

MINUTES

Thursday, August 21, 2008
Halifax Township Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Alan Loesch with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Dale Shoop	Roadmaster Halifax Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township, Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Melissa Stahl	Elizabethville Borough
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
W. Lee Warfel	Wayne Township
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6
Kathy Wolfe	Millersburg Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Harold Smith	Williams Township
Donald Schwalm	Williams Township
Charles Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Donna Gallagher	
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel
Larry Smeltz	Millersburg Borough
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting were approved as read, on a motion by Jim Watson, seconded by Shirley Radel. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:	
Balance June 19, 2008	\$6287.82
Receipts	-0-
Expenditures	\$410.77
(payment to Dale Shoop voted for at last meeting)	-\$50.00
(paid July - no meeting to R. Loesch)	-\$199.00
(paid July -no meeting Caldwell + Kearns)	- \$45.00
Balance August 21, 2008	<u>\$5583.05</u>

Money Market CD:	
Balance June 19, 2008	\$2908.90
Interest (2 months)	\$10.97
Balance August 21, 2008	<u>\$2,919.87</u>

Bills to be paid at August meeting

Enders Technology	\$15.00
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Halifax Township	\$15.00
Caldwell & Kearns	\$135.00
Robyn Loesch - phone bill	\$ 5.94
	<u>\$369.94</u>

The Treasurer's report and a motion to pay the bills was approved and on a motion by Charles Gallagher, seconded by Ray Kissinger (Unan.)

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

PROJECTS

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades

Dale Shoop reported that it may be better and easier to include as many signs as possible and go for one total amount (of grant money) at one time. He will continue working on this project.

UCC Appeals Board

Norma Shearer provided an update and a handout on the UCC appeals board project. At this point, the final versions of the Intermunicipal Agreement and Ordinance are finalized. Norma Shearer reviewed the entire UCC project, the current volunteer members of this UCC Appeals Board, and the process that each municipality must individually complete to adopt the Intermunicipal Agreement and Ordinance. Our COG solicitor, Stan Laskowski, has advised us that no elected officials should be volunteer Appeal Board members. As this opinion affects one of the volunteers, Norma will contact Jim Facinelli. Marty Sowers commented that he attended a recent building codes officer training program and the need for a UCC appeals board was confirmed by a representative of L&I ; If a municipality does not have an appeals board and there is an appeal, the appellant wins the appeal by default.

Medic 6

Robb Wentzel reported that the subscription drive will begin in mid-September. Also, he reminded everyone that Sue Helm will be chairing a meeting of the House Republican Policy Committee to examine the need for and feasibility of establishing an emergency medical facility in Upper Dauphin County. There will be a meeting about this on Thursday, Sept. 25th - 10: 30 AM in Lykens, at Kevin's. He also asked that COG members ask Sue Helm about support for House Bill 182 (of 2007 session printer's # 208) that had to do with making insurance companies issue payment for EMS services directly to the EMS provider (instead of reimbursing the policy holder). Currently, Medic 6 has a 10% operating loss due to nonpayment of services.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Alan Loesch reported that the Income Tax Advisory Board met and voted to have McKonly & Asbury perform the 2006-07 and 2007-08 audits. The cost will be \$35,000 for the two year financial and operational audits. David Blaine said that the Tax Office has been cooperative and gave us an audit timetable. The procedural audit will begin in one week, the 2006-7 financial audit begins in September, followed by the 2007-8 audit starting in October. Ray Kissinger wanted to thank Shirley and Judy for starting us on this Tax Office issue.

Riparian and Stormwater rule changes.

Robyn Loesch and Ron Hepner attended the July 21st meeting at DCC. Summary of the meeting : DEP is rewriting the stormwater management rules. Under the upcoming, and as of yet un-finalized rules changes, DEP will be delegated the post-construction stormwater management to DCC. Currently, DCC only does an administrative completeness review of stormwater plans, and the technical review is performed by DEP. DCC may have to hire a Professional Engineer if they have to handle the technical reviews. They discussed forming a stormwater authority at the County level to handle post-construction stormwater management. Next meeting Sept. 15, at 10 AM.

Open Records Law

Jeanette Crabb has been to the seminar on changes to the open records laws and has volunteered to do a presentation on this subject during a future COG meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Grants

Shirley Radel reported that she, and Lee Warfel, went to a recent Dauphin County Breakfast meeting. They had a discussion with Amy Richardson, who said that County grants may be available for intergovernmental projects. Grant deadline is Sep. 2, but the possibility exists for a grant for next year. Alan Loesch will contact Skip Memmi about coming to a future COG meeting. There was a general consensus that COG would focus on the possibility of obtaining grant money for local emergency services.

Gypsy Moths

Alan Loesch had met with DCC and Commissioner Haste about program funding and the possibility of expanding the program to a preventative phase. Halifax, Jefferson, and Wayne Townships found local volunteers to become block organizers. Eric Naguski met with three of these volunteers last week at the Wayne Township building. At this time, these volunteers will try to raise awareness of the current program. To focus in on the most active areas of moth infestation, Eric Naguski promised to send current spray blocks and a list of residents who have applied for next year's program. Nothing has been received from DCC.

Outside Boilers

Ron Hepner asked if any of the COG municipalities have any new regulation of outside boilers. Millersburg recently passed a 60 day moratorium on new outside boilers. Berrysburg Borough has a proposed ordinance that is currently in the comment period.

Request

The Obama campaign requested to come to a COG meeting to have a presentation about upcoming Obama campaign events in our area. A general consensus was to decline due to the non-partisan nature of COG. The campaign will be notified that they can send us any information and it would be made available to any member that is interested.

Light-Heigel

Marty Sowers is visiting all of the COG municipalities between now and the end of the year. He reported that only upcoming change he is aware of is that the firm is discontinuing the discount for concurrent inspections. He discussed that they are required to follow all of the State and Federal rules or their certifications will be revoked, even if it means that they occasionally have to "butt heads" with local officials and property owners. Alan Loesch responded that the majority of the complaints that he has heard were more about timing and the smoothness of the process. Shirley Radel said that people have been upset when one inspector has asked for something different than the previous inspector and asked if Light-Heigel could have their people fill out a form each time they give specific directions to a property owner. Marty said that their new form is now in triplicate and that should minimize miscommunication.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be September 18th. The meeting will be held in the Medic 6 Building in Elizabethtown.

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