DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2014
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Bobby Sisock, Courts; Jennifer Simpson, Courts; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Dr. Michael L. Hanes, Tom Connolly, Karl Singleton, Jim Roxbury, Barb Miller, Fox 43, WGAL 8, Lee Markosky and Dave Puskar

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 there were no Executive Sessions held between meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tom Connolly of Swatara Township was present to discuss the hotel tax in Dauphin County. The hotel tax has risen each year from 2009. There is a five year history. In fact, it is a $1.5 million increase. It jumps from $8.2 million in 2009 and rises to $9.7 million in 2013. He is speaking as a private citizen. He is a Swatara Township Commissioner. The area that he lives in has seven hotels. The Township has 3,600 residents and 7 hotels. During the course of the year the residents are greatly outnumbered by the visitors. That is not a bad thing. There are some associated costs with the hotels. The biggest one is crime. He researched the way the money is divided. It is a set plan. It looks like it was proposed in 1999 and has been in effect since early 2000. He came across an Ordinance in Adams County where they also have a hotel tax. One of the priorities in their plan for the division of the money was to go to the local communities. A percentage goes to the local municipalities that have at least two police officers. They recognize that the increase in travelers could also bring an increase to the local residents and the possibility of crime. Adams County’s Ordinance has only been in effect for two years. He is here to lobby on behalf of his community to change the way that money is divided so that a percentage goes back to the municipality that hosts the hotels to be used for public safety. When you type in Eisenhauer Blvd. corridor on the computer, it brings up arrests and criminal activity. The Swatara Township Board of Commissioners recently honored two police officers for heroism. It had to do with a hotel incident. The main reason for the disbursement is to promote travel and tourism so it continues to generate that kind of money. He didn’t see anything in the Ordinance that went to protect the citizens. In Swatara Township, 65% of their budget is to cover the cost of police services. He is thankful that the Vice Chairman is looking at police regionalization. There are a lot of discretionary funds. He saw $150,000 that was spent for a wine and brew fest. Again, it can promote tourism and to bring people to this area, but it is coming out of this fund. To him that is two police officers that the Township doesn’t have. There are other things that are nice, but...
it is time to set some priorities. This may not just be a Swatara issue. The hotels tend to be centered in certain areas, yet the money doesn’t necessarily go back into those areas. The crime associated with the hotels is really centered in Swatara Township. The County’s Ordinance is almost 15 years old. Things have changed in 15 years. The trips to Hershey, the Civil War Museum and the Capitol are the positive things. If that one small percentage of visitors are here for the wrong activity, if they are criminals, that puts criminals in his neighborhood. There needs to be some type of spending to stop this crime before it really blows up and he doesn’t think the entire spending should come from the residents of Swatara Township and the communities that host the hotels, when in fact the hotels generate $10 million. An opposite approach is used on the Gaming grants. The Gaming grants start inward with the host municipality. They get the largest share. Then it moves to the contiguous connecting adjacent municipalities and because of visitors to that casino he understands that. They would experience crime, traffic and noise – a change in the quality of their life. He also thinks that the hotels have changed the quality of life in his area. Police Chief Jason Umberger is an incredible police chief. If this was a regional situation and the money was divided based on the location of the hotel or it is divided for emergency situations, fire and police, things related to the hotel benefits Swatara and the other places that have hotels. He asked the Board to consider changing the Ordinance.

Mr. Saylor stated that Commissioner Connolly made some very good points, but it is worth pointing out a few things. First being the reference in that the Ordinance is 15 years old. That is because the State law that enabled the County Ordinance is also 15 years old. The County Ordinance virtually mirrors State law and that is because the County can only enact what the State allows to be enacted. The reason why the County Ordinance is so complex in how the money is divided and where it goes is because that is what State law says. While Mr. Connolly’s points are very valid, unfortunately the County does not have the power to make that change unless the State changes that law. The State did change the law a few years ago to up the tax to 5%. The policy goal with the hotel tax is not public safety per se, it is generating economic activity and jobs through tourism. The Gaming grants have more discretion and that is why the County can use them for things like police and fire. There is a new hotel where there used to be a vacant field. That hotel is creating economic growth, jobs and is paying property taxes to Swatara Township to help with the police. Changing the law would be a matter for your local legislator.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that Mr. Connolly has raised some valid points. This Board is committed to addressing crime issues related to public safety. The idea of where the revenue is derived from and to be able to understand legally if hotel tax dollars set by the legislation are able to be used for such a purpose. His current understanding is that he doesn’t believe the hotel tax dollars can be used for public safety. The idea of where you go for resources that could be directed in a more discretionary way, that is set up by the Legislature, is the money that has been established through the table games revenue. The Legislature has earmarked the District Attorney with specific direction to reduce violent crime. There is money that is being invested in technology and other areas that can go towards the reduction of violent crimes in the percentage of money
that is derived from table games revenue. He will find out whether or not hotel tax dollars, based upon the law and Legislature, are able to be used for public safety. It is his understanding that it isn’t. The intent of the legislation and the reason why there is an increase in the revenues are because the Board has attempted to try to give as much as it can to the HHRVB to do specific marketing campaigns, as well as invest in sports events and other things which draw in young families with a high spending capacity to increase that revenue to hopefully continue to grow the County’s tourism industry. Right now Dauphin County is the third highest spent in the State related to tourism. The Board has done a good job of trying to invest those dollars to create more opportunities for folks to come into this region and to stay. It would be interesting to see the amount of property tax revenue that is actually generated for local public safety purposes that are going to be able to be used by the Township as a result of what those hotels pay yearly, because that is really the dollars that are as a result of whatever planning Swatara Township has had over the years to try to generate and grow the property tax base in order to address in the growth of those public safety issues as a part of what your local planning process should be. If you want to try to find discretionary revenues to address violent crime, if in fact, there is no ability to do it through the tourism and hotel tax, try to address those specific areas with the reduction of violent crime through the table games revenue. That may be a more likely avenue to be able to address flexible spending. He will look into whether or not hotel tax can be used for public safety, based upon the current law. Again if there needs to be a law change, he suggested that Mr. Connolly talk to Representative John Payne. He would be the guy to talk to about trying to reprioritize. In all these cases the Legislature is the group that has enacted the hotel tax, they have increased the hotel tax and directed the revenue from the hotel tax.

Mr. Connolly stated that he will leave a copy of the Adams County proposal that says that 75% of the funds raised through this tax go towards the Gettysburg Convention Visitors’ Bureau, 12.5% go the County and 12.5% will be dedicated to municipalities that employ at least two full time police officers. This is much more recent. Swatara Township has three State Legislators that cover the Township. He will speak to Representative Payne, but they also have Representatives Kim and Helm.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the hotel tax based upon any third class county is capped at 5% and that is where we are currently at.

Mr. Connolly stated that this is of the 5%. They were approved to collect 3% to 5%. In a lot of ways it mirrors Dauphin County’s. It just moves a little farther towards the public safety end of it. Dauphin County spends a lot of the money on good things.

Mr. Pries echoed his colleagues’ comments that Mr. Connolly raised a lot of valid points this morning. He asked related to crime along the Eisenhauer Blvd. corridor and motels what Swatara Township’s plan of action is to deal with these exact same things that he is bringing to this Board’s attention. You can go back 30 plus years and there were crime issues.
Mr. Connolly indicated that Swatara just had their public meeting on October 8th and that is when this award was made. The police chief reads the amount of crimes in the Township and then it was compared to last year. Crime had actually decreased overall, yet the crime that the police officers were getting the award for had to do with the hotels. He asked the police chief if there was any tracking system in place to show how many of the crimes are related to the hotel corridor. The police chief informed him that he was going to work on that for the next meeting. It wasn’t a traveler. It was someone who was using the hotel for crime. He wants to see those numbers and how much it is costing the Township.

Mr. Pries asked if crime is going down would the Township be able to utilize those resources you were utilizing elsewhere into the hotel corridor. The Township might be able to proceed with a higher level of police protection in those areas without needing additional funding.

Mr. Connolly indicated that he understands that. This is his first year as Commissioner. He ran because property taxes increased four years in a row. He is going to present that to the Chief that more resources could be used to police these hotels so they are safer for the traveling public. It is a better reputation for the area. At the same time that may not be fair to the residents of Swatara Township to pay a higher rate. That is less money to pave roads and to provide recreation for the residents. They would love to spend that to make sure the travelers are safe. The only reason he links the two is because those travelers also generate this other fund. The link he was making it seems like the more travelers, the more money for the County. The more travelers, the more crime for Swatara.

Mr. Pries stated that Mr. Connolly lives in Swatara Township and he lives in Derry Township, as some of the entertainment and tourist goes in Hershey, which is the economic engine driver for the region, people that go and visit the Giant Center to concerts, Hersheypark Stadium, Hersheypark, go and attend all the things that are going on there, a lot of them are staying in Swatara Township. The Township is a huge beneficiary of what is going on down the street. If that wasn’t occurring maybe your hotels would be half full instead of full capacity. There is a lot of give and take there between the two. He isn’t saying that there aren’t issues in Swatara Township with crime, because Mr. Connolly has mentioned them and he has also seen them in the paper. A lot of what goes on six miles down the road is very beneficial to Swatara Township’s tax base. There is nothing wrong with looking for more. Thank you for your support of the regionalization concept. The data will be provided once it is received and thanks to Swatara’s police chief for being the President of the Police Chief’s Association of Dauphin County and fully supporting that venture as well. Once the data is received he will provide it to the committee, as well as the elected officials so a decision can be made.

Mr. Foreman indicated that if the Board wishes the Solicitor’s Office will review the hotel tax to see what can be done. The basic purpose for the hotel tax is tourism promotion, not public safety. The tax has a lot of requirements and specifications as to how and
where the money can be spent and the County has to follow the State law, as well as the County’s Ordinance.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D.

1. Update on the Whitaker Center for Science & the Arts

Dr. Hanes indicating that he wanted to deliver a momento to each of the Commissioners. On September 11, Whitaker Center celebrated 15 years of service to this community. There was a special celebration where they invited all of the founding board members, along with anyone who has served on the Board of Directors, as well as the major donors. Dauphin County has been a strong supporter of the Whitaker Center. A program was also included with the memento.

Some of the accomplishments of the Whitaker Center: 4 million visitors have been attracted to downtown Harrisburg in Dauphin County as a result of the Whitaker Center’s programs, events and activities; 1.7 million children and adults have been immersed in the beauty and amazement in Select Medical IMAX Theater; 1.3 million community members (children & adults) have come to the HARSCO Science Center, including almost 500,000 children in school group visits. The Performing Arts Programs have attracted 1 million visitors and the Sunoco Performance Theater continues to be the premier performing arts venue in this region. Countless number of visitors stroll through Whitaker Center on a daily basis, just to see the visual art that is on display. A lot of people don’t realize that they have 187 linear feet of gallery space. They provide art exhibitions year round, free to the public and have hosted more than 80 art exhibitions. He urged the Board to come down and walk through and see some of the outstanding art that was produced by high school students in this region. The Center hosted its first young artist show that opened with the celebration in September and will continue through the end of this month. The box office issues around 300,000 tickets to various events and activities at the Whitaker Center each and every year. They have recently renewed the Science Center, investing almost $4 million over a period of six years. They are also reaching out beyond Harrisburg to build the name and recognition for the Center. Over the last four years they have worked with over 320 early educators throughout 20 counties in Central Pennsylvania to improve science education and early education classrooms. They have attracted more than 6,000 high school students to participate in Surgery Live, a program that was created with the Hershey Medical Center six years ago that allows high school students to actually participate in live surgery as it is being performed real time and interact with the surgical team at Hershey Medical Center. The Excellence and Innovation Campaign that was launched in 2004 has raised $22.9 million towards a goal of $25 million. Those funds have been invested in the facility, $2.2 million in the facility alone, and $11.4 million into the endowments to build for the sustainability of Whitaker Center in the future. He thanked the Commissioners for their support. It is important to the community. He invited the Commissioners to come down and visit.
The Commissioners thanked Dr. Hanes.

