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; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Gerald Feaser, Jr., Director of Registration & Elections; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Jeff Enders, EMA; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Greg Schneider, Budget & Finance; George Connor, Community & Economic Development; Daniel Crum, EMA; Bart Shellenhammer, EMA; Craig Powers, EMA; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Eric Papenfuse, Wayne Martin, Stephanie D. McMurray, Wayne Martin, Jackie Parker, Susan Wilson, Karl Singleton, Craig Layne, Leah Pearlman-Storch, Vennicee Brice, Tom Connolly, Andrew Patterson, Joe Lahr, Della Taylor, Annette Coleman, Sheena Mosley, Antonio Eubanks, Maria Vargas, Donnie Graves, Bruce Weber, James Roxbury, Stephen Horn, WGAL, WHP, and Fox 43

MINUTES
CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 was one Executive Session held this morning (April 15, 2015) to discuss personnel matters.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Dauphin County Commissioners

   1. Emergency Management Agency – Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and Awards

Mr. Pries stated that the Board will be presenting a Proclamation and other awards for the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Dauphin County. The first responders are the most valuable community assets. Those individuals are there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They are responding within a moments’ notice and are there for the residents in their time of greatest need. One arm of the first responders is the telecommunicators, those outstanding individuals who work at the EMA Office. They are the calm, cool and collective voice on the other end of the phone when folks are calling.

Mr. Pries read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, take immense pride and pleasure in commending the extraordinary composure, compassion and expertise of our exceedingly valuable - but often unrecognized - public safety telecommunicators during the week of April 12th to April 18th, 2015;

Whereas, since 1991, during the second week of April, we have recognized the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators, and although they are often invisible at the scene of an emergency, they have directly contributed to saving life and property in Dauphin County;

Whereas, 48 full-time and 7 part-time public safety telecommunicators operate the only recognized Public Safety Answering Point in Dauphin County;

Whereas, these skillful and expertly trained telecommunicators offer callers life-saving medical instructions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and dispatch the fire, police, and medical units urgently needed in an emergency;

Whereas, in 2014, Dauphin County telecommunicators answered more than 1,100 calls per day and dispatched assistance more than 400,000 times for crises ranging from horrifying accidents and crimes to medical emergencies, each time patiently assisting terrified callers and providing rapid response to get the care needed during a great time of distress;

Therefore, in grateful tribute to the life-saving aid offered by the calm, competent and reassuring voice at the other end of every 9-1-1 call, we proudly join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in proclaiming the week of April 12th to April 18th, 2015 as “Public Safety Telecommunicators Week” and thank our county telecommunicators for offering critical aid each and every time an emergency occurs.
Mr. Libhart thanked the Commissioners for this recognition. The County’s Emergency Telecommunicators represent the single largest component of the County’s Emergency Management’s manpower team. The men and women there typically do not get any kind of recognition, because frankly if they are doing their job and doing it well they are unheard of. The only time they get any attention is if it is going to be bad attention. Days like this are very meaningful to them and him, because he is quite proud to be affiliated with each and every one of them. They all deserve recognition for completing the arduous training that is required, before they can even take a call - the maintenance of those qualifications and certifications. Out of the 55 Telecommunicators that the County has, more than 70% of them have past, present and continuing experience as public safety professionals in either medical, police or fire fields, if not multiple fields. It is a huge credit to them and a huge benefit to the County. They really do serve the citizens of the County in an exceptional manner. He thanked them for the recognition.

Mr. Pries stated that one can only imagine the horrific conditions that are taking place when these individuals are getting the phone calls – family emergencies, vehicular accidents, shootings and other types of emergencies that are taking place involving a loved one. Whether it is a child or an adult calling in, the Telecommunicators are the calm, cool and collective voice on the other end of the phone trying to keep things under control. A few years ago, a County employee’s wife was in a house fire in Hummelstown, the house is in flames and she has no way to get out. The individual on the other end of the line kept her calm and the firefighters were able to save her life.

Mr. Libhart stated that EMA is in the bad day business. It is a great testament to the capabilities of everyone that is in EMA that they can maintain that composure, the ability to be rational and the ability to get help there, while at the same time giving some reassurance to the caller who in all likelihood will be the only time that they will ever dial 9-1-1 and that is the only interaction they will have with the County’s services.

Mr. Pries stated that several years ago the County took over the City’s 9-1-1 dispatch and then Middletown’s. This saved Harrisburg $700,000 a year and Middletown $300,000 a year, which now only leaves Derry Township doing their own 9-1-1 services.

Mr. Haste stated that it is not always a bad day. Sometimes it is a good day when a life comes in instead of going out.

Mr. Hartwick stated that it is his honor to call on some of the heroes that Commissioner Pries had discussed. He thanked Governor Wolf for sticking strong to CCAP’s position of needing additional dollars for 9-1-1. CCAP has made this its top priority and is making sure that the State fully funds, as was committed by the State. The State has not kept up with the funding commitments when the County’s took over the 9-1-1 systems in the early 1980’s. Yesterday there was discussion and the Governor made it very clear that where the legislation is going is not going to be enough to be able to
allow for a long-term solution for counties to be able to meet those future needs. They need an increase that reflects $2 per call, not the $1.65 that is being proposed out of Committee. Obviously there is other technology that is going to come online that will make this legislation obsolete. They hope that those considerations are also made before something finally passes.

The Board would like to honor those individuals who work for Dauphin County that have been involved in lifesaving or in the case of the first individual – Andrew Mahalchick bringing a life into the world. Andrew on September 1, 2014 assisted in bringing a baby girl into the world. There is stork pin for Andrew. (He was not able to attend the meeting.)

Mr. Libhart stated that Andrew is unavailable due to a prior commitment. Generally speaking when a stork pin is awarded – from the evidence on the recording and by the report of the individual, the telecommunicators talk the individual through the entire birthing process. Oftentimes, it can happen at everyone’s surprise and transpires much quicker than anyone anticipates.

Mr. Hartwick stated that this is one of many stork pins that the Board has been able to issue. There was a baby girl delivered.

Allison Emerick - The resident requested to commend the 9-1-1 operator for a seizure that Allison had assisted in.

Ms. Emerick stated that it was an ongoing condition for the resident and for his wife. It wasn’t unrealistic for them. They feel better about what they are doing. The sister-in-law was a nurse and that is who Allison gave instructions to, however, it makes residents feel better that they are reassured and that someone is there helping them until someone is actually there. It ended up being a brain tumor that they had removed and she is now going to make it.

Mr. Hartwick stated so ultimately it did end up saving a life eventually.

(Applause was given.)

Andrew Patterson was involved in something that was in the newspaper. It ultimately ended up saving a life, but it was a horrific story about some woman attempting to put a newborn into a dumpster. Through Andrew’s quick action and the ability to provide response that baby is here today. He is familiar with the case.

Mr. Patterson stated that he had a gentleman call and he was speaking about a lady that he passed and he thought she was carrying a dog with a sheet. This was in the middle of winter, below freezing. When he walked passed her, she had a baby wrapped in nothing but a sheet. He offered his coat or a blanket. Andrew told the man to keep following the lady until she tried to put the baby in the dumpster and because he
followed her the whole way across the City, he stopped her and then the police arrived and took the baby from the lady.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the County thanks Andrew for his quick actions and the ability to stay persistent and making sure that the baby is still here.

(Applause was given.)

Marlin Castillo – She was unable to be here. She is currently working in the Center.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that she took exceptional initiative to locate a caller in a domestic situation.

Mr. Libhart stated it was a unique call and is a good example of, even though there are certain protocols and industry accepted standards, she played a hunch. She took a call that just didn’t sound right. She did some more digging. She verified a location and basically was able to ascertain from some vague responses of the individual that the caller was in a very bad position, in terms of their own safety. She played it out as a police dispatch event, which ultimately ended up discovering a domestic abuse situation.

(Applause was given.)

Craig Powers – He is getting a lifesaver pin for providing lifesaving CPR instructions on June 7, 2014.

Mr. Powers stated that it was a cardiac arrest call that was received. Originally it started out they were not sure on the breathing status. One of the questions that is always asked is whether or not they are breathing. There was an uncertain amount. They continued with the process and finally the individual said that they were not breathing. They began CPR instructions until EMS arrived. Once EMS arrived on the scene the person did have a pulse and they transported the patient to the facility. EMS called the Center back and said that they saved the person’s life.

(Applause was given.)

Daniel Crum – He is receiving a lifesaver pin for providing lifesaving airway obstruction on May 30, 2014.

Mr. Crum thanked the Commissioners. He vaguely remembers the call. They take a lot of calls throughout the year. He does recall it was a female aide who was with an elderly patient and they were choking on a sausage. There was a little confusion about the airway so he provided the choking instructions and the aide was able to stay calm, cool and collect, and followed the instructions and was able to remove the piece of food that was lodged in his throat and advised Daniel that he was able to breathe again.
(Applause was given.)

(Pictures were taken and applause given.)

Mr. Haste asked that when they go back to the Center if they can let their colleagues know that this Board appreciates everything that they do. The Board values what they do. Even though the Board only gets to say this once a year, the Board really appreciates what goes on.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Papenfuse thanked the County. There was an excellent Emergency Response Drill last night. It was very well organized on the municipal level. He feels very confident that if there is a future flood or incident at TMI or anything else that we will be extremely well coordinated. A testament to the County’s Emergency Response Team, to Steve and everybody else, they are pleased at how well things went last night.

He knows that each of the Commissioners is committed to the residents of South Harrisburg, especially South 14th Street. He thought it might be helpful if they just came and spoke directly to one another about this issue, because the City wants to work for a solution that works for the residents. Sometimes that can be lost in the back and forth. They are here to make an appeal directly one-on-one and to answer any questions that the Board may have. He is joined by Wayne Martin, who is the City Engineer. He is going to talk a little bit about the main issues that confront the City in funding the sinkhole. There is a lot in the media about deficiencies in the City’s application. They have a letter, which he provided to the Chief Clerk. It is a response to Consultant McNamee’s outlined concerns. It takes each of them, one by one, and provides a written answer that he hopes the Board will find convincing. While they were called deficiencies, a lot of the things are sort of basic factual questions. For instance – Are the houses in South 14th Street in a historic district. The answer is no. One of the deficiencies was solved. They can go through them all and make that clear. It really boils down to two issues. One is does the City see a direct connection between the sinkhole and Tropical Storm Lee. The City does and they feel that they have made that case, but they want to make that case directly to the Board. He was on the phone yesterday with the Regional Director for HUD and having listened to Wayne make that case, from HUD’s perspective they felt it was very convincing and HUD agreed that it might be helpful just to come and make that case to the Board in person. If you as the Grantee feel that there is a convincing tie that has been made then that is really the only issue holding the City back from moving forward with the funding. The secondary related issue is the issue of the historical and environmental review. Having spoken to FEMA and HUD, it is everyone’s opinion that needs to be coordinated with FEMA and that is something that can be done as it moves forward together. The first step is “do you feel there is a convincing connection between Tropical Storm Lee and the sinkhole”. If the Commissioners do, the Board can signify that they are going to award the funds contingent upon the successful completion of that review by FEMA. Why is it important that this be done and why is there a time clock ticking – the Mayor wished that the
Commissioners could have joined them for the sinkhole summit that was done a few months back. It was an incredible piece of work that was put together by a lot of different people. The Federal delegation was there and Congressman Perry come to the actual event and they got FEMA, on the Federal level, for the first time ever to change their policies to allow sinkholes to be covered as a part of hazardous mitigation. The window to apply for that, nationally, is about to open. The City is at a point now where they have PEMA ready to put forth the application as the priority for Pennsylvania and to hopefully seize that window, but they have to have a local match. The local match for that comes from the County – CDBG-DR funds. Sinkholes were never eligible before, so the City is in a little bit of unchartered ground. If the City and County can work together, the City is confident that they can bring a full funding package to the residents of South Harrisburg that is going to work for them. The City doesn’t want to miss that window. If the City does, there is a limited amount of Federal money available and it is going to be open to any State in the country to apply for. This is the City’s moment to do it. He will let Wayne talk about the connectivity between the sinkhole and Tropical Storm Lee.

Mr. Martin thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to make a presentation today. He appreciates the fact that the connection needs to be made in documentations before any awards or commitments are done. He has immersed himself in this project and some of his assumptions may have been missed. He accepts full responsibility for any shortcomings in the City’s application in that regard. The letter that is in front of you does detail all the evidence that supports that connection between Tropical Storm Lee and the frequent and reoccurring sinkhole activity on South 14th Street.

There are basically three ways that sinkholes form. Pumping of ground water (in the news in Florida) where underground aquifers are drained of all their water and the surface collapses. There is the physical and chemical weathering of rock. Physical being a slow process – over thousands of years river rocks are smoothed out. There is a chemical weathering, which is the limestone Karst that is susceptible to acid. If you took a piece of limestone and drop it in a certain type of acid it would fizz. Rain in Pennsylvania is acidic. Spring Creek, which runs along the project area is acidic. There is also subsurface erosion due to failure of utilities. That can be sewer lines that allow ground matter to go into a failed pipe and end up in a sewer treatment plant or a water line that breaks and causes erosion of the underground subsurface. The City knows that this isn’t the pumping of ground water. There are no sewer lines on South 14th Street. There are gas lines and a water line that failed concurrently with the sinkhole that opened up in March 2014. Capital Region Water owns that line. That pipeline was taken and given to an independent engineer, paid for by, he presumes, their insurance company, and studied and analyzed. The conclusion was that the fraction in the line was caused by the soil underneath that pipe. That is consistent with what is being seen. The City is seeing sinkhole activity, surface depressions on roads in that area that don’t have any utilities (Scott Street). There was no evidence of that line leaking before the eruption and Capital Region Water does measure pressure. The City knows that this was some sort of chemical weathering of the rock. This is limestone Karst and it is well documented in the Gannett Fleming Reports. Gannett
Fleming took a core boring and the City has that core boring which shows that was limestone rock. The soil level is clay. Clay has the capability to arch. In the report, Gannett Fleming explains how that potentially a sinkhole would not have manifested itself right away. During Tropical Storm Lee the rainfalls were unprecedented – 15 plus inches in Dauphin County. That excessive rainfall loading will cause groundwater to heave and trap water within the rock pinnacles, the limestone Karst tends to undulate. The City believes that excessive loading amount during Tropical Storm Lee weakened the ground structure resulting in that sinkhole activity. The best evidence to support this is the fact that Dauphin County Hazardous Mitigation Plan does document the sinkhole activities in Dauphin County. It shows two sinkholes up until 2010 in the general vicinity of the South 14th Street. Since Tropical Storm Lee the City has had at least five large sinkholes that have opened up and that does not include the 40 some surface depressions and other evidence. He spoke to residents of the community and the activity has increased since Tropical Storm Lee. The City does believe that is the direct connection. The City doesn’t think that it is a coincidence that this activity keeps occurring. They hope that the County sees that connection. He understands that this is unknown, probably the first sinkhole project to be presented for CDBG-DR money. There are some precedent decisions in Florida, through FEMA, where they used FEMA relief money attributing sinkhole activity to storms and excessive groundwater heaving of the soil. He just wanted to make sure that although it is new and different, that it doesn’t have some heightened level of scrutiny. If this was a bridge project, he is a structural engineer, he has designed tunnels, bridges and retaining walls, and he knows that if a bridge came in every two years when it is inspected and was a scour critical bridge and then Tropical Storm Lee came and caused additional damage to that pier footing there would be no question that it is a fundable project. Here, could subsequent rain contribute to the sinkhole activity – certainly, but there is no doubt, in his professional opinion that the excessive loading during that flood event weakened that ground structure, which is causing that frequent reoccurring sinkhole activity. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Pries indicated that he has not had an opportunity to read the letter, which he will do. At this point he will hold his remarks. He appreciates them coming to the meeting and providing this information.

Mr. Haste stated to correct something that the Mayor said. The County is not holding back this project. The County has actually been trying to help. The County needs to make sure that the project meets HUD’s demands and needs. The risk that the County has and it has been directly asked of HUD as recently as yesterday, if in fact the County would grant this and not have HUD’s approval or understanding of it now and HUD came in and did an audit and found that there was a deficiency; the County would have to pay the funds back. The County feels, as does the City, that this is a good project. The problem is that the County needs to make sure that it has the appropriate documentation to prove it so there is not a comeback on the County sometime later. Bridges were mentioned and everyone knows that if you don’t document things properly, it gets delayed or rejected. The bridge analogy was somewhat spot on, but
much smaller. The risk of dollars having to be refunded is too great to not make sure that this is done correctly.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he has every intention to try to figure out a way to make this project work. The idea that the County is not in that position is something that was created, not something that is a part of dialogue. He read through the Engineer Report again for the second time. In the application there was a reference to what occurred between Tropical Storm Lee and the sinkhole, but in nowhere, at least in the Engineer Report that was submitted with this application, does it create a nexus at all between the actual Tropical Storm and the sinkholes. He learned more about what was filled into that project, what the soil makeup is, and the number of cracks that exist at that location. He personally went to look at the location and also took a look at all the residents that are affected. There was a Tax Assessment Appeal Hearing yesterday that reduced the values of those properties, which has an effect on all tax bases, but the key is what the City tells the County versus what is submitted in writing to be able to create that nexus is all that the County has asked for. He doesn’t know why there is all this other confusion. The County will remain committed to get this project funded. The idea of trying to get what the County needed was the challenge. There has been a lot of discussion and talk. The County has to determine, through the County’s engineering and process, to do its own environmental review, which is required of the process whether or not this is an argument that actually is one that can fit into the slot. This is the first one that he has seen outside of just these conversations or the mention in the application. If the County would have had this ten days ago the County would have been a little further along. Hopefully the County will be able to have the process of reviewing the level of what is submitted and finding out ways to work together to justify it. He has talked to every Federal official too. The County is trying to advocate for this project. The County is not trying to stand in the way. He doesn’t know why that isn’t clear. The actual project that is submitted here is for some subsurface repair and the road surface repair. One of the things that is also clear in here is that this is going to be for matching funds, these dollars, if awarded, are not going to be used for buy outs of residents. They are going to be used for other parts of the project that will also be leveraged for matching funds. He read through all the FEMA requirements and there should be some dialogue about concerns he has there. He would rather figure out ways to get around them than have public discussions about them and a lot of back and forth, because that doesn’t make the project in a better position when those things are discussed publicly. He would rather have the story straight and together so everyone can be contacting the Federal officials and all the folks at HUD and the relationships that have been built from the NACo level to be able to allow this project to be funded. That is his position.

Mr. Pries stated that this Board is not against assisting this project. The Board sees what is happening. He asked how many people in the audience are affected by the sinkholes. (There was a few in the audience.) Where he lives, he had a sinkhole in front of his house, in the front yard, that affected his family for ten months and Mr. Memmi’s mother’s house was affected. He knows what it feels like. Every morning you would wake up to see if it got bigger or if another one opened up. The stress that the
residents have is not something you want to live with. Unless you live through it, people have no idea what you are talking about other than you got a hole in front of your house. It is not a fun thing to live through. He did it and he hopes it never happens again. The Board is here for the residents and wants this process to move forward. At no point has the Board of Commissioners or even the City Government been out there saying that they don’t want this to work. It has to be done in a joint cooperative manner. The residents have the Board’s word that it is supportive of this project in some way, shape or form.

Mr. Saylor stated that this appears to be a lot of the information that the County needs to move this project forward. He will get it to the County’s Engineer right away. Mr. Martin mentioned Florida as an example; he asked if Mr. Martin could provide additional information that would be helpful.

Mr. Martin stated that Florida he believes is Region 6, there was an appeal decision that he can forward to Mr. Saylor.

Mr. Saylor indicated that would be great. He would also like to set up a meeting with Gannett Fleming just to talk with them to make sure that everyone is on the same page. All the questions that have been asked of the City have been questions that were asked from all the other applicants. The County needs to have the necessary information so when HUD audits the project that the County can prove that it meets all the HUD guidelines. What makes this situation different, as you noted, is that the damage happened immediately. Here the flood impacted this, but you didn’t see the damage until two or three years later. That is what makes this information somewhat more challenging. Ultimately the County wants to get funding from FEMA through this grant program, $3 million, the funding that the County is going to provide can only be used for infrastructure, but the key is that the City wants to use it as the match to get the Hazardous Mitigation Grant from PEMA that will go for the homeowners up there. He looked at the website and he thought that there was a requirement for this funding that properties be located within the 100 year flood plain. He asked if he misunderstood that.

Mr. Martin stated for the Hazardous Mitigation Grant, the City is going on the guidance of PEMA. PEMA is saying these sinkholes are fundable under that program.

Mr. Papenfuse thanked the Commissioners and look forward to working with the County and also thanked the Board for their time this morning.

**Tom Connolly**

Mr. Connolly lives in Swatara Township. He has two issues today. He recently saw a news report where Vice Chairman Pries was talking about recycling in the County and ways to increase recycling. He has a suggestion for both the Primary and General Elections that since the County delivers machines to all the polling places that they have recycling bins available for campaign literature. It seems like that would make sure that
the paper products get recycled. Forms are handed out on Election Day and they sometimes get disposed of improperly. Having a recycling bin at each polling place for recyclable campaign materials would help with the recycling efforts.

He mentioned that he has a Power Point presentation that he would like to show. It deals with an issue of litter and it deals with litter and conditions in the area of 28th & Sycamore, Paxton and Route 441. That particular property has Spring Creek Rehab, a lot for sale, MDJ Office, Dauphin County Bulk Storage and Dauphin County Forensic and Bistline Home.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that Bistline Home is owned by the Housing Authority.

Mr. Connolly asked if he could do the Power Point. He did send a pdf to the County spokeswoman this morning. All he wants to do is advance the slides real briefly.

Mr. Saylor asked if he could get the document printed out.

Mr. Haste asked what the issue is and if it is trash that needs to be picked up.

Mr. Connolly stated that there is trash. In with the trash is a good bit of surgical masks and latex gloves. To him, it looks like improper disposal of personal protective equipment. It is blowing all over the property.

Mr. Haste stated that it is probably coming from the nursing home.

Mr. Connolly stated that area looked like that a year ago. In Swatara Township he does four clean-ups a year. He does a Martin Luther King Day of Service, Earth Day Litter Clean-up, Thanksgiving Day of Thanks and a Back to School Clean-up. The area was cleaned. The litter that is there now and some could have HIPPA violations. He found pieces of paper with patient’s names and room numbers on it. Some of the cardboard that is thrown in that area has labels on it. It would say Spring Creek Rehabilitation Center. Some of them have dates. He photographed the area in April 2014, in advance of the clean-up and then he went back there in April 2015. There is a storm drain directly behind MDJ Smith’s Office that has a surgical mask hung up in vegetation and then there are other types of hospital materials down in the storm drain. There is a nice ramp that was built at the end of the parking lot where surgical masks and latex gloves are blowing through that opening in the fence and going into Spring Creek and the Greenbelt. They do a Township wide clean-up four times, this is the worst area. He worked with the Harrisburg Mall because of trash along 441 and they got more litter either directly across the Greenbelt in the creek area that leads over to the far end of Gibson Blvd., there is a County walkway that goes from the Prison to the Work Release Center. It is filled with trash. The thing that concerns him is that if this is medical personal protective equipment, it is not being disposed of properly. When he comes downtown, he walks by the Harrisburg Hospital and he can’t say that he ever stepped over surgical masks or latex gloves. He has never seen that at the Hershey Medical Center either. He asked if there is the ability to look at the slides.
Mr. Haste indicated that they will have them printed out and will talk to the nursing home.

Mr. Pries indicated that he has a couple of questions. Thank you for bringing up the Hershey Medical Center and that it doesn’t have any litter out there. The Township Board of Supervisors has Ordinances and they make sure that they are followed, as well as their enforcement codes. The City has the same thing. Harrisburg City Council and the enforcement folks make sure that stuff is kept on an even keel. In Swatara Township, where these properties are located, Mr. Connolly mentioned that it goes back to April 2014. Mr. Pries asked what has the Township done to remedy this situation in the last year. Has any documentation been provided to the County prior to today or is this where Mr. Connolly is showing up saying that this issue has occurred or is Mr. Connolly doing something as a Township Commissioner along with the Township code enforcement people.

Mr. Connolly stated that when it was identified last year as one of the worst areas with litter, as part of the Township Earth Day Clean-up, they set up a canopy and set up their registration center directly across in the area of the Greenbelt at that location, 1281 S. 28th Street, directly in front of the driveway. They cleaned the area. This was on a Saturday. It was advertised in the Township newsletter and promoted additional clean-ups. Swatara Township Highway Department then came on Monday and took away a truckload of trash from that specific location. There is also some illegal dumping there. They had another pile of trash at the corner of Sycamore and 28th Street. Basically, he and the Township Highway Department, felt that in 2014 they had cleaned the entire situation. The reason for bringing it up today, as part of this year’s clean-up, April 5th he started to review areas that they would clean for the 2015 Earth Day Clean-up. This was not one of the areas that he planned on cleaning up. In fact, he wanted to use it as an example. They posted on line a picture in front of this particular location from the 2014 Clean-up as a recruiting tool and a success. He went back through and the Greenbelt portion was relatively clean everywhere except as he approached the County Home. He took some pictures on April 5 and then went back to review the area. He does plan on addressing it with Swatara Township. He doesn’t know if he is going to target that as a second clean-up. He doesn’t want volunteers picking up surgical masks and medical waste.

Mr. Pries stated that he is not arguing that part of it. As an elected official in the Township, that he could go and talk to the District Justice about potentially providing citations for those businesses that are not following the rules, if they are not. He mentioned that traveling along 283 and parts of Eisenhauer Blvd., if he had a truck he could pick up a ton of debris along the roadways within Swatara Township as well. Hopefully that is being monitored as well as these particular areas.

Mr. Haste asked if the Township provided notice to the nursing home of the violation. He assumes that the Township has a code against that. If it does, he asked if the Township put the nursing home on notice of the violation.
Mr. Connolly stated that he can find that out. He was giving the County a courtesy, because there are a lot of County related buildings there.

Mr. Haste indicated that he is just asking if the Township made anyone aware of this situation.

Mr. Connolly stated to let the County know.

Mr. Haste asked if the Township notified the nursing home.

Mr. Hartwick asked if the Township sent a letter to the nursing home indicating their trash outside and this is not the first time and then send an officer to document and then send a formal notice to the nursing home that would result in fines and penalties through the district justice system. That is how the local government would work.

Mr. Connolly stated that the complaint would have to be made against the Bistline House, the District Justice and the County Bulk Storage Facility and maybe the investigation would show that all the litter is coming from one place.

Mr. Pries stated that these are properties that are located within the Township where Mr. Connolly is serving as a Township Commissioner. Mr. Pries asked what the Township is doing about this subject prior to bringing it to the County level. The County is interested in it now, because Mr. Connolly brought it to the Board’s attention. He is more interested in knowing what the Commissioners in Swatara Township have done in the past year to make this go away. It sounds like nothing has been done.

Mr. Connolly stated that last year the property was cleaned and this all became apparent in the last couple of weeks as the snow melted. They have done clean-ups in the Eisenhower Interchange. Litter comes back.

Mr. Pries stated that these specific locations, it is a year later, it is the same place, he asked if they were reached out to in the past year to tell them that there is an issue or is it an issue now.

Mr. Connolly stated that it is an issue again. It was cleaned at one point.

Mr. Pries stated that if he lived in Swatara Township he would want to know what his elected officials were doing about cleaning up some messes that the Township is aware of. He asked if the Township has contacted the nursing home.

Mr. Connolly stated that they are in the process of doing an Earth Day Clean-up and that is what led him back to the areas. If the County doesn’t have any responsibility to…
Mr. Pries indicated that he never said that. He asked Mr. Connolly what he did as a Township Commissioner prior to today before bringing this to the County to fix it.

Mr. Connolly indicated that he is bringing it to the County to fix it on that particular property, because it is related to the County. He went to the Mall and they got employees from the Mall and they cleaned it up.

Mr. Saylor stated that they are trying to print out the document and there is an issue with the copier. It is a 40-page document. She did email it to the Commissioners. He will also make sure that Mr. Kepler gets a copy.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the facilities should be notified about the concerns.

Mr. Pries stated that Mr. Connolly mentioned about an illegal dump site. Mr. Kepler, with the Illegal Dumping Task Force will be more than happy to engage if they are notified. Mr. Pries indicated that he will call him right after this meeting to get in touch with Mr. Connolly.

Mr. Connolly stated that there could be an easy resolution, because the entire property is posted with signs that there is video surveillance.

Mr. Hartwick stated that Mr. Connolly should follow the steps that Mr. Pries outlined. Those properties should be put on notice. He would do that based upon Mr. Connolly’s position as Swatara Township Commissioner. That is something that should be done the first time something is found.

Mr. Connolly stated that he is making that a priority and that is why they added four clean-ups a year. He appreciates the time.

Donnie Graves

Mr. Graves lives in the South 14th Street (sinkhole area). He is here on behalf of South 14th Street. It goes way beyond the sinkhole. The four-way street is blocked off. People are constantly running the stop sign. He talked to the Mayor about doing something and the Mayor says that there is nothing he can do about the stop sign. They could make that a one-way.

Mr. Haste asked if there is only one stop sign now.

Mr. Graves indicated that there are two stop signs. Now they are running those stop signs.

Mr. Haste asked about the intersection.

Mr. Graves indicated that it is 14th & Magnolia. It gets hectic when the kids are going to school. Nobody wants to take the blame for it. Now, the Mayor sees a way to do
something. He understands the City doesn’t have any money to do anything. Someone else should be doing demolish. He wants to know why the City should do the project to get money for it instead of letting someone else do it. The City is looking for a way to get a dime out of the project instead of trying to help the residents.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the Board appreciates Mr. Graves bringing forth his concerns. The Board wants to figure out ways to work with the residents. A traffic study should be done to see if that is something that can be done. If it is legitimate and there is a safety concern that is identified by law enforcement, they can make an appropriate adjustment of the street direction and the signage on that location. He doesn’t know if the City performed a traffic study to see if that is something that would be an assistance with that particular safety concern.

Mr. Graves stated that the Harrisburg Police run the stop sign so that makes everyone else do it.

Maria Vargas

Ms. Vargas is from South 14th Street. She has been speaking with the Commissioners for the past two weeks. She commended the Commissioners for what the Board has done for the residents in the past two weeks. They got nothing from the City at this point. She heard on the news that there was no funding being able to come from the County. She has an issue with the Mayor. The Mayor came here today and spoke his mind and invited the residents to come down here as well. She didn’t come here, because the Mayor invited her. She came because she has been working with the Commissioners’ Office for two weeks. She asked her neighbors to come to the meeting as well to find out the real story of what is going on and also to notify the residents that it’s not that the Board never wanted to provide the money. The Commissioners are not the issue. It goes back to the fact that the City didn’t do the proper work on their end. It is in the Gannett Fleming report that there is nothing in there whatsoever that it relates to Tropical Lee Storm. She dared the Mayor two weeks ago to put this out to the media. Their lives are very stressful. There are elderly neighbors. They believe there is no hope for this situation. The fact that the Mayor puts it out there that the Commissioners are not going to help at all didn’t help the situation whatsoever. When she heard it herself from the media, she immediately called the next morning to Commissioner Hartwick’s Office and asked for her own information and to provide to the residents as the head person for the block. She asked what is going on and why not. She never got from day one that the Commissioners were not going to do this at all. The Commissioners are not at fault for it at all. The City has been doing this from day one. From day one it was between the City and Capital Region Water pointing hands back and forth. They are living day by day. They don’t know what is going to happen. It is sad that they live that way and the Mayor continues to blame somebody instead of stepping up to the plate and taking care of the situation. Once again she commended the Commissioners and the Office for allowing them to provide the applications of the FEMA grants to check on the status of them, because the Mayor’s Office has not done any of that. They filled out the paperwork on January 6 & 7. She does not like to find
out information on the back end through the media. The whole block should have been called to tell the story of what he was telling, which was a lie anyway, but not to hear the information through the media.

Mr. Hartwick stated that as things progress, at least have an open line of communication. The Board can even go out to the residents to meet. There are some additional barriers. Anyone that tells you that there are not, is not being direct and forward. As everyone goes through this process, the media and the back and forth are not helpful, he would rather have direct conversation and the ability to work through these issues, again there are some alternative ways that have been kicked around in being able to assist. The residents have the Board’s commitment to help. How that looks, the Board is not exactly sure of, but will figure out a way to try to make something work. Regular meetings should be scheduled, because the residents are paying a mortgage and rent and most folks can't meet those obligations period, let alone now not even knowing what the uncertainty is of the future of the properties.

Mr. Haste thanked Maria. As a Board member he is somewhat frustrated. The Board understands the County’s priority and that is the residents. Just because the Board gets bad information or cooperation doesn’t mean that the County is not there to help the residents. When this happened and there was first talk about trying to help folks get other places to live, George Connor was on it from day one and the County has been working with people. They met with the City trying to see if there wasn’t alternatives for housing and the whole process has been frustrating. That doesn't mean that the County isn’t doing everything it can. When the residents hear those doubts, do exactly what has been done and come in and ask the Board. The County has been on the phone with the Federal folks and is trying to make sure that it is done correctly.

Ms. Vargas stated that she also has a copy of the Mayor’s paper that he provided to the Board. It states that this is information missing out of the Gannett Fleming Report. She commended the Commissioners for stepping in and helping. As far as the Mayor going to the County for the CDBG grant for the 3%, she could care less about them grouting the street. At the end of the day, the whole area needs to be torn down. So, the City trying to mortar mix in the ground, they still have to be careful. The houses are still shifting. It is getting worse as time goes. There is no help to fix the street. The block is finished. Why couldn't the Mayor get into his administrative budget and get the money from there and collect his money back later on.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that after the meeting he will have Julie meet with her to set up some regular meetings.

Sheena Mosley

Ms. Mosley stated that she used to reside at South 14th Street. She was displaced. What the City says is that the first sinkhole opened on March 20. When it opened, it opened 11 feet. What the City isn’t telling you is that her home has to be knocked down. She has a 14 feet hole underneath her home. Her home is collapsing.
she came to Tax Assessment, she provided pictures. She just went out to her home
again and took measurements and her house dropped three more inches from the last
time she was in. The City has done nothing. Her and her husband struggle to pay
money to live in a townhouse that they don’t fix anything, plus to pay mortgage on her
house with the sinkhole. It has affected her kids. The City has provided nothing. If the
Commissioners decide to help the City, please decide to help her and her family so they
can get another house. She has a geological report that indicates that her house has to
be knocked down and built from ground to top. Please think about her and her family if
the Board is going to help anybody. They were in a hotel for 22 weeks. They cancelled
the sinkhole coverage. They have a lot of stress and the City hasn’t done anything.

Mr. Hartwick asked what her house number is.

Ms. Mosley stated 1421. It is where the first sinkhole opened up. Her kids are not
allowed to play outside. It is horrible. Her health is bad, she has asthma.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he feels where she is at. There is obviously a need for some
immediate relief.

Mr. Saylor stated that part of the application process and some of the information we
asked from the City is a relocation plan. Obviously a lot of the homes will have to be
demolished.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions on the Salary Board requests or the
Personnel Packet. (There was none.)

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

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci stated that the Packet is very small. There are no budget issues. He
asked if there were any questions. (There was none.)

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

**TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Saylor indicated that he is requesting a vote on Training Requests #6, #12 and #13.

> It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board
approve Items #6, #12 and #13 of the Training Packet.
**Question:** Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT – JOE CURCILLO, III, ESQ.**

Mr. Curcillo reported that the majority of the items will be ready for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

**CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR**

Mr. Saylor stated that he has nothing to report unless there are questions of him. (There was none.)

**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Hartwick stated that he appreciates the courage of residents and understands the issues that they are going through. Everyone needs to communicate and figure out ways to help with this situation. The answers may not always be what you want to hear, but everyone needs to work towards getting something accomplished. Regular meetings will be scheduled. It would be great to work with folks on what the facts are. The Board’s motive is to help folks, not play politics.

Mr. Pries indicated that he agrees with Mr. Hartwick. The finger pointing and the back and forth solves nothing. He hears the individuals that are directly impacted by the sinkholes and the disaster that they have with their family. The residents’ lives have been impacted on a daily basis - children not being able to play outside and the loss of the home. He asked how many people in the room are going home to their home. Just imagine not being able to go to your own home for a long period of time. The City and the County needs to work together to solve this problem. Today is a positive step in that direction.

**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.

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Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz