

White Haven Borough newest member of MCOG

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White Haven Borough is now the newest member of the Mountain Council of Governments (MCOG).

During its Monday night meeting, council members listened to a pitch from Dan Guydish of MCOG.

Guydish talked to council members about the benefits of MCOG and handed out informational pamphlets.

Guydish explained that MCOG's goal is to get municipalities cooperating for the betterment of taxpayers.

"Now things are so expensive that inter-governmental cooperation is a must," Guydish said.

He said White Haven would be "very welcomed" by the group.

Guydish also outlined several current offers sponsored by MCOG, such as multi-municipality-owned sewer camera that West

Hazleton opted into at its April 18 meeting.

White Haven council President George Madigan questioned if becoming a member of MCOG would hurt the borough's ability to obtain grants.

Guydish said that on the contrary, that MCOG would help the borough's chances of obtaining grants. He said that by working with other MCOG municipalities, the chances of getting grant approval are greater than if the borough filed for a grant individually.

"It sounds like a win-win situation," Madigan said.

Zoning Officer Bob Lamson asked Guydish if the MCOG could help the borough out with the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), saying that the borough has been "struggling" with it. Guydish said MCOG could help the borough out with the UCC.

Madigan said becoming an MCOG member wouldn't cost the borough anything and "may have some benefits."

As council member Harvey Morrison made a motion to join the MCOG, he added that he thought the idea was "great."

Council member Margaret Reilly was the only council member to oppose joining MCOG. Council Member Herbert Albee was absent from the meeting.

Councilwoman Linda Szoke was voted in as the White Haven representative to MCOG and Morrison was given the position of alternate representative. Madigan added that any council member is allowed to attend MCOG meetings.

Reilly also opposed the vote to retain Szoke and Morrison as representatives to the board.

After the meeting, Reilly told a reporter that she voted against joining MCOG because she heard from other members of different COGs that it doesn't always work to every municipality's benefit. She added that White Haven has different needs than other members of MCOG.