

UPPER DAUPHIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Cooperation and Issues of Municipalities in Upper Dauphin County



MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2005
Elizabethville Borough Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:30 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
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Ken Hoover	Halifax Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Paul Reitz	Mifflin Township
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Amy Rexroth	Williamstown Borough
Howard Frenya	Williamstown Borough
Irv Spoonhour	Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc.
Chris Hoover	Light Heigel & Associates, Inc.
Linda Bechtel	Secretary-Treasurer

A roll call attendance was taken. There were nine municipalities present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 20 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Mr. Alan Loesch, seconded by Mrs. Norma Shearer. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance October 20	\$ 1,424.86
Receipts	-0-
Expenditures	406.26
Balance November 17	<u>\$ 1,018.60</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance October 20	\$ 6,875.83
Interest	12.88
Balance November 17	<u>\$ 6,888.71</u>

The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Travis Enders, Seconded by Mr. Larry Shade. (Unan.)

CORRESPONDENCE

- Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy (PCCA) Course Schedule for December 2005 through February 2006 was received.
- Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) will hold their Technical Committee Meetings on December 2 and January 13 at 9:00 a.m. and their Coordinating Committee Meetings on December 16 and January 27 at 9:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades

COG members then discussed the new requirements for high reflectivity signs and purchasing these signs as a group to get a lower price. At this point, the guidelines have yet to be established for the new signs. Municipalities are urged to do an inventory to see how many signs they need to replace, so when we do know the exact PENN-DOT requirements, we know the number of signs we would need to be purchasing.

UCC Appeals Board

At this time we do not have an Appeals Board in place. We are still looking for qualified people who are willing to serve on this Board. Irv Spoonhour from Light-Heigel offered to give us a list of qualified builders, contractors, architects, etc. It was agreed that this Board needs to be in place as soon as possible.

Emergency Services

Mr. Travis Enders then distributed a copy of the financial statements for Upper Dauphin County Emergency Services, Inc/Medic 6 as of November 8, 2005 and their tentative 2006 budget. He also announced that there are two positions currently vacant on the eleven person Board of Directors, if anyone would be interested in serving on that Board. A copy of the recommended donations to UDCES for ALS and BLS based on population, as prepared by the COG EMS Committee, was sent out to the municipalities urging them to consider this funding in their 2006 budgets. At this time, Jefferson Township, Washington Township, Elizabethville Borough and Gratz Borough have agreed to fund their suggested share. Halifax Township is working on allocating the funds. It was agreed to post the status of the project on the COG website. Using Relief Association money as part of the donation was also discussed, but because of the restrictions on how this money is spent, it complicates the funding. It is easier to use that money for donations to local Fire and Ambulance crews.

Dues Assessment for 2006

On a motion by Mrs. Norma Shearer, seconded by Mr. Michael Welker, (Unan.) it was agreed to keep the 2006 dues at 12 cents per capita. The income from this is around \$3,000 and our operating expenses for the year run around \$3,000. Any donations or unforeseen expenditures would need to be taken from the money market account.

TV Franchise Agreements

COG members then discussed the local TV franchise agreements with Adelphia and Comcast. Since Comcast is taking over Adelphia, it was questioned whether Comcast would need to renegotiate the agreements that are currently in place. Things to look for when negotiating these agreements were

discussed. Municipalities are entitled to up to 5% of the profits, which also includes profits on shopper purchases and advertising. Other things to consider are the quality of service, state of the art equipment and tiers of service being offered. Millersburg Borough, who has just negotiated and signed their agreement with Comcast, offered to share some of the information and requirements they had with COG members.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Irv Spoonhour, Light-Heigel & Associates then gave an update on their first year of enforcing the UCC for COG municipalities. There were over 300 permits issued in the upper Dauphin County area. He announced that they would be using the same fee schedule for 2006.

President Weber reported that he and Mrs. Robin Loesch were working on establishing a "civics" program to help get young people interested in and participating in local government.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COG will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 19, 2006 and it will be held in the Gratz Borough Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. on a motion by Alan Loesch, seconded by Mr. Ken Hoover.

