

MINUTES

Thursday, April 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:

Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township, Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Melissa Stahl	Elizabethville Borough
Charles Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Dale Shoop	Halifax Township Roadmaster
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the March 20, 2008 meeting were approved as read, on a motion by Bonnie Lidle seconded by Charles Gallagher. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance March 20	\$5,329.82
Receipts	-0-
Expenditures	\$229.00
Balance April 17	<u>\$5,100.82</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance March 20	\$5,356.97
Interest	16.68
Balance April 17	<u>\$5,373.65</u>

Bills to be paid at April meeting	
Enders Technology	\$ 15.00
Robyn Loesch	\$ 199.00
Halifax Township	\$ 15.00
	<u>\$ 229.00</u>

The Treasurer's report and a motion to pay the bills was approved and on a motion Mark Long, seconded by Albert Morgan. (Unan.)

CORRESPONDENCE - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

PROJECTS

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades Dale Shoop talked to Colton Weber about the availability of grants for this project. A grant may be possible through DECD or COG might be able to obtain a Community Revitalization Grant. The cost of the current proposed project is now estimated to be \$39,000 for materials (stop signs, speed signs and posts). The next step in this process is to go back to each municipality and get a firm commitment for the number of stop and speed signs that they want to purchase.

UCC Appeals Board

Alan Loesch reported that COG has hired Atty. Stan Laskowski to draft the necessary documents and Resolutions for creation and formation of a Joint Appeals Board administered through the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments for purposes of compliance with the Uniform Construction Act and Code. These documents should be ready by the end of April. Atty. Laskowski has past experience working with other municipalities on similar UCC issues.

Norma Shearer commented that the \$500 estimated cost of UCC Board Hearings is too low, and should be should be set at \$1,000.

Recycling

The COG sponsored computer recycling event will be held at the Halifax Township Municipal Building from 7 A.M to noon, on Saturday June 14, 2008. Salt sheds will be available as a drop-off and storage area. Advertising of the event will start on May 19th in the Upper Dauphin Sentinel.

Medic 6

Rob Wentzel reported that several Bills (H.B. 1131, 1133, 1134) are before the Pennsylvania House which would make local municipalities directly responsible for providing fire and EMS services. Robb also explained that local municipalities do not pay any of the workers comp premium for Medic 6 because it is not a volunteer organization. (Municipalities are required by law to pay the Workers Comp for local volunteer fire and EMS services). Also, Medic 6 has arranged a no-charge reciprocal agreement with West Shore EMS. Under this reciprocal agreement, Medic 6 members have the extra advantage of membership coverage from West Shore EMS in the event that a Medic 6 unit is not available to respond to their needs.

Direct local municipal contributions have been slow this past year, out of 28 municipalities, only five have made a contribution to Medic 6. Norma Shearer asked the municipal representatives if they had any insight into why their municipalities have not contributed to Medic 6. Some municipalities may not have donated to Medic 6 because their EMS support contributions go primarily to a local BLS ambulance service.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

A Resolution allowing COG to talk to the Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office on behalf of COG municipalities was sent to each COG municipality. To date, several municipalities have already passed this resolution. Norma Shearer commented that the Patriot News has had extensive coverage of problems and questionable activates in other tax offices in the greater-Harrisburg area.

NEW BUSINESS - None

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Bonnie Lidle asked who to contact about problems with the county recycling bins and was given contact information for Kelly Wolf.

Marty Sowers asked that municipalities call him directly if they are having any UCC issues. His contact information will now be posted on the COG website. Marty Sowers also informed the municipalities that they have the option to request a local authorization form that require a municipal signature before any permit is issued; this would keep the municipalities better informed about any UCC activities in their areas. There was also a general discussion about the need for municipalities to set a separate "Non-compliance" fee for property owners who begin a building project before they obtain any permits. This is reasonable, due to the increased cost incurred by investigating and resolving a no-permit complaint.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be May 15. The meeting will be held in the Halifax Township Municipal Building. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. on a motion by Albert Morgan, seconded by Alan Loesch.