

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, January 21, 2010
Millersburg Borough 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
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Todd Laudenslager	Pillow Borough
Charles Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Donna Gallagher	Berrysburg Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ronald Kolva	Mifflin Township
Wanda Hockenberry	Mifflin Township
Thomas Billow	Mifflin Township
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Carol Eppley	Halifax Township
Rick Ibberson	Millersburg Borough
Gary Ibberson	Millersburg Borough
Sean Grimm	Millersburg Borough
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6
Jim Bullock	Area Representative to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting were approved as written on a motion by Jim Watson, seconded by Ray Kissinger. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance November 19, 2009	\$3265.96
Expenditures Nov. meeting	\$233.95
Dec.	\$218.95
Receipts - dues	0
Balance Dec 31, 2009	<u>\$2813.06</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance Nov, 19, 2009	\$2,981.58
Interest	\$17.88
Balance Dec. 31, 2009	<u>\$2,999.46</u>
Interest now paid quarterly (Halifax National Bank)	

Bills to be paid at the January 21, 2010 meeting

Enders Technology	\$19.95
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Upper Paxton Twp.- meeting	waived
Caldwell & Kearns	\$225.00
Robyn Loesch – postage, shredding	\$50.25

\$ 494.20

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

Financial Report

The financial records for the COG for 2009 were audited before the start of this meeting by Ron Hepner and Todd Laudenslager. The following is a summary of the financial activity of the COG for 2009.

2009 AUDIT SUMMARY

2009 Beginning Balance	(3865.81 CK ; 2,944.43 CD)	<u>\$6810.24</u>
Receipts:		
Dues	3,087.60	
Refund (Ins.)	123.00	
Interest CD	55.03	
		<u>\$3265.63</u>
Expenditures:		
Website	339.10	
Salary of Sec-Treas	2388.00	
Hosting Meetings	105.00	
Tax Prep	40.00	
Postage & Supplies	71.25	
Liability Insurance	1290.00	
Attorney	30.00	
		<u>-\$4263.35</u>
2009 Ending Balance	(2813.06 CK ; 2,999.46 CD)	\$5,812.52

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2010

President Loesch asked for nominations for the office of President for 2010. Charles Gallagher nominated Alan Loesch. Ray Kissinger seconded the motion. Jim Watson motioned that nominations for this office be now closed. Both motions passed unanimously.

Alan Loesch then asked for nominations for the office of Vice-President for 2010. Alan Loesch nominated Ron Hepner. Charles Gallagher seconded the motion. Jim Watson motioned that nominations for this office be now closed. Both motions passed unanimously.

A motion to reappoint Robyn Loesch as Secretary -Treasurer for 2010 was made by Charles Gallagher. Ray Kissinger seconded the motion. Jim Watson motioned that nominations for this re-appointment be now closed. Both motions passed unanimously. Salary will remain unchanged from 2009.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jim Bullock, area Representative to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, gave a presentation on the Park and Ride program. This new committee is made up of representatives from Tri-County Planning, CAT, Commuter Services, PennDOT, and several area Economic Development Associations. Currently, the only formal Park and Ride lot in Upper Dauphin is the Wal-Mart on 209. Other nearby lots are an informal one near the Clarks Ferry Bridge and a formal one near the intersection of 225/322. Park and Ride lots are formal (paved, lighted, and some fenced) or informal (dirt and gravel). The goal of the Park and Ride Committee is to investigate and select some future lot sites. These lots will help increase area usage of public transportation and carpooling, and help reduce congestion and pollution caused by the thousands of cars commuting into the Harrisburg area. Jim Bullock also said that at this time, light rail transportation was not under consideration for Upper Dauphin. Charles Gallagher asked who funded or paid for these projects

CORRESPONDENCE

- HATS meeting schedule
- Local area construction notice
- Tri-County Planning newsletter
- Chubb Insurance - request for budget information
- Caldwell & Kearns - Review of UDITO contract

OLD BUSINESS

- Humane Society – has still not called or emailed back about possible group rates.
- Floodplain - Last week, FEMA held meetings about floodplain maps and Ordinances. Todd Laudenslager reported on one new piece of information; the FEMA flood insurance rate does not change for properties that previously had flood insurance under the risk rating areas established by the previous floodplain maps; their rate will stay the same forever.
- 2010 Dues letters have been sent out. One was still sent to Jackson Township, even though they did not pay last year.

PROJECTS

EMS Robb asked if COG could consider talking to DCED about an area-wide EMS strategic resources study.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Charles Gallagher discussed the new contract with the Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office. The major unanswered question is who actually owns the Tax Office. The 1966 agreement says that the UDITO was started by funds from local tax receipts; however one of the recent audits says that startup funds of \$20,000 was provided by Allen Schaffer. Atty. Laskowski has provided COG with a letter reviewing the new draft Upper Dauphin Tax Contract, and a copy of this has been forwarded to Atty. Jeff Engle (new CEO of UDITO). This review contains suggested changes to the contract and specifically address the issue of the eventual distribution of tax office assets when the office closes. (Alan Loesch noted that there is still a possibility that the UDITO will be bought out by a larger tax service.) Monday January 25th is the next UDITO Committee meeting and McKonly & Asbury will have two people there to answer questions and review the recent audit. There was a general discussion and consensus of approval of the Contract comments and review by Atty. Laskowski.

Several people asked if anyone had received a detailed EIT tax report from the UDITO. Alan Loesch said that the Tax Committee had decided that these type of detailed reports would not be distributed to the Municipalities, unless there was a specific request made by the municipality; as some municipalities did not want to see, or be responsible for storing, detailed EIT information.

County EIT

Ron Hepner reported that at this week's, County EIT meeting was 3 hours long, but they finally managed to select a Solicitor. The Committee has until April to write the By-Laws, and by September they have to select the new area-wide tax collector. Kay Thoma is the area representative for several local area municipalities and the Upper Dauphin School District. Kay was also elected Secretary of the County EIT Committee, and has been doing a great job.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Charles Gallagher had more information on the issue of PennDOT mandating that municipalities are responsible for certain signs on state roads that are within the municipal boundaries. At the September meeting, Ed Fisher had said that according to section 212 of the Transportation Code, the municipality must post these signs. Charles said that the Township Code requires that we keep the roads open but does not mention signs; and there was a 1991 court case (Bruce vs. Commonwealth of PA) that supported this position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be February 18, 2010. The Meeting will be held at the Washington Township Municipal Building located at *185 Manors Rd, Elizabethville, PA. 17023*; starting at 7 p.m., a social period will be held before the meeting, starting at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. on a motion by Charles Gallagher, seconded Albert Morgan. All in favor.