

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, June 15, 2017
Hosted by Jefferson Township

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Christopher Blose. The following persons were in attendance:

Chris Dietz	Millersburg Borough
Christopher Blose	Halifax Borough
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Keith Crum	Jefferson Township
Margaret Peterson	Jefferson Township
Dennis Morgan	Jefferson Township
Glenn Miller	Wayne Township
Donna Miller	Wayne Township
Jeanette Crabb	Lykens Borough
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Elaine Brooks	Lykens Borough
Joy Breach	Millersburg Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ronald Kolva	Mifflin Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Matt Stoneroad	Rep. Tobash office
Chuck Erdman	Sen. DiSanto office
Sue Helm	State Representative 104 th District
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel
Elam Herr	PSATS

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

MINUTES Ron Hepner made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Chris Dietz. All in favor.

TREASURERS REPORT

Checking Account	May 18, 2017	\$2,569.41
April Bills		<u>-224.68</u>
Balance June 15, 2017		\$2344.73

Bills to be paid at the June meeting

Robyn Loesch – June	199.00
Robyn Loesch – Office Supplies	<u>30.73</u>
	229.73

CORRESPONDENCE – PSATS sent information about Act 172. Tonight's speaker will be on this topic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Joy Breach, Millersburg Borough, said that a Northern Dauphin County task force is being formed on local drug issues. The goal would be to get more resources in our area. They would like to get the word out so that local people have a contact point. The group's next meeting will be on June 28th, 7 PM, at the YMCA in Elizabethville.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Sue Helm, State Representative, brought PennDOT project packets for all of the municipalities. She also gave an update about this year's House budget. The budget was balanced without any tax increases and was sent on to the Senate in April. She is also on the Gaming Committee that is looking into the issue of Video Gaming Terminals as an alternative to raising personal income taxes. She will also be hosting the annual clambake to raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy. Chris Dietz asked if the issue of the local gaming share (Casino) has been resolved. Sue answered that the issue is not totally resolved but they have been working on legislation to resolve some funding issues for municipalities in counties that border the gaming locations. Ron Koppenhaver asked if the State Police funding issue was worked out. Sue answered that they are still working on that issue.

Chuck Erdman, Senator DiSanto's office, said that the Senator has reduced his staff from about ten employees to five. While he has reduced district offices from three to one, they have four outreach offices with monthly office hours (located in Lykens, Halifax Township, Millersburg, and Elizabethville). He said that the Senate budget will most probably fall somewhere between the budgets from the Governor and the House. The video gaming is being looked at as a way to bring in more budget money, and the Senate vote will probably be close. Senate Bill 951 is looking at the reduction of onerous agency rules and regulations. Ron Hepner asked that Senator DiSanto look at working to increase the prevailing wage limits for municipalities.

Elam Herr, PSATS Assistant Executive Director answered some questions about the State Police funding. This issue is still not resolved. The major problem is that there is no guarantee that the proposed \$25 per capita charge will not increase. He went on to give an overview of the proposed Act 172 which provides tax credits for volunteer firemen and volunteer EMS providers. It would cost \$800/person per year to provide paid coverage to replace our current volunteer coverage. He distributed Act 172 guidance packets and sample ordinances. The Township can give tax credits to help attract and keep volunteers. According to the Act, the municipality may add more criteria to qualify for the tax credit. Credits can be up to 20% of the municipal property tax, and/or a percentage or flat amount of the EIT. This is really a reimbursement rather than a credit. Municipalities would need to get to work on this right away to get it in place for 2018. It was also noted that the municipalities should not list the qualifying criteria in the Ordinance, but do a separate resolution for the criteria (so that they can be adjusted). Municipalities can only give credits to their own residents.

OLD BUSINESS

Alan Loesch reported that thirty-seven people were trained as flaggers. This local training saved the municipalities a lot of money.

Contact information- please update your COG municipal emergency contact information.

PROJECTS – Local area recycling at Upper Paxton Township is still going strong. Ron Hepner said that he had a complaint because they do not take air conditioners or dehumidifiers. These items can be taken to the County Recycling center in Harrisburg, but an air conditioner costs \$20 unless it has a certificate of discharge.

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

PROBLEMS OF MUNICIPALITIES – NONE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - The next meeting will be on September 15th. The meeting will be hosted by Upper Paxton Township at their new municipal building.

ADJOURNMENT

Trish Barder made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rich Keeney. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.