

UPPER DAUPHIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Cooperation and Issues of Municipalities in Upper Dauphin County



MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2005
Gratz Borough Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Colton Weber with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Colton Weber	Millersburg Borough
Michael Welker	Dauphin Borough
Travis Enders	Elizabethville Borough
Larry Shade	Gratz Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Tom Hepler	Gratz Borough
Harry Shiro	Gratz Borough
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robin Loesch	Jefferson Township
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Tom Shaffer	Upper Paxton Township
Scott Weiant	Pa Dept of Labor and Industry
Phyllis Weiant	Lebanon, Pa
Linda Bechtel	Secretary-Treasurer

A roll call attendance was taken. There were only eight municipalities present and nine were needed for a quorum so no formal action was taken at this meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 21 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance April 21	\$ 3,736.48
Receipts	-0-
Expenditures	296.70
Balance May 19	<u>\$ 3,439.78</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance April 21	\$ 6,797.33
Interest	13.16
Balance May 19	<u>\$ 6,810.49</u>

The Treasurer reported that 2005 dues had been received from all municipalities except Rush Township.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter was received from Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) announcing their Technical Committee meeting on June 20 at 9:00 a.m. and their Coordinating Committee meeting on June 24 at 9:00 a.m.
- A letter was received from Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) regarding their Transportation Plan and Program Update – Project Suggestions. Project suggestion forms must be received by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission no later than July 31, 2005.
- A letter was received from U.S. Congressman Tim Holden updating the COG on his efforts to oppose the reopening and expansion of the Dauphin Meadows landfill.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Travis Enders reported that the committee formed to study the financial data of Medic 6 and other emergency medical services had nothing to report at this time. They are still in the process of gathering financial data for review and consideration before making a recommendation to the COG. COG members then discussed funding of emergency medical services. President Weber agreed to write a letter to municipalities telling them we are dealing with this issue at COG and inviting them to share in this project.

It was also discussed that it might be beneficial to have representatives of Medic 6 attend a meeting to address the situation and answer questions.

The new Upper Dauphin Council of Governments website www.udcog.org is now up and running and the forum section is open.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Scott Weiant, Labor and Industry Bureau of Worker's Compensation then discussed the program for Certification of Workplace Safety Committees which, when approved by the Bureau, entitles the municipality or business to a 5% discount in their workmen's comp premium. In order to qualify there must be a safety committee of at least four members. They will attend a free training program that will train them in hazard identification, incident investigation and safety committee operation. They must fill out and submit the application to the Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Division. Mr. Weiant discussed that, in addition to a decrease in insurance premiums, the participating businesses have found that with the training and safety awareness, there is a reduction in accidents and they have lowered their costs considerably.

It was discussed that COG could sponsor a group training session for safety committees in the upper Dauphin County area.

DISCUSSION

The placement of cell phone towers and zoning were then discussed.

Millersburg Borough and Upper Paxton Township are starting discussion on their joint Comprehensive Plan.

COG members discussed the contracts the Humane Society sends out to municipalities and their policy of charging for animals taken to their shelter. It was agreed it might be beneficial to have a representative from the Humane Society attend a COG meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gratz Borough is holding their Bi-Centennial celebration in 2005. There are events going on all year long with the big celebration to be held July 8, 9, and 10 at the Gratz Fairgrounds.

The Dauphin County Emergency Management quarterly training session will be held on June 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elizabethville Municipal Building. This training is for all municipal emergency management coordinators.

The June 16 COG meeting will be held in the Elizabethville Municipal Building.

COG will not meet in July and August. Next regular meeting will be September 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.