

UPPER DAUPHIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Cooperation and Issues of Municipalities in Upper Dauphin County



MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2006
Gratz 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 Alan Loesch with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Michael Welker	Dauphin Borough
Travis Enders	Elizabethville Borough
Larry Shade	Gratz Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Harry Shiro	Gratz Borough
Tom Hepler	Gratz Borough
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Norma Shearer	Halifax Township
Mike Decker	Halifax Township
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Paul Reitz	Mifflin Township
Colton Weber	Millersburg Borough
John Brabits	Millersburg/Upper Paxton EMA
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Tony Subbio	Dauphin County EMA
Linda Bechtel	Secretary-Treasurer

A roll call attendance was taken. There were eleven municipalities represented.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Mr. Ray Kissinger, seconded by Mrs. Norma Shearer. (Unan.) It was also noted that meeting minutes are also posted on the COG website www.udcog.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance November 17	\$1,018.60
Receipts	-0-
Expenditures	447.00
Balance January 19	<u>\$ 571.60</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance November 17	\$ 6,888.71
Interest	26.28
Balance January 19	<u>\$ 6,914.99</u>

The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Travis Enders, seconded by Mr. Mark Long. (Unan.)

Mrs. Norma Shearer then gave the Audit Report for 2005:

2005 Beginning Balance		<u>\$8,146.67</u>
Receipts:		
Dues	3,317.16	
Interest	146.67	<u>\$3,463.83</u>
Expenditures:		
Sec/Treas. Salary	2,625.00	
Postage	170.26	
Envelopes	74.70	
Website	91.95	
Insurance	162.00	
UDCES Donation	1,000.00	<u>\$4,123.91</u>
2005 Ending Balance		<u>\$7,486.59</u>

The Audit Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Michael Welker, seconded by Mrs. Bonnie Lidle. (Unan.)

Dues assessments for 2006 were distributed to those municipalities present. The others will be mailed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Alan Loesch expressed the importance of the COG in education and support of local officials. He also urged officials to use the COG website as a means of obtaining information.

Colton Weber urged that all newly elected officials attend their State Association training programs.

Travis Enders, Vice President of UDCES/Medic 6 reported that two municipalities, Halifax Township and Washington Township, have sent donations to Medic 6 for 2006 and he thanked them for their promptness and generosity.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) will hold their Technical Committee Meeting on February 10 at 9:00 a.m. and their Coordinating Committee Meeting on February 24 at 9:00 a.m.
- A letter was received from Judith Musick, Treasurer, Lykens Borough, advising that Lykens Borough will not be in a position to make a decision on the donations to UDCES until they receive state funding for damage caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

OLD BUSINESS

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades

At this point, the guidelines have yet to be established for the new signs, other than they will all need to be the type 3 high reflectivity material which is easier to read at night. 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

COG is still looking for individuals to serve on the UCC Appeals Board. To date one person has agreed to serve and Colton will be contacting some other qualified candidates to see if they will agree to serve.

TV Franchise Agreements

Colton reported that Dan Cohen, the expert on negotiating franchise agreements, charges \$150 to \$175 per hour for speaking engagements. To pay for him to come from Pittsburgh to address the COG would be at least \$1,200 considering travel time etc. COG felt this was too much for the COG to consider. On a motion by Mrs. Norma Shearer, seconded by Mr. Mark Long (Unan.), it was agreed to offer him \$500. It is also questionable whether municipalities would have the right to renegotiate if Comcast buys out Adeptia so we could be looking at not having any municipalities other than Halifax Township negotiating right now. Millersburg, Gratz and Elizabethtown have just settled on agreements.

Civic Day Program

Colton and Robyn will be meeting again to work on this program. Nothing new to report at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr Tony Subbio, Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency, then gave a presentation on NIMS (National Incident Management System). He explained what the program involves, why it was established, and how it affects local government. All elected officials are required to be certified in FEMA's IS-700:NIMS Introduction by the end of September 2006. Municipalities must meet the new requirements for NIMS in order to be eligible for grants and disaster assistance. You can obtain the certification by taking the program on line, or COG discussed the possibility of setting up a class for those officials who do not wish to do it on the internet. More information on NIMS can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/nims> and http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims_compliance.shtm.

The problem with the Dauphin County recycling bins in northern Dauphin County was then discussed. The bins need to be emptied more frequently as there is a problem with people just stacking the materials beside the bins because they are overflowing. This causes a real littering problem and discourages people from recycling. Two COG members will be contacting Dauphin County to see if they are aware of this problem, and urge them to correct it.

Jim Watson then discussed new on lot sewer system regulations to be required by DEP for municipalities writing their 537 plans. They state that all approvals for new homes or new development not served by public sewer will require a site specific hydro geologic report. If this exceeds DEP's limit, they will be required to install a sewage system to remove nitrates. It also requires that an ordinance be adopted that requires all existing systems be pumped and inspected every three years. The homeowner is required to send proof of the pumping and inspection to the township. COG member discussed the issues with these requirements and agreed to request a representative from DEP come to the next COG meeting to address these issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be February 16, 2006 and it will be held in the Halifax Township Municipal Building. Each municipality was assigned another municipality that was not present to contact to invite them to attend the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. on a motion by Mike Welker, seconded by Colton Weber.