DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2013
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Laura Cullison, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Re buck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Gerald Feaser, Jr., Director of Registration & Elections; Dave Schreiber, Human Resources; Melissa Bradley, Human Resources; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Dan Eisenhauer, Director of MH/ID; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; Heather Reardon, Human Resources; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Julie Mackey, Commissioners' Office; Melody Osborn, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jeff Frantz, Scott Mehok, Esq. and Mark Stewart, Esq.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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

Ms. Cullison reported that there were no Executive Sessions held between meetings.

ELECTION BOARD

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance

1. 2014 Budget Presentation

Mr. Yohe stated that today is the date that was advertised for the placing of the 2014 Budget on the table for public review. This process dates back to July when he met with every director personally. Last week public hearings were held on the budget. He indicated that this is one of the best budgets that have been presented. In summary:

Page 1 – Represents all the funds that are included in the budget. The General Fund is the main operating fund. There is a $6.9 million reduction in the General Fund. Most of the funds show a reduction. Capital Projects has a minimal budget for some small projects. Most of the projects have been completed. The total reduction is $13.2 million, which represents a 5.44% decrease.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that the Act 56 Wireless Fund has a reduction in revenue. This issue has been discussed and is a top priority for CCAP. All 67 counties will be affected.
Mr. Yohe stated that does result in an increase on our side. If changes come through it would be a plus.

Page 2 – Mr. Yohe reported that there is no tax increase for 2014. It includes a $650,000 salary/benefit vacancy adjustment. Settled union wages between 2-4% for 2014 are budgeted per contract. 2% salary increases for 2014 are included for contracts under negotiation. The budget for non-union wages includes a 2% salary increase for 2014. The proposed budget assumes an approximate $8.7 million ARC for 2014. Only four new positions were requested. None are included in the proposed figures. To date, five full-time General Fund positions have been eliminated as part of the 2014 budget process. There is $800,000 included for County guarantees on the Harrisburg Incinerator debt per the terms of the pending Harrisburg Recovery Plan. The proposed budget does not contain a draw down on the fund balance for the first time since 2007.

Page 3 – This chart shows the Interfund Transfers. The EMA Fund has gone up almost $1 million because of the wireless tariff. Some money will have to be put in the Solid Waste /Recycling Fund.

Page 4 – No new positions have been added.

Pages 5 – The taxes are down to almost 50% of the General Fund revenue.

Page 6 – The biggest General Fund Expenditure is for Salaries and Benefits – 46% and the next is for Service Expenses – 24%.

Page 7 – General Fund Revenue by Function, the largest is taxes at 54%.


Page 9 – The Real Estate Tax Rate remains the same at 6.876 mils, as well as the Library Tax at 0.350 mils.

Pages 10-14 – Summaries by departments.

Mr. Pries congratulated Mike, Laura, the row officers and the directors for their hard work in putting together this budget. No other county can boast about spending less than the prior year. This is the 9th year without a tax increase. There are no new positions, but we are still providing the level of service.

Mr. Hartwick thanked everyone as well for the work that they did in putting together this budget. The 911 portion is a huge area of concern. It is the number one priority for CCAP. Doing more with less has been a challenge. There is not a whole lot more
squeezing we can do. He gave credit to Ms. Creason for the tax collection process and how efficiently it is running.

Mr. Hartwick stated that we are not in a position to raise taxes. Great job to all!

Mr. Haste stated that this wouldn’t happen without team effort. Having three Commissioners that work hard and get along sets the tone. Our folks listen to what is going on in the community. Citizens don’t have the ability to pay. Five months ago he wasn’t sure what to expect. The stress level was high, but the deal was done with the Receiver and the City. He thanked everyone who rolled up their sleeves to make this possible.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board place the 2014 Budget on the Table for 20 days.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Reardon asked if there were any questions with regard to the Personnel Packet. There was none. The Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci stated that he had a requisition to add to the Packet. Mr. Petery brought the requisition to his attention. It is for fencing for one of the MDJ’s Office. Three quotes were received and this is for the low quote. It will be added to next week’s packet. The Purchase Order Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick 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. Ordinance #9-2013 authorizing the County to incur nonelectoral debt in the maximum principal amount of $4,272,723 to be evidenced by the County’s Liquid Fuels Revenue Note, Series of 2013 (Dauphin County Infrastructure Bank), in order to provide funding for transportation related improvements in the County. (**A Vote is Requested 11/27/13***)
It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board enact Ordinance #9-2013 listed above.

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

Mr. Pries congratulated Commissioners Haste and Hartwick on this project, as well as the Land Bank. Both Commissioners took the lead on these projects.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Curcillo reported that all items listed on the Solicitor’s Report will be ready for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – LAURA CULLISON, ESQ.

Ms. Cullison reported on the following:

- Dauphin County government offices will be closed tomorrow, November 28th for Thanksgiving. County offices will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

- Christmas at Fort Hunter will begin this week with mansion tours, the Festival of Trees, Toy Train Exhibit and more. A holiday concert and craft show and sale will also be part of the holiday activities.

Ms. Cullison also expressed her gratitude to Mike Yohe and Department Directors on the 2014 Budget. The budget will continue to be worked on while it is on the table.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Hartwick wished Commissioner Haste good luck this year while he serves as President of CCAP. With our commitment we will be able to make a difference for the other counties.

Mr. Hartwick also reported on an event that Helen Spence is putting together. The event is December 16th and is called the Systems of Care Holiday Celebration. We are trying to engage folks that are in need. If anyone is interested in helping with this Celebration they should let him know. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Pries also wished every a Happy Thanksgiving and good luck to the hunters on Monday.

Mr. Haste stated that this Board of Commissioners, compared to colleagues in other counties, has a great working relationship with the Courts. In some counties, the commissioners and the controller don’t see eye-to-eye. Marie Rebuck has been a great partner, as well as the Janis, Jim and the other row officers. Dauphin County is blessed
with the cooperation between the commissioners, row officers and courts. It is amazing when you talk to our colleagues in other counties. They don’t have that cooperation. Thank you to everyone for their assistance in putting together this budget. Happy Thanksgiving!

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz