

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, May 21, 2015
at Mifflin Township

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ron Hepner with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Christopher Blöse	Halifax Borough
Ken Bechtel	Halifax Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Justin Hoover	Mifflin Township
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Tom Billow	Mifflin Township
Wanda Hockenberry	Mifflin Township
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Nancy Warfel	Wayne Township
Skip Memmi	DCED
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel
Pat Stockard	Light-Heigel, SEO
Leah Pearlman-Storch	Dauphin County Planning Commission

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Tom Billow made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2015, as amended. Seconded by Albert Morgan. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance April 16, 2015	\$4,100.21
Expenditures April	199.00

Balance May 21, 2015	\$4,100.21

Bills to be paid at the May 21, 2015 meeting

Robyn Loesch – May	199.00
Caldwell & Kearns	<u>60.00</u>
	\$259.00

Nancy Warfel made a motion, seconded by Trish Barder to pay the bills. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT - Tom Billow asked if other municipalities were having problems with people vandalizing and destroying road signs.

GUEST SPEAKERS - Leah Pearlman-Storch, TCRPC, gave an update about several County programs. The TCRP has secured funding to update the Comprehensive Plan. The County is looking for volunteers for the Comprehensive Plan steering committee. There is a Connect Tri-County questionnaire to gather public input for the Comprehensive Plan; it is available at the TCRPC website.

Recent legislation allows municipalities the ability to form stormwater authorities, similar to water and sewer authorities. Municipalities must enact and enforce EPA mandated stormwater requirements. TCRP is looking into a possible region-wide stormwater authority. A stormwater authority can collect user fees for services provided to property owners, including real estate tax-exempt properties. An authority can incur debt (take out loans, float bonds) to fund major projects. Municipal road culverts can be repaired under this kind of program.

TCRP has also been working with local municipalities that are impacted by the new mini-cell towers. Municipalities must have local zoning to regulate the location of these mini-cell towers.

Pat Stockard is the new administrator of the Light-Heigel SEO department. Pat said that she wants to improve the coordination, communication, and efficiency of the SEO department. Currently, they are working to scan all of their permit records into searchable computer images. These digital files will include pictures of system malfunctions and inspections. She would be interested in doing some local educational programs about SEO concerns. Alan Loesch asked if there were any companies that would certify existing septic systems, as this question is often asked by local residents. She answered that septic certifications are still available; PSMA (Pennsylvania Septage Management Association) has local company contact information.

NEW BUSINESS

- Marty Sowers asked if any of the local fire companies have raised concerns about light-frame construction. This type of construction, used in composite joists and framing, has a shorter burn time than natural wood. This light-frame construction is noted during the UCC permit process. Marty asked if the County 911 system would be interested in gathering this information. COG will contact the County.
- Alan Loesch noted that the COG UCC Appeals Board has had a recent appeal. Without going into any specifics of the recent appeal, he asked how the process went. Marty Sowers said that we should take this opportunity to review and update the COG appeals forms for consistency and to clearly indicate responsible parties for the specific steps in the process. Atty Laskowski will be contacted about this.

OLD BUSINESS

- The UDITO litigation – no new update
- Sue Helm's office was contacted about the issue of Prevailing Wage regulations being applied to the Dirt & Gravel Road grants.

PROJECTS

- Recycling – program participation continues to increase.
- Flagging – Ron Hepner asked if any of the municipalities needed to certify more flaggers.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The June meeting will be at Jefferson Township, and the September meeting will be at Upper Paxton/Ned Smith Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Ron Hepner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan Loesch. Meeting adjourned at 8:25.