

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, May 20, 2010
Gratz Borough Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Alan Loesch. The following persons were in attendance:

Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Ronald Kolva	Mifflin Township
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Larry Smeltz	Millersburg Borough
Gene Stilp	Candidate for 104 th District

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 15, 2010 meeting were approved as written on a motion by Mark Long, seconded by Albert Morgan. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance April 15, 2010	\$3790.58
Expenditures April meeting	\$398.95
Receipts - dues	0
Balance May 20, 2010	<u>\$3391.63</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance May 20, 2010	<u>\$3035.15</u>
Interest now paid quarterly (Halifax National Bank)	

Bills to be paid at the May 20, 2010 meeting

Enders Technology	\$19.95
Robyn Loesch (Records Retention workshop printing)	\$167.43
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Gratz Borough.- meeting waived	\$0

\$ 386.38

A motion to pay the bills was made by Ray Kissinger, seconded by Ron Hepner.(Unan.)

PUBLIC COMMENT – Gene Stilp, Candidate for 104th District House of Representatives introduced himself to the municipal representatives. He also asked the municipalities if they were expecting any local impact due to incinerator issues facing the City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County.

CORRESPONDENCE

- HATS meeting schedule.

GUEST SPEAKER - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

- Last month, COG sponsored a Retention of Records workshop at the Wayne Township Municipal building. Sue Hartman, from the PA Museum Commission reviewed the retention schedule, document storage and other local issues. Twelve municipalities participated. The workshop was a success, and several municipalities commented that in the future they would like to get together for workshops on other issues.

- PEMA – snowstorm reimbursement. The County and PEMA snowstorm reimbursement has been a confusing process for many of the municipalities. Many municipalities did not receive information from their EMCs, and the County did not directly contact the municipalities. At times, email instructions from the County conflicted with other information sent out by PEMA. COG coordinated an effort to keep everyone informed. Two local municipalities might have missed a step in the reimbursement paperwork process. COG will re-contact them to help them double-check that all of their paperwork is in. This week, PEMA extended the deadline to June 18th.
- Floodplain Ordinances – FEMA floodplain maps have been finalized. Municipalities should now be in the process of adopting a new updated floodplain ordinance. Both DCED and DCCD have developed model ordinances and are working with the municipalities.

PROJECTS

EMS - no report

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office - no report

County EIT - The County EIT Committee will send out for quotes (RFPs) for a replacement county-wide EIT tax collection agency. The bids will be reviewed in July, and the selection of the new agency will be in August. The new tax office could be up and running as soon as 2011, but will definitely take over in 2012. According to the Committee's estimates the annual cost to the municipalities for tax collection should decrease; currently we are paying about a 3% EIT processing fee; some of the agencies under consideration charge as low as 1.5%. The funding for the process of selecting a new tax office (documents, attorney fees, etc) has been borrowed from the County. The County found the EIT Committee a line of bank credit, but the City of Harrisburg objected and now other banks will be asked for quotes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Road bids - Some municipalities do not have many vendors responding to their bid ads. COG will send out a vendor list so that bids can be mailed or emailed out directly to the vendors (after the bid has run in the newspaper). There was a general discussion about next year; the local municipalities could try to advertise their road bids all around the same time, as this might bring more vendors to our area.
- Ron Hepner said that LTAP will hold free road maintenance workshop seminars in our area if we can guarantee ten people for the LTAP workshop.
- Mike Ward asked if any of the other municipalities had any information about lower cost electricity bulk purchase programs.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

- Rush Township has resolved their issue with the cell tower strobe light at Bendigo Airport; the strobe was replaced with a red beacon light. The light is used at the landing strip tower for night-time landings. The beacon will not be as disruptive to neighbors as there are not many night-time landings.
- There are still some problems with County recycling bins. They are not emptied as often as needed. There also needs to be extra bins installed for cardboard waste.
- There was a general discussion about court challenges to Sidewalk Ordinances. These Ordinances require that where sidewalks are mandatory by Ordinance, that the property owner is responsible for sidewalk costs and maintenance. Previous court cases have found in favor of the municipalities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be June 17, 2010. The Meeting will be held in Jefferson Township, at the Carsonville Volunteer Fire Company Building, located at 2990 Powells Valley Rd. Halifax, PA 17032.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 on a motion by Ron Hepner, seconded by Albert Morgan. (Unan.)