DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 2013
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Laura E. Evans, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Leila Brown, Solicitor’s Office; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Jeannette Long, Human Resources; Melissa Bradley, Human Resources; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director’s Office; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jeff Frantz, Stephen Hetrick, Tina Nixon, Calobe Jackson, William Jackson, Nicole McMullen and Mary Quinn

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:11 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 two sets of meeting minutes that will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

Ms. Evans reported that there was an Executive Session held on October 9, 2013 regarding personnel matters.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

Mr. Haste stated that Tina Nixon, Executive Director of the YWCA, is here today to provide a brief presentation about Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Ms. Nixon reported that Domestic Violence Awareness Month began in 1981 as a day of Unity. It evolved into a month long event to celebrate survivors, highlight advocates, empower victims and remember the women, children and men who have lost their lives to domestic violence. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recognize the efforts of individuals and groups who work tirelessly to break the cycle of violence. You may think it doesn’t happen here, but you would be wrong. In Pennsylvania, last year, 72 women, 38 men and 8 children were killed in domestic violence homicides. Last year at the YWCA 390 women and children were provided with emergency shelter and over 3,000 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault received counseling. These victims had the courage to seek help. Only 4% of domestic violence murder victims had ever availed themselves of a program. One in three teens experience sexual or physical abuse or threats from a boyfriend each year, but 73% of parents with children under the age of 18 have not talked about domestic violence or sexual assault with their children. Seventy-five percent of those surveyed said that they would step in to help; however, more than half of those that told someone said no one helped them. People can no longer be bystanders. Everyone needs to intervene. One type of intervention is to educate everyone about the kind of help that is available, where and how to access it. Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the prevalence of this issue. In addition, it allows
the public to celebrate and applaud the courage and strength of the women and children who are survivors who have regained control of their lives and freed themselves from mental, physical and emotional abuse.

The YWCA is hosting “Our Voices”, an art exhibit illustrating stories of courage, motherhood and acculturation by 23 women from around the world who have made Central PA their home. The exhibit will be on display from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 1101 Market Street, Harrisburg.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the YWCA is an advocate for people going through domestic violence making sure to coordinate efforts and maximize services. We need to be able to provide safety for families and children. By providing services to victims, they can remove themselves from an unhealthy situation. Everyone deserves to be treated equally. He thanked Tina for her help in the upper end.

Ms. Nixon indicated that she cannot do it alone. Mary Quinn has assisted with the programs. It is the people who are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Pries thanked Ms. Nixon for her comments and for her leadership and commitment to the cause. We need to have a united front. The fountain at the Courthouse has been dyed purple in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Those statistics are way too many. We need to educate people so that number declines.

Mr. Pries read the Proclamation.

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are honored to join with the YWCA Greater Harrisburg and the community at large in thanking advocacy groups, volunteers, law enforcement officials, and other individuals who have devoted their lives to preventing, punishing, and ultimately, putting an end to domestic violence in Dauphin County and around the nation;

Whereas, domestic violence is an unspeakable offense against human dignity that shatters lives and families, and spawns lifelong feelings of hopelessness and despair;

Whereas, across America, an estimated 4.8 million cases of domestic violence occur each year, and, at its most tragic level, kills an average of more than three women each day;

Whereas, each October, the formal recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month allows the community to acknowledge and show their support for the victims of this horrible crime;

Whereas, through community programs such as the YWCA Greater Harrisburg, the Victim/Witness Assistance Program and other advocacy groups, we can work together to end this violence and protect all members of society;

Therefore, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County in bringing to light the viciousness and lifelong devastation caused by domestic violence and in recognizing the committed and caring individuals who defend and support innocent
victims; and in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby declare October 2013 to be “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

A. Stephen Hetrick, Retirement Collaborative

1. Deferred Compensation – Addition of Roth deferral and In-Plan Transfers

Mr. Hetrick reported that the Voluntary Employee Benefit Committee (VEBC) voted to approve amending the Dauphin County, PA Deferred Compensation Plan Document to allow for Roth deferrals and in-plan transfers. The VEBC thought that with proper education, some participants might desire to utilize these Roth options. Roth deferrals would allow participants to make Roth contributions to their deferred compensation plan. This money would be kept separately from pretax (traditional) contributions, similar to how employer contributions and participant rollover contributions are kept separately for each participant.

Mr. Haste asked when this becomes effective.

Mr. Hetrick indicated that it would be effective January 1, 2014.

Mr. Haste asked that it be added to the Agenda for a vote next week.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions on the Salary Board Packet or Personnel Packet. (There were none.) She indicated that the Packet also includes the 2014 Pay Dates and the 2014 Holiday Schedule.

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

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci stated that the Purchase Order Packet was distributed yesterday. There are a few budget adjustments that will be made until next week. The Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

TRAINING PACKET

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

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

Mr. Curcillo reported that all of the items listed are expected to be approved next week.
Ms. Evans reported on the following:

- The 3rd in a series of public forums on aging services will be held tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at the Millersburg Senior Center. The event is free and open to the public.
- The second Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will be held today, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Hillside Christian Fellowship in northern Dauphin County and will feature Latin cuisine.

Ms. Evans mentioned that Dauphin County has been hosting free celebrations in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. It is my pleasure at this time to introduce Historian and Harrisburg native Calobe Jackson, Jr. to share with us a brief presentation on the contributions of Hispanic troops who fought in the American Civil War.

Mr. Jackson provided a brief overview of the roles that Hispanic men portrayed in the Civil War. In 1838, they boarded a ship to the United States and landed in Salem, Massachusetts and became American citizens. After the Emancipation Proclamation, the Governor formed the first black unit in the North, the 54th Mass Volunteers. There were 150 soldiers from Pennsylvania and 31 of those were from Dauphin County. A book has been written that lists all the soldiers. It also lists those who were killed in action. He thanked the Commissioners for having him present at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration yesterday.

Mr. Haste indicated that the Spanish Class from Harrisburg Christian School was at the celebration and they enjoyed the rendition. Reading from a book isn’t the same as seeing it come to life. He suggested that Mr. Jackson put a package together and visit the local schools, because he makes it very interesting.

Mr. Jackson thanked the Commissioner for the advice and that he will follow up on it.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the Hispanic soldiers played an important part in the shaping of our county and it is something that we are very proud of. Dauphin County has taken on a task of providing diversity programs that are held monthly and the Cultural Celebration. Thank you for helping to bring it to life.

Mr. Pries stated that Mr. Jackson did a wonderful job telling the story. He mentioned four soldiers that were killed in action.

Mr. Jackson provided the Commissioners with a roster of the soldiers indicating whether they came from Harrisburg or Middletown. He indicated that he should try to find out where they are buried.

Mr. Pries indicated that a few years ago Patricia Reed came to the Board for funding to put a fence around a cemetery where several Civil War veterans are buried.
COMMISSIONERS’ DISCUSSION & ACTIONS

Mr. Pries congratulated Mr. Haste on Harrisburg Christian’s soccer victory. He also congratulated Mr. Hartwick on Alexis' performance at the Coed Regional Individual Tournament at Golden Oaks.

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.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz