim Bullock had done researching this project. Medic 6 could have potentially benefited from joining this consortium, but they are restricted to using a local vendor by the location and hours of fueling availability. Few COG municipalities have any fuel storage capabilities. At present, the no further action will be taken on this project.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Judy Snyder, who had led this project, is moving to Florida. Both the COG Secretary and the Halifax Township Secretary, contacted Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office to ask if the Townships should attend their meeting the third Wednesday of January at 10:00 a.m. and to inquire about the day and time of the Budget meeting (that municipalities have attend in past years). Although Halifax Township followed up this phone call with a letter, no answer was received. Norma Shearer asked that each individual municipality write the Income Tax Office requesting the date of this budget meeting. Alan Loesch stated that Tax Office might be more responsive if the interested individual municipalities officially join together in this effort, and we should look into passing local resolutions giving COG the authority to speak for them when dealing with the Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Marty Sowers of Light Heigel discussed a change in the 2008 fee schedule. Under the code, wallboard requires a separate inspection from framing. In the past, Light Heigel has absorbed the cost, but they are now adjusting the fee schedule to reflect a \$60 wallboard inspection.

Robyn Loesch discussed information about State resources available for using PA State guidelines for retention of municipal records. The State has a free program of microfilming old minute books. Grants are also available for archiving municipal records. She will call and see if the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission can send a speaker to the next COG meeting.

A handout about PSATS endorsed/sponsored insurance programs was made available.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Ray Kissinger discussed an issue that a resident of his municipality was having with Light Heigel. Alan Loesch stated that COG should develop a closer relationship with Light Heigel to help resolve such issues, and he asked for a volunteer from COG to become more of a specialist in UCC issues and become the COG liaison to Light Heigel. There were no volunteers.

GUEST SPEAKER

The guest speaker was Senator Folmer. The first issue discussed was Senate Bill 1603 dealing with local income tax office reform. Sen. Folmer is a co-sponsor of the bill. In light of our local immediate income tax office concerns, he cautioned that although the bill would reform income tax collection, passage of the bill is not eminent. Other topics discussed were consolidation of local governments, property tax reduction through increased sales tax, gasoline taxes, Gov. Rendell's proposed privatization of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and statewide education competency exams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be Feb. 21. The meeting will be held in the Washington Township municipal building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. on a motion by Matt Mavretic, seconded by Jim Watson.