

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, February 19, 2015
at Washington 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:

Robin Snyder	Berrysburg Borough
Dwight Davis	Gratz Borough
Chris Blose	Halifax Borough
Wendy Wentzel	Halifax Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Kathy Wolfe	Millersburg Borough
Tom Billow	Mifflin Township
Wanda Hockenberry	Mifflin Township
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Donna Sitlinger	Washington Township
Fredrick Shetterly	Washington Township
Benjamin Brown	Washington Township
Rich Stence	Washington Township
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6/ Lifeteam
John Logan	Medic 6
Jerry Feaser	Dauphin County Bureau of Elections
Leah Perlman-Storch	TCRP
Mike Tobash	State Representative, 125 th District

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Trish Barder made a motion to approve the informal minutes from the January 15, 2016). Seconded by Albert Morgan. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance January 15, 2014	\$5,483.74
Expenditures Nov., Dec. & Jan.	897.61
Dues	1102.68

Balance Feb, 2015	\$5598.81
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Bills to be paid at the February 15, 2015 meeting

Selective Insurance	1,306.00
Keith Laudenslager	25.00
Robyn Loesch –Feb	<u>\$199.00</u>
	1,530.00

Tom Billow made a motion, seconded by Dwight Davis to pay the bills. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT - Robb Wentzel asked that Municipalities let 911 know about any blocked roads.

GUEST SPEAKER - Gerald Feaser, Director, Dauphin County Bureau of Elections and Voter Registration, gave a presentation about filing to be candidate. The first day to circulate petitions (for the May 2015 primary) is February 17th. The petitions must be returned to the Bureau of Elections by March 10th. He reviewed the details of how the petition must be filled out to avoid a challenge. He also noted the need to include an accurate Financial Interest Statement (Ethics form) with your petition. Some interesting points were discussed, such as, you can sign your own petition; name accuracy is very important and nick-names should be avoided; and it is possible to run for more than one open office on a ballot. Some positions such as judges and school directors may cross-file on both party tickets because these positions are considered non-political. The COG members asked many specific questions.

Leah Perlman-Storch gave an update about Tri-County Regional Planning. She also distributed handouts listing conservation and recreation grant opportunities. TCRP has recently sent out letters about the mini-cell towers to the municipalities that have zoning. These small towers are becoming an issue in some areas. The Dauphin County annual building report will be published soon. Compared to last year, there has been an increase in development. The Dauphin County Commissioners recently voted to again fund the County Comprehensive Plan. Leah also stressed that the County is holding required municipal meetings on updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is a tight deadline to accomplish this update, which is required for eligibility for federal disaster funds.

NEW BUSINESS

- Representative Mike Tobash said that he has an office in Williamstown, and there are resource materials available at that office. He also said that he often works with, and lends his support, to projects and issues in Sue Helm's district. If any of us need to get in touch with him.
- Marty Sowers of Light-Heigel asked if any of the municipalities had any questions or concerns. He also announced that Matt Willard, SEO from Light-Heigel has taken a job with the County. However, Light-Heigel has three other SEOs on staff so that there should not be any coverage issues.
- John Logan said that they are still looking into why some areas did not receive their Community Life Team membership applications in the mail.

OLD BUSINESS

- The UDITO litigation – No update.
- Regional Police. – No update yet. Several municipalities were contacted to take a survey about the prospect of a regional police force.

PROJECTS

- Recycling – Ron Hepner said that thirty two people dropped off electronics at the last event. Gratz has again volunteered to take over as the host municipality for the April recycling.
- CDL Supervisory class will be held on March 13th at the Halifax Ambulance Building.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES - Tom Billow brought up the problems that the municipalities are having with their COSTARS salt orders. One of Mifflin's recent orders has not been filled in weeks. He contacted Bruce Beardsley at COSTARS. Interestingly, if they cannot arrange a delivery to you and you need to arrange to go pick up the salt yourself, you can back-charge for the trucking. It was also mentioned that Meckley's now has more anti-skid. Alan Loesch brought up the idea suggested by Jefferson's Roadmaster, Keith Crum. He was looking at developing information about how local citizens should interact with the municipal snow plowing. Halifax Township has just had a similar list published in a recent Sentinel article. Halifax Township also has a snow and ice ordinance,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The March 19, 2015 meeting will be hosted by Halifax Township; and Atty Stan Laskowski will be the guest speaker. The April meeting will be in Gratz. Mifflin will host the May meeting, June will be at Jefferson, 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 8:50.