MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday,
June 20, 2013
Jefferson Township, at the Carsonville Volunteer Firehouse

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:10 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
Margaret Peterson	Jefferson Township
Lexie Hauernstein	guest
Kylie Hauernstein	guest
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Robin Snyder	Berrysburg Borough
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Tom Billow	Mifflin Township
Ron Kolva	Mifflin Township
Christopher Dietz	Millersburg Borough
Joy Breach	Millersburg Borough
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
James Watson	Washington Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
Nancy Warfel	Wayne Township
Mike Pries	Dauphin County Commissioner
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6/ LifeTeam
John Logan	Medic 6

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Jim Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Tom Billow. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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Checking Account:

Balance May 16, 2013	**$5033.62**
Expenditures May	199.00
Bank charge	3.00
Balance June 20, 2013	**$4831.62**

Bills to be paid at the June 20, 2013 meeting

Robyn Loesch –May	$199.00

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

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dauphin County Commissioner, Mike Pries, gave an update. This will be the eighth straight year that the County has not had a tax increase. The budget for this year is less than the previous budget, and this has happened for two consecutive budgets. Mike credited all the current and previous Commissioners for their efforts. The County has also decreased employee headcount.

Mike discussed some of the new County programs such as the Infrastructure Bank that provides low interest loans, and the Land Bank program that will be looking to purchase and rehabilitate dilapidated properties. The County has a new Judicial Center right beside the prison, which has been both time saving and cost effective. The County also has expanded rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders. The County Director of Voter Registration, Steve Chiavetta, recently retired. The new Director, Jerry Feaser, has been very active in increasing automation and training. The Commissioners feel that public safety is the number one priority for Gaming Grant monies. Mike praised the first responder and emergency management.

Mike is hopeful that there will soon be a solution to the thirty million dollar incinerator issue without any tax increases outside of the City of Harrisburg. Also, the County is not involved with the current Harrisburg School District debt crisis.

The current DCED disaster relief grant program was discussed. Mike believes that the original "first round" seventeen project applications will be given priority consideration before applications that were submitted under the program's recent application time extension.

There was a general discussion of municipal Workmen's Compensation insurance policies for Volunteer Firemen and EMS. Many Municipalities have had their policies dropped by their insurance carriers and had to get coverage from the high cost State pool. This was due to recent legislation under Act 46, the Firefighter Cancer Presumption Act. Mike will check if there is any new information on this issue.

There were some questions about the County Tax Assessors Office. Some municipalities feel that new construction is not being added to the tax rolls in a timely manner. Mike will ask the County Assessor, Steve Howe to come to the next COG meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- EIT – no new information

PROJECTS

- Recycling – Chris McGann emailed that vendor for electronics recycling is now charging for the service. Chris Dietz said that Millersburg was still interested in holding an area-wide electronic recycling event, partnering with the County Recycling. There was a general consensus that an area–wide collection in the Fall would be greatly appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was a general discussion about who to call about trees on wires. There is some confusion when 911 calls are forwarded to the State Police. Steve Libhart, County EMA Director, will be contacted to see if he can come to a future COG meeting.
- Jon Logan gave an update about local ALS and BLS coverage. Medic 6 now has a paramedic stationed out of Halifax. There is a pending merger of MedEx with the Pinnacle system.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES – There was a general discussion about compensation and coverable expenses for the local Emergency Management Coordinator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be September 19, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Ned Smith, and hosted by Millersburg Borough and Upper Paxton Township. The Guest Speaker will be Steve Howe, Dauphin County Director of Assessment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 on a motion made by Ron Hepner seconded by Chris Dietz. Unan.