

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, June 18, 2015
at Mifflin 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:

Christopher Blöse	Halifax Borough
Wendy Wentzel	Halifax Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Francis Rineer	Jefferson Township
Margret Peterson	Jefferson Township
Keith Crum	Jefferson Township
Pam Crum	Jefferson Township
Sheila Keiter	Jefferson Township
Mitch Rothermel	Elizabethville Borough
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Janette Crabb	Lykens Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Tom Billow	Mifflin Township
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Donna Sitlinger	Washington Township
Jim Watson	Washington Township
Nancy Warfel	Wayne Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
Robb Wentzel	LifeTeam/Medic 6
Marty Sowers	Light-Heigel
Leah Eppinger	Dauphin County Planning Commission
Rob Teplitz	PA Senate
Tammy Miller	Sen. Teplitz's office
Sue Helm	State Rep. 104 th
Mike Tobash	State Rep. 125 th
Hanna Breckinridge	

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Trish Barder made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2015, as amended. Seconded by Tom Billow. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Shirley Radel made a motion, seconded by Trish Barder to pay the bills. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT - .

GUEST SPEAKERS

Atty. Jason Confair of Kegel, Kelin, Almy & Lord, gave an update on the UDITO law suit. He gave a recap of the history of the tax office issues, and explained how we got into this litigation. The litigation has been going on for some time. Recently, hard drives were recovered which contained bank account numbers. An account Susquehanna Bank shows \$1,107,853.00 in undistributed tax office monies. This money will be distributed to the school districts and municipalities that used the UDITO. Also, additional legal costs and fees will probably be recovered.

State Senator Rob Teplitz talked about his legislative focus on education and jobs. Last year, his district shifted northward to encompass the entire northern part of Dauphin County. He now has three regional offices, and one of them is in Halifax. He serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Local Government Committee. He passed out the latest Grant Directory and said that his office will help with letters of support for municipal grant projects. Ron Hepner asked if he could look into any possible state level legislation that would help regulate puppy mills.

State Representative Mike Tobash gave an update about several pieces of current legislation. HB160 is focused on preventing tax collection fraud. In light of our local tax office issues he is very interested in this issue. He has been working on the State Budget in the republican caucus. He doubts that the legislature will have the budget issues resolved by June 30th. At public meetings, he has found the number one concern to be property taxes. He is working on HB805 that would allow school districts to furlough teacher on criteria other than seniority. He asked for the municipalities input on proposed changes to Sunday hunting, and increasing the authority of Game Wardens. Several municipalities let him know about the problems that they have had obtain DEP permits to maintain/repair roads and culverts.

State Representative Sue Helm also talked about working on the State Budget. One of the municipal issues that she has looked into again was prevailing wage regulation for municipalities. One problem brought up at this meeting was that Dirt & Gravel Road projects were not exempted in the last round of prevailing wage legislation changes. She also passed out reports and maps of PennDOT's 2015 work projects.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

- The UDITO litigation – update given.

PROJECTS

- Recycling – program update. Drop offs are still increasing. Last month's collection was the largest ever. Halifax Township may also be sponsoring a recycling drop-off.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September 17th meeting will be hosted by Upper Paxton Township at the Ned Smith Center .

ADJOURNMENT

Ron Hepner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Keith Crum. Meeting adjourned at 8:35.