

MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Halifax Township 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
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Melissa Stahl	Elizabethville Borough
Charles Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Donna Gallagher	
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Mike Bower	Halifax Area School District
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Gene Stlip	Taxpayers and Ratepayers Unlimited
Sheila Keiter	

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance November 20, 2008	\$4607.81
Expenditures Nov.	\$543.00
Expenditures Dec.	<u>\$199.00</u>
Balance January 15, 2009	\$3865.81

Money Market CD:

Balance November 20, 2008	\$2,934.61
Interest Nov. + Dec.	<u>\$9.82</u>
Balance January 15, 2009	\$2,944.43

Bills to be paid at January meeting

Selective Insurance(Chubb)	\$1290.00
Enders Technology	\$19.95
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Norma Shearer (refreshments)	<u>\$15.00</u>
	\$1523.95

The Public Official Liability Insurance proposal from our insurance carrier (Allen Chubb) was discussed . This new proposed insurance package includes both public official and general liability; the balance of our current liability policy will be refunded.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - Gene Stlip from Taxpayers and Ratepayers Unlimited (TRU) gave an overview of his organization's activities. TRU is working to prevent the scheduled PP&L rate increase which is

expected n January 1, 2010. TRU looks to organize and petition our legislature to prevent this rate increase.

Financial Report

Bonnie Lidle then reported that the financial records for the COG for 2008 had been audited. The following is a summary of the financial activity of the COG for 2008; audited by Bonnie Lidle and Norma Shearer.

2008 Beginning Balance	<u>\$7,888.58</u>
Receipts:	
Dues	\$3,329.16
Interest	<u>122.96</u>
	\$3452.12
Expenditures	
Salary of Sec-Treas	\$2388.00
Telephone	21.24
Postage	86.85
Liability Insurance	164.00
Website	243.45
Hosting Meetings	120.00
Sentinel Ad	136.92
Recycling Event	50.00
Attorney	<u>1320.00</u>
	\$4530.46
2008 Ending Balance	<u>\$6810.24</u>

The Financial Report for 2008 was accepted on a motion by Charles Gallagher, seconded Ron Hepner. (Unan.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2009

President Loesch asked for nominations for the office of President for 2009. Ray Kissinger nominated Alan Loesch. Mark Long seconded the motion. Jim Watson motioned that nomination for this office be now closed. Both motions passed unanimously.

President Loesch then asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President. Charles Gallagher nominated Norma Shearer. Alan Loesch seconded the motion. Ray Kissinger motioned that nomination for this office be now closed. Both motions passed unanimously.

A motion to reappoint Robyn Loesch as Secretary -Treasurer for 2009 was made by Ron Hepner. Charles Gallagher seconded the motion. (Unan.) President Loesch then re-appointed Robyn Loesch to the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE – HATS

OLD BUSINESS

Outside Boilers

Ron Hepner said that Upper Paxton Township will be looking to pass an outside boiler ordinance in February. Charles Gallagher said that the first challenge to Berrysburg's outside boiler ordinance will be coming up soon. He also said that Berrysburg is working on an ordinance to regulate open outside burning; it will regulate such aspects such as frequency and length of time residents can use burn piles, and mandate the fire be under the control of someone over the age of eighteen.

Open Records compliance

A general discussion was held about the new open records law compliance requirements for municipalities. Last week, Robyn emailed our local municipal secretaries about where to find the latest information.

PROJECTS

Recycling

The county is planning on having a new recycling center at the Harrisburg incinerator. This program will accept fluorescent bulbs, Styrofoam, TVs. This center will accept a truck load of these materials from a municipality. We are waiting for more information.

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades – no report

UCC Appeals Board

Norma Shearer had copies available of Operation Procedures, Application, and Application for Review, documents that were emailed to the municipal secretaries earlier this month..

Medic 6

A general discussion was held about reciprocity issues. Currently, there are no billing reciprocal agreements for people with BLS memberships in Medic 6, and people with memberships in local BLS ambulance services. This causes a lot of confusion and citizen complaints. It was decided that a good starting point was to have some of the COG municipalities that have local BLS service encourage discussions between their local BLS and Medic 6 about developing a workable reciprocity agreement for BLS service.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Alan Loesch reported that the UDITO advisory board will meet on Monday, January 26th to discuss the special distribution. Ann Jackson will be sending out meeting notices. Ron Hepner talked about the 2011 county-wide consolidation of income tax offices, and the requirement that each local municipality has to appoint someone by September to participate in this county-wide process. Norma Shearer asked if the this future county-wide consolidation might be a factor in municipalities and school districts staying with their current tax office rather than facing a change now, and then having to change again in 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

Humane Society

Ron Hepner asked if other municipalities have humane society contracts. His municipality always has had a contract but warned that this year, under the new contract, the humane society accepted six kittens from a local citizen which incurred a bill to Upper Paxton Township of \$960. Charles Gallagher commented that Berrysburg has looked into contracting a pest control company for the trapping and removal of an estimated sixty-six stray cats; the estimate received was \$13,000. Robyn Loesch will look for any other animal control/removal options and programs.

Meeting times

Jim Watson made a motion to have the COG meeting timed changed to 7 p.m. from 7:30. This would move the social time before the meeting to 6:30. Ron Hepner seconded the motion. (Unan.)

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Post Office box changes

Albert Morgan brought up the issue of Post Office box regulation changes. The Post Office will now not provide free P.O. boxes to customers that live in town but live anywhere on the existing path of a rural delivery route. These customers still have the option of a P.O. box, but they must pay \$35/year. The other option is for these customers is to install a mailbox in front of their homes. Instillation of these in-town mailboxes could cause problems with existing sidewalks and parking. Several other municipalities are working on this issue, Charles Gallagher (Berrysburg) and Melissa Stahl (Elizabethville) discussed their local efforts on this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be February 19th, 2009. The meeting will be held in the Washington Township Municipal Building starting at 7p.m, a social period will be held before the meeting, starting at 6:30. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. on a motion by Ron Hepner, seconded by Alan Loesch.