

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Hosted by Wayne 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. The following persons were in attendance:

Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Christopher Blose	Halifax Borough
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Tom Billow	Mifflin Township
Chris Dietz	Millersburg Borough
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Jim Shoop	Wayne Township
Jay Romig	Wayne Township
Carol Romig	Wayne Township
Nancy Warfel	Wayne Township
Glen Miller	Wayne Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel
Dennis Kent	Dauphin County, Assessor
Suzi Kent	Pa State Association of Boroughs
Holly Martz	Dauphin County, Deputy Director, Tax Claim
Sue Helm	State Representative 104th

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

MINUTES Albert Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 2016, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Chris Blose. All in favor.

TREASURERS REPORT

Checking Account

Balance November 17, 2016	\$2154.22
Bills to be paid at the November meeting	

Robyn Loesch – November	199.00
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Shirley Radel made a motion, seconded by Tom Billow to approve the bills. All in Favor.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS- NONE

GUEST SPEAKERS

Holly Martz, Dauphin County Tax Claim Deputy Director, talked about the County Tax Office. One of the functions of her office is Tax Claim, where properties are put up for sale due to delinquent taxes. The County does check with the municipalities for any outstanding municipal bills such as water and sewage. Ron Hepner asked if a home's conversion into apartments increase the taxes. If a home is converted into four or less apartments, the property taxes do not change.

Dennis Kent, County Assessor, answered questions from the COG members. The County does not look at an assessment change for an improvement less than 100 square feet. There had been a State "Shed Bill" that would have increased the assessment threshold to 1000 square feet of new shed construction, but it did not pass the Senate. When the assessor looks at an improvement/addition, the entire property is not assessed. However, any other improvements not on the property information card will be added to the assessment. The County has new imagery comparing software that will look at map data and highlight new construction. Although square footage is the main assessment factor, other items such as finished basements central A/C, and bathrooms can increase an assessment.

Sue Helm, State Representative 104th District, outlined her top five priorities to be addressed by the House. These are: Pension reform, job creation, privatization of State Liquor Stores, Gaming expansion, and a balanced budget. She asked for any other suggestions; Ron Hepner wanted her to look at prevailing wage, Alan Loesch suggested that they look into regulation reform.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a general discussion with Marty Sowers about UCC and the proposed HB 782. There were some questions about how soon UCC inspections were being done. Marty said that the usual turn-around time for UCC inspections was 24-48 hours. Although it seems that a few inspections were not timely, he tries to find out how it went wrong, and why it was late. Currently COG has a joint UCC appeals board. Although many of the COG municipalities use Light-Heigel, each municipality appoints their own UCC inspector. Tom Billow asked that the local permit application title (provided by Light-Heigel) be changed from "building permit" to say "administrative permit", as people have confused it with the UCC building permit. Alan Loesch suggested that this was a good time to look at and re-write our UCC appeals procedure as well as develop some general UCC handouts for the municipalities to give to their residents. Ron Hepner and Chris Dietz volunteered to work with Alan on this project.

PROJECTS – Last month's recycling at Upper Paxton Township brought in three truckloads of recyclables.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

PROBLEMS OF MUNICIPALITIES - NONE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no December meeting. The next meeting will be January 19th and hosted by Halifax Township. There will be an election of new officers at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ron Hepner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.