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, Ill, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Stacey Glickman, Controller’s Office; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Jeff Enders, EMA; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Greg Schneider, Budget & Finance; Jean Marfizo King, Register of Wills; Jack Lotwick, Sheriff; Sam Echevarria, Controller’s Office; Jack Duignan, Sheriff’s Office; Shelley Ruhl, Sheriff’s Office; Mike Klinger, Sheriff’s Office; Cathy Lotwick, Court Reporters; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Melissa Bradley, Human Resources; Faye Fisher, Director of Human Resources; James Zugay, Recorder of Deeds; Donna S. Miller, Commissioners’ Office; Troy Petery, MDJ Court Administration and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Daniel Gorenc, Ben Gorenc, Joan Gorenc, Brian Eemberg, Don Brink, Dawn Brink, Kim Brink, Deb Fleagle and family, news media, Dave Schlager, Karl Singleton, Julie Mattero, Jay Wenger, Kathy Cook, Brad Kopcha, Mike Musser and James Roxbury

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 two 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

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Dauphin County Commissioners

1. Special Presentation

Mr. Haste stated that it is privilege to honor two individuals who have been a member of this Dauphin County team for a long, long time. Today, the Board is going to be recognizing our retiring Controller Marie Rebuck and our retiring Sheriff, Jack Lotwick. (The Commissioners presented them with rocking chairs.) It is teamwork. It starts at the local level. Here at the County, it is really because of each and every one of the elected officials. When you look at some other counties, you don’t see the team spirit and teamwork that is seen here in Dauphin County. The County has been truly blessed to have been served by Marie for over 35 years.

Jack is an individual who got into the race in an awkward way. The candidate at the time was Herm Faiola. Herm had passed away right before the Primary. Folks reached out to Jack to see if he would be willing to assume that position if Herm was elected. Herm was elected, even though he was deceased. He believes it was because people knew the quality of individual that was going to be taking the position. Jack stepped up and took the position.
The Board doesn’t want to say farewell or goodbye. This is just a chair that they can sit in for a little while and hopefully be available for consultation as needed.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he has worked at several levels of government and has come across a lot of folks. One of things that he admires most of Marie is her strong leadership style, her ability to make sure she does what is right always, and her ability to make sure she has the numbers absolutely correct and for him to hear that she got it right is better than anybody showing you any other compliment. Over the years, she has gotten it right. Everyone has a responsibility to have checks and balances in government. The ability to have folks making sure that the taxpayers’ dollars are spent in the appropriate way and done in accordance with the County Code. He believes Marie has achieved that while he has been here in a way that makes him feel pretty confident moving forward. He hopes she is training the next Controller. It has been a pleasure working along with both Marie and Gary. They don’t always agree. They have all been called on issues, but that is the way that accountability is supposed to work in levels of government. He thanked Marie for her service. This means that you can relax for a little while.

With regard to Jack, we sort of pushed in different ways in the Sheriff’s Office with a focus on revenue, the ability for the County to restructure and look at the Department in a way that allows the deputies to be a lot more visible, be able to serve more. The level of paperwork and areas that could provide additional resources for the Court. In every way, Jack has handled himself with dignity and respect. To know that the top Sheriff in Dauphin County has been one that served with that level of integrity and he will be missed. It has been great being able to serve with both Marie and Jack.

Mr. Pries echoed those comments. They are very well stated. He would like to get a hug from Marie. Both Marie and Jack are two of the truest professionals that they have had the opportunity to work with. They didn’t mince their words. They worked for the residents of Dauphin County, as well as for the employees of Dauphin County 24/7. He learned a lot from Marie and Jack. Marie and Gary, the County will be losing out on close to 75 years of experience. Marie and Gary are a team. The work that they brought forth on the Board’s behalf is amazing. The Sheriff has a great deal of dedication to his community, law enforcement and State Police. He is not only a law enforcement professional, he also views Jack as a social worker; with the types of things that he has to deal with. Jack will be sorely missed. It is a great day for Marie and Jack, but a huge loss for the County. Their replacements have big shoes to fill. He thanked both of them for allowing the new officials coming in to have the opportunity to learn from them. The Board owes Marie and Jack a debt of gratitude for what they have done to open up the door and teach them ahead of time.

Mr. Haste read the following Proclamation:
Office of County Commissioners  
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania  

Proclamation  

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, take pride and pleasure in joining the many family members, friends and members of the community at large in congratulating Marie Rebuck upon her richly deserved retirement after 35 years of service to the County of Dauphin;  

Whereas, since January of 1980, when she joined the Dauphin County Controller’s Office, she has been a trustworthy custodian of the county’s fiscal records, and is known to be dedicated, dependable and hard-working;  

Whereas, as Dauphin County Controller, Marie has become one of Dauphin County’s most prominent, recognizable and beloved leaders;  

Whereas, in addition to her distinguished career, she remains active in her hometown of Halifax and continues to touch many lives in countless ways, including her volunteer work with the Relay for Life;  

Whereas, Marie exemplifies the best of American ideals and is a shining example of Dauphin County excellence;  

Therefore, we join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in congratulating Marie Rebuck as she retires from a lifetime of hard work and public service as County Controller; we wish her continued health, happiness and success in the years to come; and in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby proudly proclaim December 9, 2015 to be “Marie Rebuck Day” in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given.)

Ms. Rebuck thanked everyone. It has been a pleasure and a joy to serve the citizens of Dauphin County and to work with the row officers, the current Board of Commissioners, as well as those who have gone before her. Her achievements wouldn’t be what they are if it wouldn’t be for her staff. She and Gary were a team. Gary was a good Chief Deputy Controller, both for Tom Washic and her. She always appreciated his service, as well as Sam. When she was asked to come to the Controller’s Office, she worked for the City of Harrisburg in different positions – Data Processing Department, Community Development Department and then also Harrisburg City Council. It is amazing how things have evolved over the years. When she came to the Controller’s Office, they had a posting machine, it was called Data Processing. They had green bar paper and that is what the reports were printed on. They had to post all the financials on cards, by fund and that constant noise from the machine was in the background. There is a lot that she is going to miss. The one thing that she is not going to miss is every time they shut down 22/322 for an accident. The Retirement Board is the biggest achievement, other than the fact that over the years with the independent audits, the County had clean opinions each and every year. She is proud of that. The most important thing to her is the Retirement Board and her contribution. The Retirement Board has been able to give the citizens of Dauphin County an extremely well run and successful retirement fund. She thanked everyone. While she is leaving with some reservation, it was her choice not to run again, she just felt that it was time to spend time with her family and friends.
Mr. Lotwick thanked his family. Cathy and Jack have been married for 34 years. Cathy has put up with a lot with schedules. He appreciates that very much. He also thanked the guys and gals from his office. He built the office by hiring the best people and putting them in the right position and letting them do their job. The Board talked about Herm Faiola. Jack and Herm worked together for 15 years at the State Police. Herm taught Jack to hire the best people and put them in a position. Don’t micro-manage. He thanked the Board of Commissioners. They haven’t always agreed on everything, but the Board always had time to listen to him. He will miss the job and the people. When he first came to the County, fax machines came on a roll. That is what he had. There were no computers in the office. There were big books where the ladies had to take out the page and type on it and then put it back in the book and then find an index and type on the index what page that was on. The office has evolved, as the country has. He served his country in Vietnam and the State as a State Trooper. He is very proud of what he has done and how he served the County.

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Pries read the following Proclamation. The folks in Hummelstown are going to like seeing more of Jack. He is a legend and everywhere he goes he is not John or Jack Lotwick, he is Sheriff Lotwick.

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, take enormous pride and pleasure in honoring Jack Lotwick as he retires from a long and distinguished career in public service as Dauphin County Sheriff;

Whereas, during his tenure as Dauphin County Sheriff, he founded the Fugitive Task Force to take career criminals off the streets, helped to investigate many high profile cases and has earned the prestigious U.S. Marshals of the Middle District of Pennsylvania “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” Award;

Whereas, dating back to his courageous service in Vietnam, his first election as Sheriff in 1996 and two decades of service as a State Trooper, he has amassed a lifetime of noteworthy achievements;

Whereas, he has devoted his life to serving his country and county with courage, professionalism and integrity;

Therefore, we join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in congratulating Jack Lotwick on his well-deserved retirement and in recognizing his countless contributions as Dauphin County Sheriff; we wish him a bright future and every happiness in his richly deserved retirement as we proudly proclaim December 10, 2015 to be “Jack Lotwick Day” in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given.)

B. Dauphin County Commissioners
1. Presentation of Craig Webb Memorial Awards

Mr. Pries called Jayme Webb forward.

Today, the Board is honored to do the 2015 Craig Webb Memorial Awards, which it will present to three individuals. Each year, local police, fire and EMS Councils nominate the outstanding emergency service provider of the year who embodies the spirit of the late Craig Webb, a longtime paramedic who died suddenly during the 2004 holiday season. This award signifies excellence in service and is awarded to those emergency service personnel who go above and beyond the call of the duty.

In honor of Craig Webb, who epitomized others above self, the Board is here to do so today. For those who knew Craig, knew that he gave of his most prized personal treasure – his time, over and over again to the residents of the community in their time of greatest need. It is truly an honor to present these awards today.

The Board is fortunate to have here today, Jayme Webb, Craig's wife to honor his memory and this year's award recipients. He thanked Jayme for being here today and for all she does on behalf of the first responder community.

Ms. Webb stated that she is proud to say that Craig Webb was her husband, best friend and the love of her life. Craig lived to help others in the most difficult times. He was always there for everyone in his life, be it the person he was saving or the younger members of his teams who looked up to him. Craig lived a life of service to others and was never as happy as when he was responding to a call for help. He was and is still today a role model for all members of the service community. She is so proud that he was chosen for this honor and is remembered today through others who emulate him. Today serves as a special time to remember, reflect and never forget one of the most kind, generous and dedicated paramedics that Dauphin County has ever known.

Mr. Pries thanked Jayme. The first responder and law enforcement communities stick together like family. They have each other's back, through thick and thin. They are out there protecting the community, but when that alarm rings, when most people are at the dinner table, shopping or at an event, those are the individuals who are responding within a moment’s notice to help the public in their time of greatest need. The Board is truly thankful for all they do, did do and will do. The amazing things that Craig did on behalf of the community will never be forgotten. The names of this year's courageous and committed first responders will be displayed on a plaque at the Dauphin County EMA Office. The plaque is inscribed with the names of the outstanding firefighters, police officers and emergency medical professionals in honor of Craig Webb's lifetime of service.

(Applause was given.)

Law Enforcement Leader of the Year Award
This Award is for the late Donald Brink, Retired Sergeant with the Swatara Township Police Department. He was born on December 13, 1960. He served the residents of his community for decades. He retired with a great deal of accomplishments, love and support from his local community, as well as his department. He left behind his parents, family members, he had one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter. He was a third degree Tai Kwon Do. He was an eighth degree black belt. He was a Pittsburgh Steelers fan as well.

Mr. Pries read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are deeply proud to join with loving family members, friends and colleagues in honoring the memory of Donald Brink and in recognizing his outstanding law enforcement career that spanned nearly three decades with the 2015 Craig Webb Memorial Award for Law Enforcement;

Whereas, a sterling example of courage and commitment, Donald was hired by the Swatara Township Police Department in 1979 and quickly rose through the ranks to become Sergeant in June of 1994, serving as a platoon commander supervising seven patrol officers until his retirement in 2007;

Whereas, an exceptional leader and police officer, he also oversaw the Swatara Township Police Department’s accreditation, firearms and use of force training, and was a certified D.A.R.E. officer;

Whereas, additionally, he conducted hundreds of investigations – sometimes undercover – as a part of the Dauphin County Drug Task Force;

Whereas, a father of five children – Jeremy, Joshua, Adam, Meredith and Garrett – son and friend to many, he embraced life to the fullest and selflessly devoted himself to protecting the public, and truly embodies the spirit of the late Craig Webb;

Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that we join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in recognizing the countless contributions of this caring and courageous law enforcement officer and in marking December 11, 2015 as “Donald Brink Remembrance Day” in Dauphin County; we honor him for protecting and serving the public with courage, honor and integrity;

(Appause was given.)

Ms. Brink stated that it is an honor and a privilege to accept this award on behalf of her brother. Her brother started his law enforcement career at the young age of 18 and passed away at the young age of 54. Throughout all of the years in-between, no matter if he was patrolling the streets of Swatara Township, his time in the DEA or any of the other paths that he chose, his passion to excel was unmeasurable. He bled law enforcement, all aspects of it. His family, especially his children and grandchildren were the most important pieces of his world, but the law enforcement community was a second family. He considered each and every one a brother or sister. Even up until the day that he passed away, he would feel the pain and a deep sense of loss when a comrade would fall. Even though his time in the trenches ended years ago, he never
really left. It still had his heart and his soul. Her brother was quiet and unassuming. He touched the lives of so many people and did it in such a way that his generosity and compassion for those around him often stayed in the shadows. Even now, people approach the family and share the stories of what her brother did for them and how much it meant to them and their lives. It is bittersweet. They love to hear what an impact he had while he touched the lives of others, but they can only hope that he knew, if only a fraction of the value that he held in the eyes of so many. In closing, on behalf of her family, her mother and father, along with her niece Meredith, Gwen, Mike, her Aunts, Uncle and cousin, they are once again honored to accept this on behalf of her brother. Due to the military or work school related responsibilities, unfortunately his sons were not able to attend in person, but they share their gratitude for the honor that has been bestowed upon their father. Her brother would be so humbled if he were here today to accept this award in person, but she knows that he is looking down on this moment with a truly grateful heart and a warm smile. To her brother, they say thank you for your many years of dedicated service and a job very well done.

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Brink stated that he was going to say something, but Kim stole his thunder. He thanked everybody who supported him. He knows that if he was here he would be appreciative and would probably say “did I do enough”. The outpouring that he got at the memorial service was overwhelming. The family received hundreds of emails and cards expressing their condolences and appreciation for everything that he did for them. Some police officers said that they became police officers because of him.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

Fire and Rescue Leader of the Year Award

Mr. Hartwick stated that every year when they have an opportunity to recognize those true public servants that you don’t see on the front page of the paper that have something in them that has them running to crises rather than running away from it. The ones that don’t want recognition that hold family, faith and their community above themselves. It is often humbling and inspiring to know that folks, even in their passing, have made such a significant difference to this community. They are really the heroes. In the era that we live in, that is so uncertain, with the incidents that occur across this country, it is nice to know and he is proud as a Commissioner to know that Dauphin County has some of the best trained first responders anywhere in this nation. They have the tools, commitment, belief and everybody who has come before and has been honored, the first thing that they usually say is “did I do enough”. They don’t often like recognition. They like the ability to help people. The Board is grateful to have such a good level of commitment in the first responder area.

He gets a chance to honor Daniel Gorenc. Daniel is receiving this year’s Fire and Rescue Leader of the Year Award. Daniel has held Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief at the Rutherford Fire Company, which is now the company that serves his family.
It is great to be able to recognize somebody from his own area and makes him sleep a little better at night knowing that he is there to provide service and protection. Daniel is a member of the Rutherford Fire Company since 1995. He is a member of the Board of Directors and is one of the most active firefighters in this company making over 40% of all fire calls and is consistently in the top 10 for training and attendance. Outside the City of Harrisburg, all the volunteer fire companies are unpaid. Most of these individuals hold full-time jobs. He sets an example for the younger members by regularly attending most company fund raisers and community functions. For the past ten years, Dan has had the responsibility of inputting all of the company’s incident and training reports into the Fire House software program. That information is used for the reporting to Swatara Township fire marshals and commissioners. Despite being diagnosed with colon cancer and undergoing chemotherapy treatments, radiation treatments and surgery, Dan continued to attend meetings and trainings and other administrative duties. He also continued to respond to fire calls until his surgery, which made him physically unable to do so. However, on June 12, 2012 he returned to full active duty. Dan has demonstrated dedication and selflessness to this company and to the community by continuing to carry out his firefighting duties, even while battling a potential fatal disease.

Mr. Hartwick read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioners  
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are deeply proud to join with loving family members, friends and members of the community at large in applauding Daniel Gorenc as he is presented the 2015 Craig Webb Memorial Award for Fire and Rescue Leader of the Year;

Whereas, as an active member of the Rutherford Fire Company since 1995, Daniel has devoted his life to public safety and community service;

Whereas, over the past 20 years, he has responded to over 40 percent of fire calls and is consistently in the top 10 for training attendance, serving as an outstanding role model for new recruits;

Whereas, as a part of the Rutherford Fire Company, he has served as Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Fire Chief and a member of the Board of Directors;

Whereas, he is a courageous and committed leader who, despite holding a full-time job, having a family and fighting a potentially fatal disease, has risked life and limb to serve, save and protect the public;

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we join with the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in celebrating the lifelong contributions of firefighter Daniel Gorenc; he truly exemplifies the finest of American ideals and embodies the spirit of the late Craig Webb; and in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby proudly proclaim December 13, 2015 to be “Daniel Gorenc Day” in Dauphin County.

(Appplause was given.)
Mr. Gorenc stated that he is honored and humbled to receive awards, especially the Craig Webb Award. It is always a team effort. He will accept the award on behalf of all the volunteers of Dauphin County. The volunteers give a lot of their time to the community.

(Appplause was given and pictures were taken.)

EMS Provider of the Year Award

Mr. Haste stated that the timing is quite appropriate that the Board is recognizing the first responders out in the community. He gave credit to the selection committee and the folks who thought of this, including former Commissioner Nick DiFrancesco, for starting this idea a number of years ago. He doesn’t know if anybody had the foresight then to realize the importance of paying tribute to the first responders would be as important as it is today. As Commissioner Hartwick said, when you turn on the TV it seems to be a frequent negative impact on the community. For folks to continue to put their lives on the line every day to keep the rest of the community safe is a real tribute to what they do. He thanked them.

It is his honor today to present the award for the EMS Provider of the Year – Deb Fleagle. Deb started her career with EMS about 23 years ago at Lower Swatara. She has moved up through the ranks. Her commitment, not only to her unit, has also been exemplified by her commitment and service to the rest of them, having been elected as a secretary-treasurer of the Association. Not only does she do this, but she takes what she has learned through this and tries to instill it in others by being a merit badge counselor. He also taught some merit badges. That commitment to the community is long lasting. He still, to this day, if he is in a situation will remember a lot of his first aid training that he learned through that merit badge. As a coach it has come in handy at times. The knowledge that Deb has been able to pass onto young people is long lasting.

Mr. Haste read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are thrilled to honor Deb Fleagle for over 20 years of dedicated service in first aid and rescue in Dauphin County and to join with her many family members, friends and colleagues in recognizing her as the recipient of the 2015 Craig Webb Memorial Award for Emergency Medical Services;

Whereas, since she began her career as a volunteer for Lower Swatara EMS in 1993, she has provided rapid, life-saving aid to hundreds of people;
Whereas, a recognized and well-respected leader in her field, she has worked for Lower Swatara EMS, alongside the late Chief Craig Webb; West Shore EMS; and Swatara EMS as the Assistant Chief;

Whereas, in 2005, she earned her National Registry Paramedic Certification from Harrisburg Area Community College and was promoted in 2010 to Business Office Manager;

Whereas, always going above and beyond the call of duty, Deb also has served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Dauphin County EMS Council, volunteered for Swatara Township Police Department’s National Night Out and provided education to scout troops seeking first aid merit badges;

Therefore, we join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in paying tribute to Deb Fleagle for dedicating her life to providing emergency medical care to the ill and injured; we honor and thank her for rendering swift and critical aid each and every time an emergency strikes; and in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby proudly proclaim December 12, 2015 as “Deb Fleagle Day” in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given.)

Ms. Fleagle stated that it is a huge honor. She sat on the committee that has honored past members for this award. This is near and dear to her heart. She thanked her family, because there were many holiday meals that her mother would cook and she would get half way through it and have to leave for a call or she would bring the crew back to the house and her mother would feed them without complaining one time. She thanked her mother. She enjoys EMS. She will be leaving the area for another position and will miss everyone. She will take all her memories and friendships with her forever.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

C. Dave Schlager, Vice President, Rapid Remedy

1. Dauphin County Utilization and Trending

Mr. Schlager stated that he is the Managing Partner for Rapid Remedy. Rapid Remedy is a service that connects patients to physicians for the purpose of evaluating and treating common illnesses using PC’s, laptops and mobile devices that are equipped with webcams. Dauphin County has made Rapid Remedy available to the Dauphin County staff and their dependents since March of 2011. During the past five years, over 1,300 encounters have occurred. They project that 395 encounters will occur in 2015. This number represents a 50% increase over the number of encounters in 2014 (265). They have estimated that during the past two years, Dauphin County would have spent over $84,000 if these encounters had visited a doctor’s office, an urgent care center or an emergency room. In that same period of time, Rapid Remedy service cost the County $48,000. Eighty-four percent of the encounters were associated with respiratory and viral conditions such as sinusitis, cough and congestion. The remainder of the encounters were associated with skin ailments, urinary tract infections and muscular-skeletal ailments. Thirty-one people used the service more than one time. He thanked the County for using the service. They are proud to be able to provide it to the staff and their dependents.
Mr. Haste stated that he has heard from those who use it that it is an easy experience. His wife used it while they were commuting. Since it is web oriented she was able to go on her IPAD and get service at that point.

Mr. Hartwick stated that it is important to have this discussion to try to increase visibility. Particularly in the area of benefits, changes are incumbent upon the County with a significant challenge of how it meets the standards of the Affordable Care Act, both with reporting healthcare, as well as facing a challenge with an excise tax. That will put counties in extraordinarily difficult positions because of the pay scale and the structure the County has continued to try to provide quality benefits even though it continues to maintain those costs. The County will be forced by the Feds to make significant plan design changes or else face significant excise taxes moving forward. As those plan design changes occur for the employees, the County needs to use as many value added benefits and opportunities to save costs for employees as possible. When you talk about the lack of resources in the community mental health system, they have been taking a look at tele-psychiatry and the ability to get services in rural areas, in this case for individuals in County government, the expense of seeing somebody in Rapid Remedy versus having to go to the doctor’s office, the expense on both the County and the individual will be saved. With the County having a health savings account opportunity the costs would be diminimus in maybe future plan design changes as it would be as compared to going to the regular doctor. He would ask that the County continue to examine ways to reduce costs and expenses despite being forced to make those plan design changes. This is one of those value added benefits that the County has invested in that will continue to try to provide a benefit to the employee and hopefully a lower cost for those kinds of illnesses. The County has a job to do based upon those numbers of really communicating to the staff and to employees in Dauphin County. As the pinch comes with additional plan design changes and more coming out of individuals’ pockets, the more the County needs to let them know that there are options for them in a way that won’t impact their financial situation.

Mr. Saylor asked Ms. Fisher if the Rapid Remedy is part of the new employee orientation.

Ms. Fisher indicated that it is.

D. Kathy Cook, Senior Account Manager and Brad Kopcha, Executive Vice President of Actuarial Services – BENECON

1. Stop Loss Coverage

Ms. Cook stated that Brad is the numbers man and he will be handling a lot of this information. BENECON has been the healthcare consultant for the County for a number of years. This year he was asked by the Commissioners to look at some different funding methods. The County self-funds their healthcare claims. The Commissioners asked them to come up with some dollar numbers.
Mr. Kopcha stated that the County is on a self-funded program. The County has been self-funded for a number of years and that decision to go self-funded has been very beneficial financially to the County. Over 70% of the employees in the country today are on a self-funded plan similar to Dauphin County. Each year, by being self-funded, Dauphin County saves over $2 million in administrative expenses and taxes. That decision of the County was made years ago and has been very beneficial. When a group is self-funded such as Dauphin County, the question becomes “do they want to buy additional protection” such as stop loss coverage, which would protect the County from large dollar claims.

For the year 2016, there are three options. The first option would be to purchase what is called a Stand Alone Coverage, which would be taking Dauphin County to the open stop loss market. They did do that and secured a price through Highmark Insurance Group. The County is covered from Highmark on an administrative service basis. This would be Highmark Insurance Group as a stop loss carrier. In addition to that option there is also the option of joining the Pennsylvania County Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperative, which currently has 19 other counties in that program. It offers different avenues of protection for the County moving forward. The third option would be to buy no coverage at all.

Historically what they have done each year is analyze the options. There are some changes in the market in the two aspects. One is what is occurring on a national level with high dollar claims that would leave an employer, such as the County, to purchase stop loss coverage. Since 2010, the market nationwide has seen a large increase in claims in the jumbo claim level and basically claims over $1 million. He provided two separate studies. One from Sun Life, which shows a 1,000% increase since 2010 of the incidents of claims over $1 million. Second one from Highmark Insurance Group, which shows a 1300% increase on claims over $1.5 million since 2010. This phenomenon is not unique to central Pennsylvania. It is nationwide. He has, in Dauphin County, seen an increase in some of these high dollar claims as well.

Mr. Hartwick asked if that is because the caps have been taken off and the ability, from a treatment perspective, has caused the huge increase in the actual expenditures per case.

Mr. Kopcha indicated that he is on the right pinpoint. That is the number one cause. When they eliminated lifetime mandates and yearly limits of caps on service, so historically policies had a $1 million limit for individuals and now they are unlimited policies. There is an analysis of what is causing this trend nationwide that is a key point is the ACA removing those limits and now there is an increase in the incidents.

Mr. Hartwick stated that when the County took this – the Board had a long debate when the County first moved from the sort of retro-refund arrangement to fully self-insured whether or not, the insurance companies are the only ones that make out in stop-loss insurance. This practice of lasering folks has always been something that has discouraged the Board, because if someone is identified as a high cost utilizer and the
next year they would not be covered under the stop-loss they would then revert back to the County’s responsibility and future liability. They would only be covered for that one year. He asked him to explain what has changed in that environment.

Mr. Kopcha stated that the lasering issue is a key consideration. The standalone option, which they would go to the stop-loss market on an annual basis and shop for stop-loss. What happens is it is a yearly evaluation of a stop-loss carrier or an insurance company if they want to apply lasers on the County. A laser is basically they will look at an individual on the plan and either not cover that individual or cover them at a higher deductible, basically transferring the risk back to the County and it is just a mechanism the insurance carriers use to protect themselves. They are choosing that they don’t want to take that risk.

Mr. Hartwick stated that you take the stop-loss to shift the risk to them, but then they see the liability and they pass it right back onto the County.

Mr. Kopcha stated that is something in the standalone stop-loss market they would deal with on an annual basis. That is just a function of the market. The Pennsylvania County Consortium, with 19 other counties already in that program, one of the key functions of why that program exists is because other counties joined together to an insurance market and to create an environment where counties will not have lasers moving forward. The way that program works is that upon entry there would be an evaluation that if there would be lasers on any individual, however, once you are in the program there are no new lasers on new individuals ever moving forward. For example – the January 2016 renewal there are 19 counties and about 7,000 employees on there. There are no lasers on that program. There is a $100 million in total funding from all those counties together. Basically with that protection of joining that larger pool, they eliminate that possibility of lasers moving forward.

Mr. Haste asked if it is just a one-time laser.

Mr. Kopcha stated that it would be upon entry and then there would be no new lasers. That one, two or three individuals that may have a laser upon entry, that laser may stay. It would be evaluated each year, but no other members on the county plan would ever have a laser or no other new hires moving forward. In the case of the proposal that was put together from the County Health Insurance Program, there was one laser, the standalone option had two lasers. For a group of the County size, that is not unusual.

Mr. Haste stated that up until this point, the County has been self-funding the stop loss as well. The County put a pool together and covered it. It used to work well for the County, although trends seem to be indicating that may not work in the future. The County has been blessed up until this point. He does think the Board needs to look at the stop-loss. He doesn’t believe the County will be as successful as it has been in the past.
Ms. Cook stated that the County has been extremely successful. This is the first year that the County has not successful.

Mr. Hartwick stated that based upon the national trends and what they have seen with other insurance programs and where the County is at, he supports moving in that direction based upon the cost benefit of making sure the County is covered. As the County gets in tighter years, take what has been done well and use that as a cushion for any other healthcare related increases.

Mr. Haste stated that he would prefer the County program.

Mr. Hartwick indicated he does as well.

Mr. Saylor stated that he will work on the actual documentation and will prepare it for next week’s agenda.

E. Jay Wenger, Susquehanna Group Advisors

1. Health Safety & Welfare Resolution – Dauphin County General Authority
   Refinancing – Elizabethtown College (A Vote is Requested 12/09/15)

Mr. Wenger indicated that the Board should have received and it has been reviewed a Resolution that would approve, on the Board’s behalf, a financing that the Dauphin County General Authority is undertaking on behalf of Elizabethtown College. The College is refinancing approximately $22 million of its currently outstanding fixed rate debt at a lower interest rate. The present value savings to the College is approximately $1.8 million. The financing will close in March, but they are executing the documents currently to try to take advantage of current interest rates. The Dauphin County General Authority is acting as the conduit financing authority, which the College is required to use in order to access the tax-exempt markets. There is no liability to the Authority. They simply are a pass-through in this transaction.

Mr. Haste stated that the TEFRA Hearing was held December 1, 2015.

Mr. Wenger stated that no one attended. It was held at the McNees, Wallace and Nurick office in Lancaster, PA. He was there, but no public was in attendance.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the Authority has come a long way from where it was in 2004.

Mr. Wenger stated that the Authority has managed to get out of several of the General Authority’s business holdings. They are working on two more. If those two are successfully transferred, the Authority will be down to just two assets. Both of those are performing assets. They are almost the whole way through the plan of getting them out of the operating business and into just being a conduit financing authority. It will take some time to get rid of the remaining assets, but that is the plan. This is exactly what they were set up to do and should be doing.
Mr. Hartwick stated that a lot of them were difficult transactions and gave credit to the Board members for getting them in this position.

Mr. Pries stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hartwick’s comments. It has been a long time coming and it is good to see they are going in that direction.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board adopt Resolution #31-2015 authorizing the approval in accordance with Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, a plan of financing of the Dauphin County General Authority; declaring that it is desirable for the Health, Safety & Welfare of the people in the area to be served by such facilities to have such facilities provided by, or financed through, the Dauphin County General Authority.**

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

F. Brian Emberg, P.E., Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

1. **Ordinance - $5 Vehicle Registration Fee**

Mr. Emberg stated that HRG has been assisting the County for over 30 years in managing the infrastructure, both at the County level and assisting local surface transportation. They have been asked to look at some ways to enhance the program. He is going to review the current infrastructure funding program, a strategy of enhancing the goals of the program and what Act 89 and the $5 registration fee that is available to the counties looks like, its funding potential and its funding uses. They will look at some local transportation project unmet needs that this program could help and different ways, if the County moves forward with it, that could be used and distributed and finally what the potential next steps would be.

The current infrastructure program at the County – there are three sources of funding that the County relies on. It is the Liquid Fuels Fund that has an annual receipt of approximately $625,000; the Act 13 Funds, annual receipt is about $430,000 and then Act 44, the County receives about $144,000 for just a little over $1 million. The Liquid Fuels is primarily used for maintaining the County’s bridges, which is the main infrastructure that the County owns. They provide local aid through the Liquid Fuels process where local municipalities might request grants. Just over two years ago, a large part has been dedicated to the Dauphin County Infrastructure Bank program. That is about $320,000 a year. With the Act 89 that was passed two years ago, there was no increase in the Liquid Fuels allotment for counties. It was primarily at the local municipal level. There was no help from Act 89 on Liquid Fuels. Act 13 comes from Marcellus Shale Impact Fees and that is proportionately directly impacted by the number of wells and the price of natural gas. That will fluctuate. Act 44 was related to some turnpike refinancing. The Act 89 fund source will close out in FY 2022. After
2021, the annual receipt will reduce to about $655,000 a year. The Infrastructure Bank has been successful. The County borrows funds from PennDOT’s PIB Program at 1.625% interest rate for ten years and then subsidizes the debt service on that through that $320,000 a year of the Liquid Fuels and then reprograms that out to applicants to facilitate projects. Since 2013, eight local municipalities have taken advantage of that for a total of $11.5 million. The loaning capacity will drop. Some of the projects included road realignments, bridge replacements and streetscapes. The projects ranged from $500,000 to just shy of $5 million.

Mr. Haste stated that in the latest budget mess that is going on, the State is now looking to take $20 million out of Act 13 that now goes to local to the counties and redistribute that over to the Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA). That is how the Legislature is going to fund their WAMS.

Mr. Emberg stated that is at risk, based on the discussions that are ongoing at the State level. Some of the goals for enhancing the program – they want to ensure that the County bridge infrastructure is maintained in good safe condition. Dauphin County is actually in very good shape. There are over 50 bridges. The majority of them have been repaired, maintained or replaced over the years. They just advertised for the Duke Street Bridge to be replaced. That is the last significant bridge in the inventory. The important thing is that you have to continue to maintain them. They want to enhance the County’s funding and project delivery support for unmet local needs. That is what local County aid is. That is what the large purpose of the Dauphin County Infrastructure Bank was. They want to look at increasing and enhancing available funds and the terms of the loans, funding larger projects. There is actually much larger projects that are unfunded out there. Develop recycled funds in order to fund other types of projects. A good infrastructure helps encourage economic development.

Mr. Pries stated the Board has talked to commissioners around the State and there are some real horror stories out there with counties that are facing large issues involving their county owned bridges. He asked what the timeline is for the Duke Street Bridge.

Mr. Emberg stated that it is to be completed in 2017. It was just advertised the other day. Dauphin County is in a very good position with its bridge program.

Mr. Pries stated that credit goes back to the Board of Commissioners back in the 1990s for putting that money aside.

Mr. Emberg stated on Act 89, there was no help on the Liquid Fuels side of it at the county level. The only component of Act 89 that was built for counties is the $5 registration fee.

Mr. Saylor stated that Act 89 increased the gas tax to fund projects.

Mr. Emberg stated that it was passed about two years ago. It was a sweeping Act that generated funds at all levels. It is a seven year ramp-up at the State level. At the local
level it was a 70% increase in Liquid Fuels income for municipalities. At the county, it was nothing. There are some other grant programs available. Counties can elect to impose a $5 fee on non-exempt vehicles registered within the County. The section of the Vehicle Code establishes guidelines governing the collection and use and oversight of it. The County would have to pass an Ordinance and then 90 days after that Ordinance is passed, PennDOT actually starts collecting the $5 fee with the registration process. PennDOT would distribute to the County in June and December of each year the payments that have been collected.

Mr. Pries asked what if they are in a budget stalemate in the future. He asked if the County would still get those dollars.

Mr. Emberg indicated yes, as long as that department of PennDOT is operating.

Mr. Hartwick asked if the total amount of Act 89 is $7.4 billion within 50 years of the implementation.

Mr. Emberg stated that it is a slower ramp-up so the impact at the pumps wasn’t so dramatic. In 2015, the number of non-exempt registered vehicles in Dauphin County was just over 260,000. Act 89 provided also for an option for registrations to be renewed biannually. The $5 fee is not a per year fee, it is a transaction fee. If the $5 Registration Fee is approved, it would raise about $1.2 million a year. The $5 Registration Fee is similar to Liquid Fuels, but is limited to highway and bridge costs and expenses.

The local unmet surface transportation needs – HATS 2040 Regional Transportation Plan identifies $137.8 million in unfunded local projects in Dauphin County alone. That excludes projects that municipalities didn’t even submit for consideration. Projects include structurally deficient bridges at the local level, congestion and safety improvements, roadway and drainage repair and rehabilitation. An example of some structural deficient bridges in Dauphin County – there are two superstructure replacements for County owned bridges and then there are approximately ten locally owned bridges throughout the County that would benefit from that type of funding. There are projects throughout the County – Linglestown Road and Progress Avenue in Susquehanna Township, Lower Swatara Township has a comprehensive list of projects that are required to be improved and Derry Township is looking at some short-term improvements on Governor Road. The scope and size of those projects are exceeding what the Infrastructure Bank has undertaken so far.

Mr. Haste stated that is approximately $40 million right there.

Mr. Emberg stated that there is a large unmet need. The County has done very well with their infrastructure, but at the local level there is a large unmet need.

Mr. Haste stated that the real reason the County would contemplate doing this, is the unmet needs of local municipalities. Over the last four or five years, through the
Infrastructure Bank and even with Gaming funds, the County has been able to move things forward, because of the initiative of local governments. It has been the progressive municipalities that have taken advantage of these programs in the last few years. It is those same municipalities that will be the first ones to take advantage of this program.

Mr. Lynch stated that there is a kind of pause at the State and Federal levels in terms of support for needed infrastructure projects. The County has been great, in terms of support, like the Land Bank that was referenced. The Infrastructure Bank has helped the Township in terms of the storm sewer projects along the river. The Township could have done that, but it would have been a tremendous burden. Getting that kind of a loan made possible through the Infrastructure Bank at one half of one percent made it a whole lot more doable and it enabled them to do more of a project than they would have otherwise done. He wholeheartedly supports this. It is just another way that they can pick up the slack left from the Federal and State partners in a very uncertain time. The Township is very appreciative of the support (past and present). Walnut and Progress Avenue is the worst intersection in Central Pennsylvania. On Sunday mornings, which is the lowest traffic, it gets a D. It is horrible.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the Fast Act passed and was signed by the President last week. This is good timing.

Mr. Lynch stated that Linglestown Road needs to be widened from 322 to Progress Avenue. On Progress Avenue itself, there is a big stretch going from Crooked Hill Road down to Linglestown Road that is dark. There are more and more pedestrians that use that road. There has been one fatality this year and about two other accidents that have occurred and it is because they don’t see the walkers.

Mr. Saylor stated that Tom Mehaffie, Chairman of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was here. He had to leave, but he is also very supportive. There are a number of projects in Lower Swatara that need to be addressed.

Mr. Pries commended Susquehanna Township for taking the lead and taking advantage of some of the opportunities that the County has given. The Township was the first to jump on the Land Bank and it has benefited the residents in the Township.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the public is frustrated with most levels of government and being inefficient where they spend dollars and should prioritize. One area where this country, state and this county should not shortchange is infrastructure, highways and the ability to have safety and the necessary infrastructure for new business development and for the residents to be able to commute and get to and from locations in a safe way. There are some unique opportunities with the Federal bill and now the additional resources from the State. One additional investment from an infrastructure perspective, from the local level, for people who actually use it. This is where the County has an opportunity to have folks who use the roads to pay for the additional upkeep, which is the way most assessments should go. From the County’s perspective,
it should have more options rather than just putting it on homeowners to be able to fund local government services. This is just one additional tool for the County to be ahead of the curve and being able to support businesses, taxpayers and the safety of the residents and partner with local municipalities that are willing to address those concerns despite limited resources.

Mr. Emberg stated that there are different options the County can look at if it moves forward with the fee. If the County is interested, the first thing to do is pass an ordinance adopting the $5 fee and then notify PennDOT of that effective date. Ninety days after that the fees start to be collected. The fee disbursements would occur in June and December. During that time the County can figure out ways to distribute the fees once they start coming in.

Mr. Saylor stated that the ordinance has been drafted and advertised. It will be ready for a vote next week should the Board choose to do that. If it is enacted, PennDOT will be notified and in March revenues will begin to be collected. The next issue will be how to distribute the fees.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions on the Salary Board Packet and/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 there are a few budget adjustments that will be made prior to next week. He provided one other item that did not get on the report. Last week, the Commissioners approved a Purchase Order to buy a van for the Sheriff’s Office and when they went to get the vehicle there was some problems with it. They could not take that vehicle. That Purchase Order was cancelled and will replace it with the one before the Board. He will add it to next week’s Packet.

Mr. Pries asked if it was the same price.

Mr. Baratucci stated that it is approximately $50 less.

The Purchase Order Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting and will include the additional item.

TRAINING PACKET

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

There was none.

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

Mr. Curcillo stated that the items listed on the Solicitor’s Report will be reviewed for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting. He asked if there were any questions. (There was none.)

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Burford stated that he has nothing to report. (Mr. Saylor was absent at this time.)

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Haste stated to stay tuned for the State’s budget. It continues to be a daily mess on the hill.

The Retirement Board will begin within two minutes after the adjournment of the Commissioners’ Meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz