MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, November 17, 2011
Gratz Township 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
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Margaret Peterson	Jefferson Township
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Robin Snyder	Berrysburg Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Harry Shiro	Gratz Borough
Larry Shade	Gratz Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ronald Kolva	Mifflin Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
Larry Smelt	Millersburg Borough
Justin Hoover	Jackson Township
Mike Hubler	DCCD
Jack Brennan	125th District Staff
Rep. Mike Tobash	Representative PA 125th District
Rep. Sue Helm	Representative PA 104th District

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

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MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Margaret Peterson made a motion to approve as written, the minutes of the October 20, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Harry Shiro. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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Checking Account:

Balance October 20, 2011	**$1517.02**
Expenditures October meeting	234.79
Receipts	0
Balance Nov. 17, 2011	**$1282.23**

Money Market CD:

Balance Oct. 19, 2011	**$3096.57**
Interest now paid quarterly (Halifax National Bank)	

Bills to be paid at the Nov. 17, 2011 meeting

Enders Technology	$19.95
Robyn Loesch	$199.00
US Postmaster (stamps)	44.00
	$262.95

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

Shirley Radel made a motion to approve the annual contract web-service option from Enders Technology. Seconded by Justin Hoover. (Unan.)

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None

CORRESPONDENCE - **None**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

GUEST SPEAKERS

State Representatives Sue Helm and Mike Tobash discussed the proposed legislative re-districting plan. Part of the Upper Dauphin Area would change from the 104th to the 125th district. We were given maps of the proposed changes. The Representatives discussed some recent legislation; Marcellus Shale – the House just passed a bill allowing for local impact fees, the bill also includes funding for the Conservation Districts and the Growing Greener program. The next major legislative topic will be Senate Bill 1, dealing with teacher accountability; there was a general discussion about this topic. Legislation on Prevailing Wage is not yet scheduled. Other topics discussed included School Vouchers, problems dealing with state and federal bureaucracy when trying to get things done and unfunded mandates.

OLD BUSINESS

- Floodplain Ordinance – New map release date is now perhaps as late as March. Shirley Radel asked when anyone has last received State reimbursement for local floodplain management. No one is sure if this mandated program has become un-funded.
- Recycling – Ron Hepner said that the efforts to start a joint yard waste re-cycling area have fallen through, Waste Management is not interested in the project. There are still a lot of issues with the County re-cycling bins. Now, some of the bins seem to be damaged. We have previously talked to Kelly Wolf several times about local problems with the recycling bins, but we need to keep on top of this issue. Shirley Radel volunteered to contact the County.

PROJECTS – UDITO

Larry Shade reported on the recent County Tax Advisory Board Meeting. There was a general discussion about current issues with Powell, Rogers & Speaks. Powell, Rogers & Speaks sent a letter to the Millersburg School District that they will not process the 2011 tax returns. Keystone will not be able to process them because they do not have the data. Alan Loesch commented that Act 32 did not properly address the details of the transition to the county-wide EIT system. At this point there are two things that each municipality should do.

1. They should write a letter of support to their local school district; and request that they include their municipality in their efforts to solve problems related to the EIT collection and transfer to Keystone and issues with Powell, Rodgers and Speaks, and the UDITO. Also, municipalities should agree to provide financial support, including reasonable payment for costs, based on percentage of aggregate tax collections.
2. Each municipality should check with their insurance carrier and ask if their County Tax Advisory Board Representative is cover by their municipal E&O, because if they are not covered, the EIT Committee may need to get their own E&O policy.

NEW BUSINESS

- Upper Paxton has found a sign machine that is owned by COG (may not be in working condition).
- 2012 COG Dues, will stay the same as this year
- Federal road sign upgrade mandate has again been delayed
- TCRPC – Jim Bullock will be retiring from the Committee. We need to find another volunteer for our area representative. Janine Park will be called to see if there is anyone else interested in this position.
- FEMA has indicated that reimbursement for small projects may be processed immediately.
- Shirley Radel asked if any municipality has recently built a salt shed as Wayne Township is looking into building a new one.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The group thanked Ray Kissinger and Mark Long for their support of COG; their terms end in Jan. 2012 – and we will all miss them.

The next meeting will be January 19, 2012. The meeting will be held in Wayne Township. We will try to arrange a guest speaker form PennDOT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 on a motion made by Larry Shade, seconded by Shirley Radel. Unan.