Mr. Haste asked how much is in the endowment.

Dr. Hanes indicated that there is just under $10 million, but $11.4 million was raised over the period of the campaign. They had to tap into the endowment to cover deficits.

Mr. Haste indicated that it is about $2.1 million short of the campaign goal.

Dr. Hanes indicated yes. They are very proud of the fact that despite the recession and the challenges that all non-profit organizations face in raising funds during that time that they have raised, since 2007, $16.3 million.

Mr. Haste thanked Dr. Hanes for what they do.

B. Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk and J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk

1. CAT Review

Mr. Saylor and Mr. Burford have a brief initial report on the Capital Area Transit (CAT).

Mr. Saylor indicated that CAT is funded in part by a local partnership consisting of Dauphin County, Cumberland County and the City of Harrisburg. Based on a local funding formula, they split an annual payment for the operation of CAT. They have been meeting with the other funding partners, Cumberland and the City, discussing a database that they have been made aware of by PennDOT. It is the national transit database. This is a gigantic database which every year every transit agency in the country has to report certain data to this database. You can see any transit system across the country. They boiled it down to the transit systems in this region. The most current data they had was 2012. The general operating expenses for the County's transit system, it is $14.3 million for CAT. If you go down and look at some of the neighboring systems, such as Berks, which is $9.7 million, Red Rose, which is Lancaster is $8.5 million, York is $8.7 million and Lebanon is $2.1 million. CAT costs a great deal more to operate than the other neighboring transit systems. They wanted to find out why. They found the following information: General Administration, these are full-time employees, they are not bus drivers or their maintenance staff, it is the Director, assistants, personnel, human resources, planning, etc. CAT has 21 full-time employees compared to the next closest one is Lancaster which has 8, York and Lebanon have 5 and Berks has 6. CAT’s cost is $1.2 million and the rest are $400,000.

Mr. Haste asked if there are current numbers. They said that they are trying to make adjustments.
Mr. Burford indicated that he has received their proposed budget in advance of their hearing in November; which does indicate some reductions in their staffing. He would be eager to hear in more detail what their plans are.

Mr. Saylor stated that the database only goes to 2012. They did review the budget submissions for past years and they have reduced three staff positions in Administration.

Mr. Haste stated so it could be 18.

Mr. Burford indicated that is still high.

Mr. Saylor stated that the general cost of operations has gone up since 2012.

Mr. Burford stated that they have been able to make the comparison as fair and consistent as they can. They tried to compare the same and like types of services. In this case they looked at the direct operations, not their para-transit component. The proposed budget is a blend of para-transit admin staff and direct admin staff. This is just to frame up the comparisons and then they can drill down.

Mr. Haste stated that some of these 21 or 18 may be para-transits.

Mr. Burford stated that the indication on the National database is that they are direct operations and not para transits.

Mr. Saylor stated that the other thing worth noting is about two weeks ago Cumberland County Commissioners had their budget hearing with CAT. They asked Mr. Jones about some of these very numbers. From the reports, the only thing he seemed to be able to say was that the data is two years old.

They took a look at the buses themselves. CAT has 80 some buses in service, almost twice as many as most of the other agencies. The average age of the buses seems to be consistent with the others at about 6 years. There are 19 maintenance employees, which is more than any of the others. Despite that the buses are not that old and more maintenance workers, there are more major bus breakdowns reported. Almost four times as many as the other transit agencies. The days between breakdowns is also not good compared to the others. The cost of vehicle maintenance is significantly higher than the other agencies. Non-vehicle maintenance, this is work on facilities, HVAC, plumbing, etc. once again CAT has more employees than all the others. They have costs at $756,000 for non-vehicle maintenance. That is almost 10 times York’s budget. These are just some of the parameters that they are reviewing from this database. The portion that is paid by Dauphin, Cumberland and the City of Harrisburg is $1.3 million. If you add up what York pays with Lebanon and Berks and Lancaster and it is less combined than what Dauphin, Cumberland and the City pays. With regards to fares, CAT leads the pack with a base fare of $1.75. The monthly ones are interesting, because the monthly passes are generally used by someone who relies on CAT to go to...
work, grocery store, etc. A lot of the transit agencies do this by zone. They will have
different zones. Lebanon only has two zones. CAT has several zones. The largest
zone has $87 for a monthly pass.

Mr. Haste indicated that this is not good information, that $87 isn’t for a trip from here to
Shippensburg every day is it. That is completely different. He could see where that
would be a much higher cost than Palmyra to Hershey.

Mr. Saylor stated that he thinks the $87 is for the largest zone.

Mr. Haste indicated that may explain why that one is a lot higher.

Mr. Saylor stated that he doesn’t know how many miles it is from Dillsburg to Dover in
York County. He doesn’t know what the Red Rabbit charges are for the trip from York
to Harrisburg.

Mr. Burford stated that it is different between their express routes and their fixed routes.
It is important that we focus on some of those fixed route fees. That trip to
Shippensburg may be more of an express fee fare. He would need to research that.
York differentiates between an Express Route and the local monthly pass.

Mr. Haste stated that in theory you could get on the bus in Hershey and take it the
whole way to Shippensburg.

Mr. Saylor indicated that there is more work that they need to do. They are looking at
additional numbers and will have more information available. This is to serve as a
pretext for the next step. They would like to bring in PennDOT. PennDOT has been
investigating further regionalizing transit in this area and what it would mean for
Dauphin County and the region, based on what PennDOT studied. PennDOT would
like to study specifics and come back to the Commissioners with some models of what it
would look like if regionalization was considered.

Mr. Haste stated that PennDOT was studying that for a while. That was funded through
HATS. He would be curious to hear what they have to say.

Mr. Saylor indicated that in 2012 PennDOT presented some initial results of their
studies. It has been ongoing.

Mr. Haste stated that as far as the regional approach, he thinks that this region has to
get to the point, it has happened with rail and have ups and downs with that, good
support from some and not so good support from others. Those who oppose rail seem
to be all over this issue. It is known that one of the biggest economies is tourism. For
Central Pennsylvania, we need to get to a point where someone can fly into this area,
get off and use mass transit and go to the big hubs. The big hubs right now are
Dauphin County, downtown Lancaster and Gettysburg. Until we can get a system that
really incorporates all of those areas, we are not maximizing the ability to tap into the
tourism market. He ran into a couple who came to the State for six weeks for vacation. They were from the Netherlands. They were based in Philadelphia and they were somewhat taken back when each day they had to get a rental car. In those three days they were going to go to Lancaster to see the Amish, Hershey and they wanted to go to Gettysburg. The infrastructure is not where it should be to move those folks around. Anything that can be done to get to that point he is all for it.

Mr. Hartwick stated that when you take a look at population served and local government subsidy, those numbers are really concerning. York County transportation with a population that exceeds the CAT population and it is close to $965,000 less than local government subsidy that is a big red flag. He has expressed concerns directly to CAT related to ridership in the northern end of Dauphin County and the lack of the ability, because transportation is such an issue, they reduced the routes. They say they haven’t, but when you talk to residents in the northern end, they reduced the routes from folks in the northern end to make that kind of commute. Obviously there is a top heavy part to the organization. He wants to be fair as well and take a look at current numbers. From all the conversations that he has heard is that CAT will be coming in for a budget presentation in the upcoming weeks and will be requesting more than likely an increase in the local government subsidy, which again related to the level and quality of service. They need to be continuing to look internally and talking about restructuring and providing more money into direct services than relying on local government subsidy to be able to support something that has not continued to offer more opportunities to those folks who rely on bus and transit services. He agrees with Commissioner Haste about tying together the region, but also really having an examination discussion about a regional transit service that is run much more efficiently with reduced overhead to be able to increase ridership and to the connections that need to occur in a heavily rich tourism region, to be able to get folks to and from those locations and see that level of cooperation is something of great interest to him and, he is sure, his fellow Board members. This sets the stage for good budget discussions. CAT needs to come prepared with the current numbers, but also to answer the difficult questions related to specific numbers and why they are way out of line with other transit services and it is not because we are talking about increased routes and the ability to deliver more services.

Mr. Pries stated that some of the surrounding counties are in discussions about regionalized efforts.

Mr. Saylor stated that is correct.

Mr. Haste stated by way of the PennDOT study. Berks and Lancaster are already done.

Mr. Saylor stated that Berks and Lancaster are already moving down that track so the timing could be very good.

Mr. Haste stated that he needs to get educated on this. When you see the disparities in the local subsidy, every time he raises the issue he is told that is the formula. It is not
flexible. If that is the case, why is Dauphin County’s formula so out of whack compared to other formulas. If that’s not the case what are the holes in their argument.

Mr. Saylor indicated that is the key question and a very complex one. When PennDOT comes in next Wednesday they can shed some light on this.

Mr. Haste stated that he would like to hear how the subsidy works and if that is the case why is Dauphin County’s subsidy so different than others. Every time he asks the question he is told that is the formula and that is the way it is.

Mr. Saylor stated that is the frustration that all three funding partners have.

Mr. Hartwick stated just like the tourism discussion earlier, he asked if there is a county specific formula that directs the resources or is it a statewide look. CAT’s formula is different than the other counties who are in different transit services.

Mr. Haste stated either the County has flexibility or it doesn’t. If it is a formula issue then the Board needs to direct its attention to those that can change the formula.

Mr. Saylor stated that CAT is the most expensive transit system in the region. It has the biggest staff and some of the highest fares and it has the greatest cost to both the taxpayers and the folks that ride the bus. If the costs can be reduced in running the transit system the County can save taxpayer money and possibly reduce fares for the folks that ride it. It all bases on that formula. PennDOT will be in next week and will dig a little deeper. November will be the budget hearing.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions. (There was none.)

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

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci indicated that the Purchase Order Packet was distributed yesterday. There are a few budget adjustments that will have to be made prior to next week. He asked if there were any questions on the Packet. (There was none.)

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

Bid Award – AAA Kitchen Meal Program

Mr. Baratucci presented the results of the bids for the AAA Kitchen for Meals on Wheels Program. He presented the Commissioners with a list of all the potential bidders and the results. A bid was received from Nutrition Group at $5.57 per meal. That equates
out to $919,050 yearly based on the 65,000 meals. The Commissioners and some other people did visit Nutrition Groups headquarters and looked at their operation. They have a lot of experience in the area and are servicing many other county meals on wheels programs. Everyone is in agreement that the bid should be awarded to Nutrition Group, which would allow the County to move forward to get a contract in place. The transition of the operation will occur sometime in the month of November.

Mr. Saylor stated that the Board is being asked to accept the bid today. It is anticipated that a contract will be prepared and voted on in approximately two weeks that will formally begin the privatization process. This is just the next step in that process.

Mr. Pries asked if the anticipated yearly savings are $300,000.

Mr. Burford stated that it is slightly less than that. Based on the historical volume, it is in the neighborhood of $275,000 to $290,000.

Mr. Pries stated that is $5.57 per meal and he asked what the current price is.

Mr. Burford stated $7.37 per meal.

**It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve the bid award of the AAA Kitchen Meal Program to Nutrition Group, at a bid price of $5.57 per meal.**

**Discussion:**

Mr. Hartwick stated that he would like to note a couple of concerns. He has been clear in talking about the concerns that he has had just with a single bidder. The idea of the individual bidder who has come in, the County has already seen prices go up about 50 cents from their original bid, which sort of highlights that concern and to ensure that the County has that kind of future savings and the control is something that he wants to continue to be an advocate for. They talked about tying that to a consumer price index and ensuring that they are not able to raise those prices moving forward as high as it was from one bid to the other. The business is very low margins. He also wants to ensure that the County has the quality of food services. There are some next steps that need to be set up in trying to establish a food services committee, the ability to have consumers and individuals who are volunteers be a part of directing meals and an open line of communication he thinks has been established. He still has concerns related to that as it relates to those future costs going up. He doesn’t want the County to be in a position not to be able to continue to control those, because it would have been helpful to have more bidders. He is also interested in finding out how the County is going to be transitioning the current employees at the kitchen out as the County moves through this process. It is a discussion that is going to be held and hopefully allowing those folks who have provided service to the County an opportunity to continue to stay at some level, with either the Nutrition Group company, but also to give consideration for any job openings that may happen within Dauphin County. While he thinks there are some
concerns moving forward, he was really impressed with the quality of the meal, the openness to be able to allow the County to have dialogue, however he is still in a position of being a watchdog.

Mr. Haste stated that in reality the County has two bids. We have a PSSU bid of $7.37 and a Nutrition Group bid of $5.57. There are two options.

Mr. Baratucci indicated that there was something added to the bid to address Mr. Hartwick’s concern. The maximum this can go up per year is 2%. It is a three year contract so the maximum it can go up for the life of the contract would be 2% each for the second and third years. It is tied to a consumer index and it says the lesser of the index or maximum of 2%.

Mr. Pries stated that when you look at a 2% increase over three years, the County would still be spending less than what is currently being spent.

**Question:** Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – No; motion carried.

**TRAINING PACKET**

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hartwick stated that this morning he was at a breakfast and hopefully having the bill signing of a number of important legislation on the hill. It appears that the prescription drug monitoring is now being sent back to the Senate for concurrence. The idea of the good Samaritan Bill and the name change of the Department of Public Welfare are all priorities of the CCAP Human Services Committee, under the leadership of President Haste and the oversights have been accomplished for the year, which based upon what is happening on the hill is something that this Board is proud of. Hopefully this will begin the process of restricting the ability and access to prescription drugs. He was on the phone yesterday with two mothers, a 19 and 20 year old heroin addicts in their house and the story that he hears over and over is the idea of not knowing if their child is going to be alive or dead the next time the phone rings. Not trying to press too hard, because there are threats that the individual may be committing suicide, trying to balance their emotion and what to do and what decisions to make with trying to press the young individuals to address their addiction issues. It is a complicated issue that is ripping at the hearts of families throughout this County, state and country. He is hopeful that Senate Bill 1180 is at least one step in the right direction. There are no easy answers, but it is something that is happening every day in every section of the community. It is something that this Board will continue to try to address.

Mr. Haste stated that he was involved in a meeting this morning on some Federal matters. EPA has extended the comment period on the U.S. Waters Bill, which is
important to many folks here in Pennsylvania. It appears that there is at least a
tentative agreement among legislative leaders at the Federal level to deal with the
transportation trust fund shortfall in the lame duck session. That is important, because
they can’t do the ongoing Federal transportation bill until the trust fund deficit is dealt
with.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – BRUCE FOREMAN, ESQ.

Mr. Foreman reported that the Solicitor’s Report has been circulated. It is anticipated
that all of the items on the report will be ready for action at the Legislative Meeting next
week. (There were no questions.)

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor reported that this is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Dauphin County is
joining in the celebration of “For Every Fight Won, For Each Battle Lost, For Those Still
Fighting” by asking County employees to wear pink on Friday, October 17th.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz