

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, October 15, 2009
Mifflin Township Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:05 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
Charles Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Donna Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Larry Smeltz	Millersburg Borough
Ronald Kolva	Mifflin Township
Peggy Kolva	Mifflin Kolva
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton
Deb Bower	Dr, Bower's Office
Barb Buffington	Elizabethville – resident
Jim Bush	Berkheimer Tax Administration
Steve Shaver	Dauphin County EMA

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 17 , 2009 meeting were approved as written on a motion by Bonnie Lidle, seconded by Albert Morgan. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance September 17, 2009	\$3763.11
Expenditures Sept. meeting	\$233.95
Receipts - dues	0
Balance October 15, 2009	<u>\$3529.16</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance Oct. 15, 2009	\$2.98158
Interest now paid quarterly (Halifax National Bank)	

Bills to be paid at the October 15, 2009 meeting

Enders Technology	\$19.95
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Mifflin Twp. – meeting	\$15.00
Stamps, envelopes, paper (to Robyn)	\$29.25
	<u>\$ 263.20</u>

A motion to pay the bills was made by Charles Gallagher, seconded by Mark Long. (Unan.)

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

GUEST SPEAKERS -

Jim Bush, Berkheimer EIT Administrator came to COG to discuss upcoming changes in EIT collection. Act 32, signed in 2008, mandates each county have one EIT collector. Each municipality should have already appointed a representative and an alternate representative to the County committee (first county-wide meeting is Nov. 7th). Currently, Berkheimer provides EIT collection services for several municipalities and school districts in our county and our area (Williams Valley School District, Lower Paxton Twp., Dauphin Boro, Porter Twp. etc.).

Jim Bush wanted to let us know that even if Berkheimer does not get the County EIT contract, they will be willing to help in any way possible during the transition. Act 32 requires a lot of technology upgrades and makes it more difficult for tax collection offices and some businesses because of the increasing use of electronic reporting. Alan Loesch said that the county selection of the new EIT provider is beginning, there are a lot of options, provider could be a for-profit business or a non-profit: an RFP is being written and potential vendors could be invited to a future COG meeting. Larry Smeltz asked how unidentified distributions are handled (when it cannot be determined which municipality the employee lives in). Jim Bush answered that the money is sent to the municipality where the employer is located, and that some EIT collection agencies have been distributing a backlog of these type of unidentified collections so that they are in compliance when the new Act 32 regulations start. Jim Bush said that Berkheimer has twenty five offices and any municipality is welcome to come and tour their facilities, and that he believes that Berkheimer has the advantage of having a large investment in new technology.

Steve Shaver, Director, Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency gave a presentation on several issues.

- NIMS (National Incident Management System) – the municipalities should pass a annual Resolution of NIMS compliance. If a municipality does not have an EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator) the responsibility reverts back to the highest elected local official. EMC is in charge of an incident, but the local officials declare the emergency and are ultimately in charge (as they appoint the EMC). Municipalities need to comply with NIMS regulations, non-compliance can even affect grants for local fire companies.
- Hazard Mitigation – Every five years the County re-assesses and updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and sends a resolution of adoption out to each municipality. Some of the defined hazards are floods, storms, tornados, and sinkholes.
- County EMA is in the final stage of a 31 million dollar project to replace the wireless communication system. The new system is currently being tested and will go into operation beginning next year.
- H1N1 – Is now in the County, and children are the major concern. The State Dept. of Health has several different forms of this vaccine. Exact number of cases of H1N1 is now not being tracked - the Dept. of Health is no longer testing people unless they are very ill. Recommendations for the prevention of spreading the flu are still the standard hand washing and cough covering. There is a separate vaccine for the regular seasonal flu, but in our local area some of the inoculation centers canceled their season flu inoculation events or had very limited supplies. The State Dept. of Health takes the lead in Dauphin County because the County does not have a health department. Mortality of H1N1 is less than previously projected. H1N1 vaccine supply is just starting to come into PA.. Doctor's offices and even employers can sign up to be a vaccination center. One of the biggest problems has been liability questions. Deb Bower asked who are going to be inoculating school children? Steve Shaver answered that the State Department of Health is looking to find volunteers and they can sign up on their website. Deb Bower asked where people would go in the event of a major outbreak and if there is a medical plan. Steve Shaver answered that location points for distribution of emergency supplies are being set up now, and the CDC would be in charge of dropping in meds. If the outbreak is within the confines of a political sub-division it would be handled by the local EMC/EMS, if they cannot handle the event it escalates to the County and then the State. A large scale event would overwhelm hospitals. Charles Gallagher thought that the municipalities should make sure that they include a list of medical resources and local medical personnel in their Emergency Management Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

- Humane Society – has still not called or emailed back about possible group rates.
- Floodplain Maps- latest information from Ed Fisher is that they are not here yet.

PROJECTS

UCC Appeals Board

Norma Shearer said that there is nothing new to report and that the UCC Appeals Board can be removed from the Project list, and any activity can be reported under New Business.

EMS - no report

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Charles Gallagher reported that Tax Advisory Board committee met to go over the contract defining the distribution of the Tax Office assets when EIT tax collection is taken over by the County. Atty. Engle will be sending a copy of this contract to each municipality to review and adopt (this is an individual municipal agreement). Currently, the Upper Dauphin Tax Office is moving to Main St. in Millersburg. Alan Loesch asked what is the status of the current audit (Charles Gallagher will call the Tax Office)

County EIT

Alan Loesch reported that some of the municipalities are joining together and will re-appoint one "joint" school-district-wide representative. Kaye Thoma will be representing Upper Dauphin School District and many of the UDA municipalities. Halifax School District and several of their municipalities will be represented by Gary Shade. Williams Valley area will be meeting on Monday to decide on representation. The County (Skip Memmi, Amy Richards, Atty. Beneventano) and the EIT steering committee have done a lot of work on this EIT project. Dauphin County is trying to set up an estimated \$60,000 to \$160,000 line of credit for this committee, to cover the two year start up and change over period (this cost will eventually be paid by the municipalities).

NEW BUSINESS

A meeting to discuss the feasibility of a Regional Police Department is scheduled for October 26, 2009, 7:00 pm at the Elizabethville Borough Municipal Building. The meeting is open to the public and municipalities north of Peters Mountain are encouraged to attend. The issue of a Regional Police Dept. is due to pending legislation (HB 1500) that would require eventual \$156 per capita local assessment to pay for State Police coverage. As a cost comparison, Larry Smeltz said that the Millersburg police Dept. annual budget is approx. \$200,000; they have three full time officers, six part-time, four cars, and one 4x4.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Jim Watson said that Washington Township no longer has a location for residential yard clipping and branches., and maybe COG could find or sponsor an intermunicipal yard waste collection site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be November 19, 2009. The meeting will be held in Wayne Township Municipal Building (located at 1652 Powells Valley Rd., Halifax, PA),, starting at 7 p.m., a social period will be held before the meeting, starting at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.09 p.m. on a motion by Jim Watson, seconded Charles Gallagher. All in favor.