

MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2009
Gratz Borough Municipal 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 Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Charles Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Donna Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Larry Shade	Gratz Borough
Tom Hepler	Gratz Borough
Clair Koppenhaver	Gratz Borough
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Gary Ibberson	Millersburg Borough
Melissa Stahl	Elizabethville Borough
Sheila Keiter	Jefferson Township
Dohn Fetterhoff	Halifax EMS
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6
Steve Boyer	Medic 6

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 19, 2009 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Charles Gallagher, seconded by Bonnie Lidle. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance February 19, 2009	\$4279.38
Expenditures Feb.	\$ 258.95
Receipts - dues	\$1205.28
Balance March 19, 2009	<u>\$5225.71</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance February 19, 2009	\$2,949.43
Interest Feb.	\$5.01
Balance March 19, 2009	<u>\$2,954.44</u>

Bills to be paid at March 19, 2009 meeting	
Enders Technology	\$19.95
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
US Postmaster	\$42.00
Gratz Borough – meeting	\$15.00
	<u>\$275.95</u>

NOTES: New Susquehanna Bank checks (changed name from Community Banks). Washington Township did not want \$15 payment for refreshments in February. The Treasurer's report and a motion to pay the bills was approved on a motion by Charles Gallagher, seconded by Ray Kissinger.(Unan.)

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CORRESPONDENCE

HATS, meeting notice

Email from Bill Hoy about possible speaker on pollution credits. Alan will contact Bill for more information. Cohen Law Firm , cable franchises; copy made available at meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance

New policy from Chubb Agency which includes Public Officials Liability, is in place and paid.

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. West Shore COG was contacted for advice, and they in turn contacted PACOG. West Shore COG also contacted the State Office of Open Records and was told that many COGs have registered. It was West Shore COG's opinion that it is easier to just register than to obtain a legal determination of the necessity to comply. Shirley Radel has volunteered to be the UDCOG Open Records Officer. Charles Gallagher made a motion to appoint Shirley Radel as the UDCOG Open Records Officer; seconded by Bonnie Lidle. (Unan.)

PROJECTS

Recycling

UDCOG will hold a computer recycling event again this year. It will be held later in the summer and Robyn will work out the details with Dale Shoop. Robyn contacted Computer Barn Recyclers and they will work with us again this year; they did warn us to be especially careful about taking any TVs as the current disposal cost has risen to \$3/lb and it is difficult to find a TV recycler. A note will be sent to municipal secretaries alerting them to check on this problem with TVs before any local municipal recycling events.

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades – no report

UCC Appeals Board

Norma Shearer reported that the UCC Appeal Board Members will have to fill out State Ethics Commission Financial Interest Statements. She is contacting the Board members. The Financial Interest Statements will be sent to UDCOG and then copies will be forwarded to the local municipalities that use the UDCOG Joint UCC Appeals Board.

EMS

Again, a general discussion was held about reciprocity issues. Alan Loesch said that our main focus is to protect our local citizens from unexpected ambulance services costs. Robert Brady of DCED has been invited to the April COG meeting to discuss our options. Robb Wentzel said that in the past month, Steve Boyer has reached out to the other EMS directors about resolving reciprocity issues, and that the organizations work together on a daily basis but that there is this unfortunate financial component that must also be considered. Dohn Fetterhoff said that the Halifax Ambulance Directors would like to hear more and are open to suggestions on resolving this issue. He said that many of these problems began years ago when: 1) the law mandated that all ambulance associations had to bill the insurance of both members and non-members; 2) some ambulance organizations had availability problems; 3) people began "shopping" for the lowest price ambulance membership which had area wide reciprocity membership. Several ideas to resolve reciprocity were discussed. One idea was that the municipalities could directly purchase annual "open memberships" from each of the EMS services that were not the primary local EMS. Then, if local citizens already had their own membership with the local primary EMS service, they would be covered by the municipal membership for calls taken by other area-wide EMS services. Sheila Keiter said that the public needs to be made aware of what EMS memberships covers (due to current lack of reciprocity), and that the media should be contacted. There was a general consensus of COG members the EMS services are still actively working on this issue; we haven't yet had input from DCED; that it's too early for media coverage. COG is close to facilitating a resolution of the reciprocity issue, but can not make business decisions for the EMS services. This is not a new issue and has been going on for a long time, but we are coming close to our goals.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

The next UDITO advisory board will meet will be held at the Halifax Township Municipal Building, on March 23th, 7p.m.; to discuss hiring an auditor for 2010 and the preparations for the 2011 County-wide EIT tax collection.

Humane Society

Alan Loesch contacted the head of the Humane Society and they are willing to come to a future COG meeting to talk about contract terms and pricing. Due to DCED speaking at the April meeting, the Humane Society is tentatively scheduled for the June COG meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Act 537

Norma Shear reported that Halifax Township is having an Act 537 meeting on Tues. March 24th, 7 p.m., at the Halifax High School. Three representatives from DEP will be speaking. Norma said that this would be a very informational meeting for other local municipal officials to attend.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES -None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be April 16, 2009. The meeting will be held in the Lykens Borough Municipal Building starting at 7 p.m., a social period will be held before the meeting, starting at 6:30. Building is located at 200 Main St., Lykens. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Charles Gallagher, seconded by Ray Kissinger.