MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, June 19, 2014
at the Carsonville Volunteer Fire Company 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:

Christopher Blose	Halifax Borough
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Carole Wertz	Lykens Borough
Jeanette Crabb	Lykens Borough
Michael Crabb	Lykens Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Rich Keeney	Mifflin Township
Tom Billow	Mifflin Township
Justin Hoover	Mifflin Township
Trudy Paden	Millersburg Borough
Ron Koppenhaver	Rush Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Robyn Loesch	Jefferson Township
Keith Crum	JeffersonTownship
Pam Crum	Jefferson Township
Sheila Keiter	Jefferson Township
James Watson	Washington Township
Shirley Radel	Wayne Township
Nancy Warfel	Wayne Township
John Shoop	Wayne Township
Skip Memmi	Dauphin County DECD
Mike Tobash	State Representative 125th District
Robb Wentzel	LifeTeam/Medic 6

There were nine 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 15, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Justin Hoover. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion to pay the bills was made by Albert Morgan, seconded by Tom Billow Hoover. (Unan.)
Checking Account:

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Balance May 15, 2014	**$4332.09**
Expenditures June	199.00
Balance May 15, 2014	**$4133.09**

Bills to be paid at the June 19, 2014 meeting

Robyn Loesch –June Sec/Treas.	$199.00
Expenses for flagger class -	212.28

CORRESPONDENCE Dauphin County has been looking into a Regional Police Force. There was only one representative from our area on the committee. Mike Pries had let us know that they would consider an additional representative from our area. Ron Hepner is recommending Randy Coe. Randy Coe is a Chief at the Northumberland Sherriff's Office, ad has some experience in regionalization efforts. Alan Loesch mad a motion for COG to endorse the

recommendation of Randy Coe, to the Dauphin County Police Regionalization Study Committee. Seconded by Nancy Warfel. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT Robb Wentzel asked if Skip Memmi could inform the Commissioners about the COG endorsement of Randy Coe. Skip said that he could.

GUEST SPEAKERS

State Representative Mike Tobash discussed some of the current legislative issues. He is on the Local Government Committee. Mike reported that the budget is not yet settled. The Governor is asking for meaningful pension reform before he signs the budget. There is a need for more revenue in the budget, maybe from Marcellus Shale fees. The State Pension fund is looking for more revenue. There is a Bill proposed which asks for a one quarter to one percent service fee on administration of municipal pensions (House Bill 1708). This idea is not very popular with the municipalities. The State House has also been looking at more increases in the minimum Municipal project cost that triggers Prevailing Wage regulations. There have been some recent increases, but they are still to low. Even a minor paving project triggers Prevailing Wage costs. Mike Tobash said that the State pension fund is on a path to eventually being 50 billion dollars underfunded, as there is not enough interest earnings. In 2010 the state passed Act 20 that required annual contributions to the pension fund, but the contributions are not mandated to start until 2018. He supports a bill to begin 401K plans and take some of this savings to pay off the current pension plan deficit. Robb Wentzel asked about 911 legislation and why Powells Valley Road (in Wayne and Jefferson Townships) has been tar and chipped but not paved.

Skip Memmi, Executive Director, Dauphin County Community & Economic Development. Skip gave an update about some County programs. The County infrastructure bank will soon begin accepting applications for another round of funding. The interest rate on these loans ½%, with a 10 year payback from liquid fuels funds. Through this infrastructure program, the County can also provide engineering, bidding and project consultants. The scope of roadway projects can include curbs, adjoining sidewalks, and sewer and water pipes under the road. The countywide EIT collection is going well. Keystone Collections just signed a new five year contract with no price increases.

OLD BUSINESS

The UDITO litigation – no update.

PROJECTS

- Recycling - Upper Paxton still has items pouring in. At the last event the County already hauled away ten pallets, and there are another six pallets still waiting to be hauled away. This program is only for Dauphin County residents.
- Flagger Training – the COG flagger training course went very well. Alan Loesch noted that municipal flaggers must be certified and have proper gear.

NEW BUSINESS

- Shirley Radel reminded everyone that there is funding available for the Dirt & Gravel road program. Anyone interested should contact Justin Challenger at the Conservation District.
- Alan Loesch talked about the upcoming ballot initiatives in Halifax and UDA school districts that propose a tax swap. The districts hope to swap the current occupation taxes with an increase in EIT. Halifax is looking for a .9% EIT tax increase, and UDA is looking for a .6% increase. The school districts state that this should be revenue neutral. The point of the swap is to hopefully reduce overhead by cutting administrative costs. People making approximately $42,000 pay more than the current $250 occupational tax. Skip Memmi said that this EIT based tax would not be a flat fee but would have a built in increases as salaries rose.

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Tom Billow asked about the local SALDO criteria for new plans. There was a short discussion about the process of plan submissions in other local municipalities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Watson announced that Rich Keeney had recently been inducted into the PA Sports Hall of Fame.
- The September meeting will be hosted by Upper Paxton Township at the Ned Smith Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 on a motion made by Ron Hepner, seconded by Justin Hoover. Unan.