MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, March 17, 2011
Lykens Township Municipal Building

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:

Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ray Deppen	Lykens Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
Dory Kauffman	Washington Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Jeanette Crabb	Lykens Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Dale Shoop	Halifax Township
Ken Bechtel	Halifax Township
Justin Hoover	Jackson Township
John Logan	Community Life Team
Michael Hubler	Dauphin County Conservation District
Justin Challenger	Dauphin County Conservation District

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

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MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Shirley Radel made a motion to approve as corrected, the minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Dory Kauffman. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:	Balance February 17, 2011	**$4339.97**
	Expenditures February	1520.95
	Receipts – dues	462.84
	Balance March 17, 2011	**$3281.86**
Money Market CD:	Balance October 30, 2010	**$3071.46**
	Interest now paid quarterly (Halifax National Bank)	

Bills to be paid at the March 17, 2011 meeting

US Postmaster	44.00
Enders Technology	84.90
Enders Technology	$19.95
Robyn Loesch	$199.00
Lykens Township – meeting - waived	
	$347.85

A motion to pay the bills was made by Ken Bechtel, seconded by Albert Morgan. (Unan.)

CORRESPONDENCE Medic 6 sent a letter about the finalization of its merger with Community Life Team**.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – John Logan reminded everyone about the upcoming open house on Saturday March 19th, from 10-1, at the Elizabethville Medic 6 stationhouse. The Dauphin County Commissioners will be there at about 10:15 and there will be refreshments. Ron Hepner commented that he attended the recent State of the County Address, and felt that it was an interesting event, and others should try to attend next year.

GUEST SPEAKERS – Justin Challenger of the Dauphin County Conservation District gave a slideshow presentation about the Dirt and Gravel Roads Grant Program. He gave an overview of the program and details about the grant application. Ten of our UDCOG municipalities have roads that are eligible for this grant program. The program requires

that a municipality have a municipal representative that has been trained on the program. Training is a two day course Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance. Several local municipal representatives that have attended this training highly recommend it for every roadmaster. They felt that there was a lot of valuable information that was applicable to all types of roads, not just dirt and gravel roads. Unfortunately, only six out of the ten local municipalities with eligible roads have a trained representative. Michael Hubler went to the State Conservation Commission and asked about the possibility of COG having one trained person overseeing the grant projects for municipalities that did not have a trained representative; this decision was delegated to the local DCCD Local Quality Assurance Board. The Board felt that this was not a good idea, mostly because of the lack of long term oversight of a project. However, they might consider grant application projects from a municipality that had a formal agreement to partner with another neighboring municipality that had a trained representative who would oversee the entire project for them. Michael Hubler said that he would look into what specific intermunicipal agreement documentation would be required.

OLD BUSINESS

- Recycling - COG has contacted with Kelly Wolf to see if there are any more meetings planned with the six local municipalities. Kelly was given Jeanette Crabb as a contact person. If we do not hear back from her soon, it was decided that the next step will be to re-contact Jeff Haste about this issue.

PROJECTS

County EIT - Alan Loesch reported that due to problems during the final contract negotiations, Berkheimer will not be awarded the EIT contract. One of the issues was that Berkheimer wanted to keep the interest on monies flowing through the EIT collection accounts. Interestingly, all of the payroll for the Commonwealth of PA comes out of Harrisburg, and will flow through our EIT collection agency. There could be a significant amount of interest, and letting the collection agency keep the interest seems not only a bad financial decision but would it could also make them less motivated to turn collections over to the municipalities in a timely manner. The contract will now go to Keystone.

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NEW BUSINESS

- Jackson Township has rejoined COG
- Signs - PennDOT will require that the municipalities upgrade their regulatory street signs (stop signs, speed signs, etc.) by 2015 to meet the new high reflectivity standard; also there have been some changes in the required sizes of these type of signs. Street name signs will have to be upgraded by 2018 to high reflectivity, some new size requirements, and all new street signs will have to have the first letter of the street name capitalized and the following letters in lower case. Some local municipalities have had some issues with their recent street sign orders from vendors. Vendors are still selling street signs with all upper case typeface (these are still legal under the current PennDOT rules, but will have to be replaced when the new rules take effect in 2018.) You can order the new typeface street signs now, but you have to be very specific when you place an order. Also, when you buy signs with liquid fuel money, you have to get some type of certification from the Vendor that the signs meet PennDOT specs. You have to keep the Certification on file, especially for the PennDOT auditors. Shirley Radel reminded everyone that some existing signs can be refaced, rather than replaced, to meet the new PennDOT standards.
- Prevailing Wage – Ron Hepner said that he recently attended the Spring Maintenance Workshop and it came up that municipalities should get a written exemption from L&I anytime a maintenance project is exempted from prevailing wage requirements.
- Flagger Training - Justin Hoover has taken the trainer certification for training other flaggers. He may be available to train flaggers for other municipalities.
- Future Guest Speakers – Suggestions were; re-contact John Lyter, PennDOT, about local state road projects; Bob Christoff about the new E&S letter for building permit applications; PSATS about Marcellus Shale ordinances.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be April 21, 2011. The Meeting will be held in Jackson Township. *The Jackson Township Municipal Building is located at 450 Bastian Rd. Halifax, PA 17032.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 on a motion made by Shirley Radel, seconded by Justin Hoover. Unan.