DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2019
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
Mike Pries, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Tim DeFoor, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Amy Richards, Press Secretary; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; Dareen Alwesabi, Human Resources; Mary Klatt, Public Defender; J. Kiss, Public Safety; Beth Hicks, Public Defender’s Office; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Kelly Megonnel, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jay Wenger and Thomas Garlic

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are several sets of Meeting Minutes that will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

Mr. Saylor reported that an Executive Session was held this morning to discuss legal matters.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance

   1. 2020 Budget Presentation

Mr. Yohe reported that today is the day that was advertised for placing the 2020 Budget on the table for public inspection. He met with all the directors in August and September and public meetings were held, as well.

Mr. Yohe noted that this Budget is without a tax increase for the 15th year.

Page 1 – Proposed Budget Summary for the 11 funds that run January through December totaling $254,674,124.00. The General Fund is the primary fund. All the other funds revolve around the General Fund. The proposed General Fund budget for 2020 is $186,889,248.00 which is a 2.05% increase over the 2019 Budget. The Capital Projects Fund has a decrease.

Page 2:

- No tax increase for 2020.
- Salary increases of 2.95% are included for all settled union contract employees, non-union and AFSCME employees. (AFSCME is the only contract still under negotiation.)
- The Courts budget was approximately $45.3 million, but with the cooperation of the President Judge, this amount was reduced to just over $44 million.
- The proposed budget fully funds the estimated $8.1 million pension fund ADC for 2020.
- Seventeen new full-time positions were requested, but only 6 were included in the proposed budget at a salary/benefit cost of approximately $415,000.
- The County guarantee of $960,000 is included in the proposed budget for the Harrisburg Incinerator debt per the terms of the Harrisburg recovery plan. $441,737 is still owed Dauphin County from the $8.5 million agreed upon
settlement of the plan. That amount is not included as revenue in the 2020 budget.

- $1.7 million is included in the proposed budget to cover the ash disposal costs of the Harrisburg Incinerator for 2020. This will mark the first year that county funds have covered the entire expense; and is the reason that the interfund transfer to the Solid Waste/Recycling Fund is showing the large increase for next year.

- The 2020 General Fund budget requested submitted by all departments totaled approximately $193 million. This total has been reduced by approximately $6.3 million.

- A $1,000,000 vacancy adjustment is included to reflect the salary/benefit savings achieved by holding positions vacant through the quarterly window dates.

- Expenses exceed revenue in the proposed budget by $15.3 million. This budget deficit will be covered by the County’s unreserved fund balance. By comparison, the shortfall in the 2019 approved budget was just under $17 million. Current estimates show that of the $17 million draw down on fund balance that was budgeted for 2019, approximately $8.5 million will be used.

Page 3 – The transfers to other funds in the proposed 2020 Budget is $18,235,387.00; which is a 2.47% increase from 2019.

Page 4 – Lists the six full-time positions that are included in the 2020 Budget. Most of these are in the Judicial area.

Pages 5-8 – Various charts showing the expenses and revenues. The largest revenue by source is Taxes at 57%. The largest expense is salaries and benefits at 55%. The biggest proposed expenditures by function is Judicial (36%) and Public Safety (26%).

Page 9 – The real estate tax rate of 6.876 mils and Library tax rate of 0.350 mils will remain unchanged.

Pages 10-13 – Summary by department.

This budget will be placed on the table for 20 days public inspection. Adoption date is December 18th.

Mr. Pries congratulated Mr. Yohe and the directors for working together. He asked how much is pass through dollars.

Mr. Yohe indicated $340 million.

Mr. Pries asked Mr. Saylor if he has spoken to the three vendors regarding the voting machines.

Mr. Saylor replied that the original estimates included one scanner per polling place. As was seen by some counties one scanner is not enough for larger precincts. It was decided that 300 scanners would be needed as opposed to 170. That changed the cost
from between $3-6 million for a new voting system. That does not include the cost of warehousing, training, supplies, etc.

Mr. Pries indicated that he has a meeting scheduled with the State to discuss this topic.

Mr. Hartwick thanked the directors, employees and elected officials for their hard work in putting together a conservative budget. They found alternatives for funding. The Board went through this budget line by line. This is not a good budget as it relates to future concerns. The Board needs the ability to maintain a level of services. The cost for a new voting system. He does not want to leave the residents hanging as it relates to services. It is going to be more and more difficult with the State and Federal mandates. It is not a rosy situation.

