

MINUTES UPPER DAUPHIN COG

Thursday, March 18, 2010
Elizabethville Borough Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Alan Loesch with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Ron Hepner	Upper Paxton Township
Robyn Loesch	Secretary-Treasurer
Dory Kaufman	Washington Township
Stacey Rudisill	Washington Township
Michael Ward	Berrysburg Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Trish Barder	Lykens Borough
Frederick Renn	Elizabethville Borough
Robb Wentzel	Medic 6
Sue Helm	Representative 104 th
Sgt. Amoriello	PA State Police
Ron Clapp	PA State Police

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 18, 2010 meeting were approved as written on a motion by Ray Kissinger, seconded by Mark Long. (Unan.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance February 18, 2010	\$4176.66
Expenditures Feb. meeting	\$1825.93
Receipts - dues	\$1743.70
Balance March 18, 2009	<u>\$4094.43</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance Mar. 18, 2009	<u>\$2,999.46</u>
Interest now paid quarterly (Halifax National Bank)	

Bills to be paid at the March 18, 2010 meeting

Enders Technology	\$19.95
Enders Technology - web host + domain	\$84.90
Robyn Loesch	\$199.00
Elizabethville Borough.- meeting waived	\$0

\$ 303.85

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

- HATS – meeting notices

GUEST SPEAKER

Sgt. Amoriello, gave an presentation about the Elizabethville State Police coverage area. Elizabethville barracks is a very small station with a staff of 25-27 people. There is currently one station commander, three patrol supervisors, a crime detective unit of one supervisor and two detectives, fifteen patrol staff, and four civilian employees. They work on rotating

shifts to provide 24/7 coverage for the entire area north of Peters Mountain (except parts of Reed Township). The staff in our area is fairly young, the average time on the job is four years. The number of patrol cars out at any time is dependant upon scheduling, court duties, and training. All incidents other than traffic citations have a report number. All calls are dispatched out of Harrisburg, dispatch is by address and not by local landmarks. All patrol cars have computers with real-time information. In 2009, there were 4,235 incidents, which was a 15% increase over 2008. At this time, the PSP is not tied in to the new County radio system. They had just upgraded to their own new band two years ago. This eliminated most of the dead zones and their technicians adjust for any dead reception areas. Although they are trained in CPR and first-aid, they do not have AED's (defibrillators) in the patrol cars. Most of the troupers wear vests but it is optional. The PSP host monthly meetings to interface with the local police. They also work with Federal agencies such as the DEA and Bureau of Tobacco and Firearms. The PaCIC (Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center) system provides daily briefings and updates to all police and law enforcement departments. There was a general discussion about the proposed House Bill 1500 which would require local fees for State Police coverage to municipalities.

OLD BUSINESS

- Floodplain –Maps are in the 90-day appeal process. DCCD has not sent out the updated draft of the new floodplain ordinance.

PROJECTS

EMS - Robb Wentzel thanked the municipalities for their financial support (some but not all municipalities have participated in the COG suggested per-capita donation plan, which began in 2005). He asked for our continued support.

Upper Dauphin Income Tax Office

Alan Loesch reported the next meeting of the UDITO Advisory Board is March 29th. They will be discussing the newly drafted Tax Office contract. Another issue that need to be resolved was the cost overrun of the last tax office audit. Actual cost of the audit was approximately \$25,000 when the last estimate was \$12,500. The auditors said that the problem was that the Tax Office did not have material ready or organized; Ann Jackson will be sending the details to the municipalities. Michael Ward asked if the audit findings were O.K., Alan said that the Tax Office passed the audit, but there were a few deficiencies in process and procedure. The question of assets was resolved; all assets other than the original start-up funding will revert to the municipalities, if or when, the Tax Office closes.

County EIT

The last County EIT meeting went well, next meeting is April 14th. One current issue is changing the voting method to a one vote per municipality for all votes except for the vote to select the new company to run the tax office; this vote would be by a population weighted vote. At the April 14 meeting, they will be passing by-laws, establishing RFP and audit committees. They will also be purchasing E&O insurance policy for the EIT committee. Currently, the County (DCED) is paying for the committee start up costs (solicitor, stenographer, etc); this will be eventually reimbursed by the municipalities. The school district representatives have also volunteered to represent multiple municipalities from their areas; this has worked out well and has saved the municipalities time and money. Kay Thoma is the Upper Dauphin School District representative, and Gary Shade represents Halifax Area School District.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

PROBLEMS OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Ray Kissinger and Mark Long said that there was a problem with the Census forms sent out to residents in Gratz Borough. Gratz has a separate zip code and the residents use postal boxes. The census was hand delivered and hung on doors. Mark Long noticed on his census form that the town and zip code was for Lykens. They did not know how many of the Gratz forms had the wrong residential address. They need to find out who to contact to get this corrected so that the population of Gratz will be counted correctly. Representative Sue Helm suggest that they contact Congressman's Holden's office. COG will contact Sen. Holden's office.

There was a general discussion about the CPA cost for some municipal audits. Some members were looking into finding a lower cost alternative provider. In some municipalities an outside CPA firm performs the annual audit, and the elected auditors only set the wages. COG will ask the municipalities if they use outside auditing firms and their costs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be April 15, 2010. The Meeting will be held at the Lykens Borough Municipal Building located at; 200 Main Street, Lykens, PA 17048.