

**MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG**

Thursday, September 15, 2016  
Hosted by Upper Paxton Township at the Ned Smith Center

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

Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Christopher Blose	Halifax Borough
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Robin Snyder	Berrysburg Borough
Ken Bechtel	Halifax Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Keith Crum	Jefferson Township
Pam Crum	Jefferson Township
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Chris Dietz	Millersburg Borough
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Jerry Duke	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Steve Deck	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Sue Helm	State Representative 104 <sup>th</sup> District
Jerry Feaser	Dauphin County Elections

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

**MINUTES** Christopher Blose made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2016 meeting. Seconded by Albert Morgan. All in favor.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Checking Account

Balance September 15, 2016	<b>\$2950.22</b>
Bills to be paid at the September meeting	
Robyn Loesch –July, Aug, Sept	597.00

Chris Dietz made a motion, seconded by Trish Barder to approve the bills. All in Favor.

## **CORRESPONDENCE -**

- We received the sad news that Ron Martz had passed away. Ron had served as a Supervisor in Upper Paxton Township.
- Chemung Supply sent information about automatic chain systems. Several people were interested in this system. This information will be emailed to the municipal secretaries.
- The Dauphin County Township Convention is October 6<sup>th</sup> at West Hanover Township.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Jerry Duke and Steve Deck, Tri-County Regional Planning**, gave a presentation about the upcoming update to the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. This plan is updated every ten years. A survey was recently sent out to help identify topics of concern. This was a 49 question survey on SurveyMonkey and there were 613 respondents. The usual format of most County-wide Comprehensive Plans identifies only broad areas of focus. This new Comprehensive Plan will also identify specific action items and track the progress toward these goals. There was a general discussion about making this plan work. Chris Dietz hoped that there would be a focus on historical preservation in our small towns. Jerry Duke said that the survey indicated an interest in preserving and having economic growth in these downtown areas; especially because it also preserves farmland. Trish Barder asked if the planning commission had looked at the resurgence and economic development in Lititz as a model for small town economic re-development.

**Jerry Feaser, Director, Dauphin County Elections and Voter Registration**, talked about the deadlines for the upcoming elections. There is an October 11<sup>th</sup> deadline for voter registration, and people can register online. The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is November 1<sup>st</sup>. November 4<sup>th</sup> is the last day the Election Bureau will receive absentee ballots, so please make sure that your ballot gets there in time, even if you have to drive down and hand it in in person. (different rules may apply to military ballots). To date, there have been 6,000 new registrations for a total of 183,000. In 2008 there were more new registrations. Jerry provided voter information and forms to take back to the municipalities. In the next few days, the County will be mailing the municipalities a sample ballot for the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. He also talked about the deadlines for next year's municipal elections. The candidate's financial interest statements must be filed by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Sue Helm, State Representative 104<sup>th</sup> District**, gave an update on recent legislation. The next State budget was passed the second week of June. This included taxes on smoke and vape shops that have hurt some of these small business, and they are taking a second look at this tax. Sue is holding her Senior Expo in Halifax on October 6<sup>th</sup>. On November 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a Veterans Appreciation event. There will also be a business expo in Halifax.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

We have received our UDITO settlement distribution checks. Everyone wanted a Thank-you sent to Jason Confair for all of his hard work on our behalf. He is still working on recovering the legal fees from one of the defendants.

Ron Hepner thanked Keith Crum (Jefferson Twp) and Halifax Borough for coming to UPT to help out during the recycling days.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS- NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ron Hepner talked about the possibility of a joint grant application for a man-lift.

**PROBLEMS OF MUNICIPALITIES** Mike Ward asked if anyone had a piece of equipment to install sign-posts. Mifflin Township has borrowed a post installer from Jordan Township. Jordan Township will be contacted to see if they are willing to help out again.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be hosted by Upper Paxton Township at the Ned Smith Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ron Hepner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan Loesch. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.