

MINUTES

Thursday, February 19, 2009
Washington Township Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:02 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
Skip Memmi	Dauphin County DCED
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
Carl Slough, Jr.	Lykens Borough
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Chris Dietz	Millersburg Borough
Travis Enders	Enders Technologies
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the

January 15, 2009 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Jim Watson, seconded by Bonnie Lidle. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance January 15, 2009	\$3865.81
Expenditures Jan.	\$1523.95
Receipts	\$1937.52
Balance February 19, 2009	<u>\$4279.38</u>

* Note: Jan. bill from Selective Insurance not yet received

Actual bank balance is +\$1290.00 (\$5569.38)

Money Market CD:

Balance January 15, 2009	\$2,944.43
Interest Jan.	\$5.00
Balance February 19, 2009	<u>\$2,949.43</u>

Bills to be paid at February 19, 2009 meeting

Enders Technology	\$19.95
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Keith Laudenslager	\$40.00
	<u>\$258.95</u>

The Treasurer's report and a motion to pay the bills was approved on a motion by Jim Watson, seconded by Carl Slough.(Unan.)

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CORRESPONDENCE

DCNR; application grant program for community conservation.

PACOG; membership application. Norma Shearer and Carl Slough would like more information before any membership decision.

OLD BUSINESS

Outside Boilers

Ron Hepner said that Upper Paxton Township's ordinance is on hold now because of comments and concerns from their local residents. Chris Dietz commented that the regulation of the boilers could be tied to zoning which would allow this type of boilers in areas where they are not a nuisance. Robyn Loesch reported that another COG municipality had a concern that farms might be exempt from outside boiler ordinances.

Open Records compliance

Robyn has contacted the State Office of Open Records to find out if UDCOG falls under these regulations. Open Records Office has not made a determination yet. Charles Gallagher commented that Dauphin County does not seem to be adhering to the record request fee schedule; the County recently charged \$25 for a CD of tax roll information. Skip Memmi gave him County contact information; Open Records Officer, Scott Burford, 717-780-6300.

PROJECTS

Recycling

COG had previously heard from the County that there was a plan to have a recycling center at the Harrisburg incinerator. Skip Memmi said that this plan is probably not underway, and we should re-contact Kelly Wolf.

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades – no report

UCC Appeals Board

Norma Shearer said that she had been contacted by PSATS about our UCC efforts and it will be mentioned in the April issue of PSATS magazine.

Medic 6

A general discussion was held about reciprocity issues. Several COG members have been working on this issue. Ray Kissinger had contacted Medic 6 and they currently have no BLS reciprocity agreements. Ron Hepner talked to Merv Adams of the Millersburg Ambulance Assoc. and they currently have a reciprocity agreement with Halifax Ambulance. Bonnie Lidle will be talking to Halifax Ambulance tomorrow. Travis Enders said that Williamstown and Tower City have reciprocity agreements. Alan Loesch had talked to Robb Brady at DCED and has invited him to the April COG meeting. There is a possibility of having DCED do an area-wide study to make recommendations on reciprocity, sustainability, and funding of emergency services. DCED may be able to provide some insight and an unbiased assessments on these issues. Skip Memmi said that if there are costs associated with a DCED study, that the County may have matching funds available.

Robb Wentzel gave a presentation about Medic 6; the overall financial position is greatly improved, grant procurement is up. Medic 6 is looking to purchase a new vehicle (\$130,000), and is anticipating grants from several sources. The cost after grants is projected to be \$87,000. Robb will be approaching the municipalities about donations toward this vehicle. (the previous 2005 donation appeal based on offsetting workman's' compensation payments has had a low level of participation). Robb will provide a spreadsheet of previous donations.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Alan Loesch reported that the special distribution from the UDITO has been sent out. The next UDITO advisory board will meet will be held at the Halifax Township Municipal Building, on March 23th ; to discuss hiring an auditor for 2010 and the preparations for the 2011 County-wide EIT tax collection.

NEW BUSINESS

Members list

Norma Shearer asked if an email list of COG members can be distributed to all the members. Travis Enders suggested that this information can also be posted on our webpage.

Websites

Halifax Township and Halifax Borough would like their municipal websites to be listed on the COG website.

PSATS survey

Alan Loesch asked if the municipalities had gotten the PSATS survey of intermunicipal agreements. PSATS is stressing the intergovernmental cooperation and consolidation. Alan commented that there are times when the economy of scale makes intermunicipal activities the best choice, and there are other times when autonomy is necessary.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Humane Society

Ron Hepner said that Upper Paxton had signed an agreement with the Humane Society, but many other municipalities in the area have not joined. This is causing them problems as people from other municipalities are trying to unload animals into Upper Paxton. Alan Loesch volunteered to contact the Humane Society and see if they are willing to talk about contract terms and pricing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be March 19, 2009. The meeting will be held in the Gratz Borough Municipal Building starting at 7p.m, a social period will be held before the meeting, starting at 6:30. Building is located at 125 Center Street; it is the blue building to the rear, previously used as an ambulance building. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Ray Kissinger, seconded by Carl Slough.