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve the laying of the 2020 Budget on the table for the 20-day public review process. Adoption is scheduled for December 18, 2019.

Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

Mr. Yohe noted that a copy of the 2020 Budget is at the Commissioners’ Receptionist’s desk and it is also on the website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Thomas Garlic of Swatara Township expressed his concerns over a proposed warehouse project in Swatara Township. The school district did not have a clue about this project. The project is for four warehouses behind Chambers Hill, before Mushroom Hill. The area used to be a retired community, but now a lot of younger residents are moving into the area. A hearing was held, which lasted two minutes. He was not notified of a hearing. Another hearing was held, and they were not given time to speak. The next hearing will be held December 18th. The Township is trying to push this through. The Township did not do the proper traffic study. Grayson Road also floods.

Mr. Hartwick asked Mr. Garlic to collect all the formal concerns and present them to the Township and ask them for answers. The Planning Commission can look at it.

Mr. Garlic stated that there is no transparency with the Township. He asked for transcripts and the Township indicated that they needed to be approved by an attorney. This project will cause horrible traffic problems.

Mr. Pries indicated that area already gets backed up and then folks use Chambers Hill. The School District should have a say on this.
Mr. Garlic indicated that the Chambers Hill school does not have air conditioning. The noise from the trucks going to and from the warehouse will be loud should the school need to open the windows. The first responders will have delays. One section is commercial and that does not affect housing, but the other three are directly behind houses.

Mr. Haste indicated that he was not aware of this project until recently. He told Mr. Garlic to come to a HATS meeting to make a presentation. He will provide the date for the next HATS meeting. HATS cannot stop the project, but it could help by making PennDOT aware of this situation.

**SALARY BOARD**

A complete set of Salary Board Meeting Minutes are on file in the Commissioners’ Office.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Alwesabi indicated that she is asking for a vote on Items 23 and 28 as a result of the vote taken by the Salary Board.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Items 23 and 28 of the Personnel Packet.

**Question:** Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

The Personnel Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci reported that the Purchase Order Packet was distributed yesterday. There are a few budget adjustments that will be made prior to next week. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Hartwick had a question on Pages 17, 18 and 23 with Probation Services and Children & Youth. He asked if the services could be consolidated or if Probation could provide that for Children & Youth. He indicated that he will discuss the issue with the Directors.

Mr. Haste asked Mr. Baratucci to follow-up on the issue.

The Purchase Order Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.
TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Item #1 of the Training Packet.

Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Appointment of M. Elizabeth McBride to the Gaming Advisory Board. (A Vote is Requested 11/27/19)

B. Amendment #1 to the Agreement between Dauphin County and Pictometry, Inc. (A Vote is Requested 11/27/19)

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Items A and B listed above under Items for Discussion.

Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – JOSEPH A. CURCILLO, III, ESQ.

Mr. Curcillo reported that everything will be ready for next week. No questions were asked.

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor had no report and no questions were asked.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Hartwick reported that CCAP’s number one priority for 2020 will be behavioral health funding. MH base funding is used for people with serious mental illness to fund services that are not eligible for medical assistance, such as residential, housing, employment and social rehabilitation and base funding is also used to fund treatment for people who are uninsured. MH base funding has been reduced since 08-09, with a significant cut of 10% in 12-13. Many counties were forced to eliminate or reduce services in FY 12-13.

In addition to the programs, Dauphin County was forced to close or reduce regarding the 10% cut. There are additional impacts as the ongoing flat funding and challenges to behavioral health funding in general have either caused or contributed the following: CMU terminated Peer Support Services effective April of 2019 (had been operating since about 2008), Pressley Ridge Outpatient Clinic closed May of 2019 (had been operating in Dauphin County for 50+ years) and Wellspan/Philhaven closed outpatient,
partial hospitalization, after school program family based and behavioral health rehabilitation services (August/October of 2019 – had been operating for almost 30 years in Dauphin County) – services are being transitioned to other providers. Provider staff wages and recruitment and retention of staff continues to be a concern in the MH field. Agencies have been forced to reduce costs for training. The County MH/A/DP has tried to support County-funded MH providers, but they have been flat funded for 8 years, making it difficult to keep up with increasing costs.

Counties need assistance to fund vital services that are not covered by Medical Assistance. This will be a priority of CCAP and need the Legislature to work closely with the counties.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board adjourn; motion carried.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz