DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2015
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Judge Richard A. Lewis; Judge William Tully; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Deb Freeman, Court Administrator; Cathy Lotwick, Court Reporters; Troy Petery, Court Administration; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Susan Moore, Court Reporter; Heather Artz, Court Reporter; Kassandra McPherson, Court Reporter; Debra Heary, Court Reporter; Bobby Sisock, Court Administration; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Greg Schneider, Budget & Finance; Shelley Ruhl, Sheriff’s Office; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Barb Miller, Nativa Wood, Virginia Teter, Lee Markosky, James Roxbury, Jack Sherzer, Fox 43, Tom Connelly and Susan Brown Wilson

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.
MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are several sets of Meeting Minutes that will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

Mr. Saylor reported that there were no Executive Sessions held between meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Dauphin County Commissioners

1. Proclamation – Court Reporting Week
2. Proclamation – Retirement of Nativa Wood

Mr. Pries asked if the folks representing the Court Reporters Association could come up to the front table. He read the following Proclamation.

Office of County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are delighted to join with judges, elected officials, members of the National Court Reporters Association and members of the community at large to honor and applaud court reporters and captioners during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week;

Whereas, court reporters have served as guardians of court public records since ancient times and have preserved some of our history’s most important documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas, court reporters have played a permanent and invaluable role in courtrooms and legislative bodies across the country, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Dauphin County;

Whereas, more than ten highly skilled and dedicated court reporters serve the county Court of Common Pleas, translating the spoken word into text, creating essential records, and preserving our history;
Therefore, we join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in recognizing all court reporters and captioners, the individuals who record our nation’s history; whether referred to as the scribes of yesterday or the court reporters of today, we are thankful for their countless contributions; and in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby proudly proclaim February 15th through 21st, 2015 to be “National Court Reporting and Captioning Week” in Dauphin County.

(Appause was given.)

Mr. Haste indicated that it is the Board’s pleasure today to recognize someone who recently retired from the County and quite frankly with her leaving the County, the County is quite a different place. Tiva and her husband retired at the same time.

Mr. Haste read the following Proclamation.

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**Office of County Commissioners**

**Dauphin County, Pennsylvania**

**Proclamation**

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, take pride and pleasure in joining with the many friends and family members in congratulating Nativa Wood on her more than three decades of dedicated service to the County of Dauphin and her richly deserved retirement;

Whereas, on September 5, 1977, Nativa began her long and successful career as a Court Reporter after graduating from Central Penn College;

Whereas, as Chief Court Reporter for 11 years, she played a pivotal role in the County Courthouse;

Whereas, she is actively engaged in the National Court Reporters Association, giving formal recognition to the passion and talent evident in her work;

Whereas, known as a deeply caring and committed leader, Nativa has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and will be dearly missed around the Courthouse;

Therefore, we join the 270,000 residents of Dauphin County in congratulating Nativa Wood on her well-earned retirement from a lifetime of hard work and public service; we applaud her devotion to personal excellence and professional achievement; we wish her continued health, happiness and success in the years to come; and in grateful recognition of her exemplary career and extraordinary professionalism, we are delighted to declare February 18, 2015 as “Nativa Wood Day” in Dauphin County.

(Appause was given and pictures taken.)

Mr. Hartwick stated that Tiva is direct and very clear at expressing her concerns. He has been in meetings with Tiva where discussions were held on budget issues and expenses. The majority of the time that he has seen her discuss the issues that are critical to her were about advocating for the profession, for the people that work and do the job, the people that have spent time to gain the skill sets to be able to perform at a high level to ensure that the Court always does and is in a position to have whatever is necessary, the creditability, the information and to do the job at the top of its level. There may have been some disagreements. He knows that they have had some debates over the years. He also knows that Tiva has been an advocate for other individuals from everything from healthcare to salary and the ability to have the most qualified people to do the job. He appreciates candor. There was never a time where he didn’t know what was on Tiva’s mind. Tiva added great professionalism to the
dialogue and she was an advocate. Unlike a lot of people she came forward with what she truly believed in. She wears her heart on her sleeve and she was able to make sure that the people that she worked with were given the due credit and continued to maintain their position in a way that offered this County and Court great creditability. For that, this Board is grateful on a job well done. It was an honor and a privilege to be able to work with Tiva over the years.

Mr. Pries stated that Tiva is a wonderful person and will be sorely missed here at the County. He took it upon himself to make his own NATIVA list. N – I had no nonsense, but that is between you and your 16 year-old son who just got his license. So N is for naturally classy. A is for accommodating. She knew what it took to get the best effort out of others. T is for talented, described by those who have worked with her as the best at what she does. I is for inspirational. She brought a great attitude and was always upbeat and happy. V is for values. She has strong ethical and moral values, caring, loving and compassionate. A is for accomplishments - A career of outstanding work, which she took great personal pride in. She is a great friend and is devoted to her family. Tiva did a great job here at the County and everyone will miss her.

Mr. Haste stated that he remembers a time when Tiva got mad at him. He had to revert to sending her notes where he would put smiley faces on them to brighten up her day. Eventually it worked. That just shows the passion that she had for the position she was in. When he thinks back to his couple different tenures at the County, he has a couple of handfuls of folks that come to mind and she will always be one of those folks. Tiva truly was a great public servant. Someone that many, many people looked up to and someone he would count as one of his County friends. That is part of the reason he came back for his second tour of duty was because of people like Tiva. He hopes that Tiva and Jerry have a great retirement.

Ms. Wood thanked the Board. She appreciates it.

Judge Lewis indicated that he was very impressed with Commissioner Pries’ litany that he went through. Tiva, as the Commissioners said, was a great employee. There were two faces to Tiva. There was the public face - the unbelievable personality, the instantly likeable personality, the constant smile, the great sense of humor, warm and friendly. She was a great person to be around. There was also the professional Tiva. When she was behind the machine she was the best at what she did. She was super dedicated to this Court and to the County. She was a very efficient employee as a Court Reporter. Then she became the Chief Court Reporter. Her talents really began to shine. She was very much into innovation and technology. She was cutting edge in some of the changes she brought to Dauphin County. She was a great, well-respected leader across the State. There are only a handful of people in this world that can get by on one name. In the Court-reporting circle you just have to mention Tiva and everyone will know. The Judge congratulated her and wished her well in her retirement.

Ms. Wood stated that she came here when she was 20, right out of school. She was very happy to get this job, because the teachers told them that they could fill out job
placement requests. They said don't put down Dauphin County, because there are never any openings in Dauphin County and you won't get in there. Since she never listens, she put down Dauphin County. The night that she graduated from Central Penn they told her that she got a job here at Dauphin County. She always felt fortunate to be part of the Dauphin County family. She does believe in court reporting and she hopes that in the years that she was here that she conveyed to everyone that court reporters are not an evil necessity, but that they are a necessity for the Courts and that they do a service that nobody else can do at the level that court reporters can and that is to be guardians of the record and protect the record and protect the rights of the citizens of Dauphin County. She was glad to have that honor for all those years. She thanked everyone.

B. Robert Burns, Virginia Teter and Lee Markosky

1. Kitchen Transition Update

Mr. Burns mentioned that he is joined today by Virginia Teter, the Chair of the Aging Advisory Council and Lee Markosky from Nutrition Group to talk about the transition and how it is going.

Ms. Teter thanked the Commissioners for allowing them the opportunity to speak before the Board today. Virginia Teter is a resident of Washington Township and is a full-time professional with Temple University here in Harrisburg. She is currently in her sixth year with the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. She is privileged to serve as chair. Over the course of the last five years, they have had numerous and multiple complaints about the quality and appeal of the meals-on-wheels that were being provided to individuals at that time. Since becoming the chair, Virginia has also received photos, via email, of samples of meals that were provided in the community. Both recipients and volunteers have expressed concerns about the meals. From a cost standpoint, the Council was also apprised of the increase in cost of management and operation of the County kitchen. As an Advisory Council, they were pleased that the County and the Agency were able to consider a move to a different service. She was able to be a part of a panel that had the opportunity to visit the Nutrition Group as they were being vetted for the contract for this service. They were pleased with the facilities and operations. They were also impressed with their track record of service to other area agencies on aging throughout the region. The proof however, as they say is in the pudding, although they did not serve pudding for dessert that day, the meal they provided was appetizing and appealing to the eye. It demonstrated a balance of nutritional elements. It was actually on Nutrition Group’s suggestion that the Advisory Council decided, should they be chosen to represent the meals program, to develop an Ad Hoc Committee for food quality here in the County. The thought was that they would address both issues and also provide recommendations to the Area Agency on Aging and through the Area Agency on Aging to the Board about the Nutrition Group moving forward. This new committee is being convened and it will include representatives from throughout the area. There is a cross section of volunteers and staff who handle the meals and have direct contact with the
senior recipients, who, to date, have expressed their praise of the meals. They look forward to the partnership with the Nutrition Group to add to the quality of life of our senior citizens here in Dauphin County.

Mr. Burns stated that the County outsourced the kitchen on December 1, 2014. The Board asked for a report on the transition. To date, it has been going extremely well. Nutrition Group has provided over 35,000 meals. Just from a cost perspective, the County has reduced its expenditure on those meals by about $60,000. They have had extremely good communication. On a daily basis, Aging has a designated employee who is on the phone all morning long with Nutrition Group and the volunteers to make sure that the deliveries are made. They have not missed any clients out of those 35,000 meals that were delivered. They have not lost any volunteers as a result of the transition. Two new congregate meal sites were added. One is at Presbyterian Apartments in the City and the other one is at Pheasant Hill Estate. Pheasant Hill has the potential to become the largest congregate site in the County. That is attributable, at least in part, to the reputation that Nutrition Group has with the meals that they provide. The food steering committee had two visits scheduled, but both had to be postponed due to the weather. Hopefully in March they can start regular meetings just to talk about what the clients like or what they would like to see switched.

Mr. Markosky thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to service the seniors of Dauphin County. The transition was very smooth. There were a couple little bumps the first few days, but were worked out. The communication between Nutrition Group and AAA has been very good. They can see this being a long partnership. He is looking forward to the food steering committee meetings, or whatever that committee will be called. They were able, with other agencies when they started this, to turn it from a food complaint meeting to a steering committee meeting. They can work as a partner to provide the best quality meal.

Mr. Haste stated that he knows that providing bulk food is never an easy task, because everyone’s taste buds are a little different. He hopes it continues. He has heard nothing but really good reviews. He received phone calls from folks that are anonymous and then he also talks to folks when he is out and people are saying that the food tastes better and looks better.

Mr. Markosky stated that they will work to continue that.

Ms. Teter stated that because the Nutrition Group serves regional areas, they serve folks in Lebanon and Lancaster, they look to the tastes of the individuals in the communities and one of the comments that stuck in her mind from the initial meeting was that there is an area that prefers to have cole slaw for their side and then there is an area that prefers to pepper slaw. They will cater to the tastes. Dauphin County has Pennsylvania Dutch in the northern part of the County and other representations of other ethnic and food tastes in other parts of the County. It is really nice to know that you are not getting some canned menu.
Mr. Hartwick indicated that he looks forward to the food service committee assembling and allowing those tastes to be reflected into the way it provides the regional meals. He has gotten 44 calls, letters, emails or correspondence. His office is usually the recipient of a multitude of concerns, issues and client and constituent complaints. Every single response that he has received has been positive. He has been a cynic related to the ability for the County to do this, to have the savings to be actually realized to have a realistic view of what that means and the ability to serve more folks. He had a concern related to the volunteers, who are the backbone of this organization. They did a study to see what the County would pay directly for those individuals if it was something that the County had to pay just minimum wage and he believes it was close to $2 million in additional County funds that would go towards just the volunteer efforts. They are the group that is up, committed and are the delivery source for the meals. The County has not lost one volunteer. The County got great feedback from those volunteers as it relates to Nutrition Group’s willingness to accommodate when issues have occurred. He looks forward to being a participant in the food services discussion and making sure that the County can accommodate regionally and specific ethnic tastes when it can do so. The service has improved, as well as the quality. Thus far, it has been a really good transition. The clients are impressed. Dauphin County is one of a few counties in the State that does not have a waiting list for those who are eligible for meals-on-wheels. There is a big move to get people out of long-term skilled nursing and other facilities and the way to be able to support them in the community is to have in-home care and appropriate meals. The ability for the County to continue to serve folks who are in need in their own home where they choose to stay, not somebody forcing them to go, and provide that level of support is going to happen with better quality and hopefully some additional resources to serve those who are eligible.

Mr. Pries stated that the kitchen transition has been as advertised. The food is excellent and are receiving great feedback from the recipients of the food. He was at the Hershey Italian Lodge last evening and Mrs. Trump was there and she indicated that she spoke to some individuals and everyone gave a thumbs up to the meals that are being received. They are on time and it is of great quality. He is glad that he supported this effort from day one and this Board is fully supportive of it today and will continue in the future.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions on the Salary Board items. (There was none.)

She indicated that she does have a few changes to the Personnel Packet. She asked if there were any questions. (There was none.) Vacancy #11 should be two positions instead of one (Probation Officer 1). She also requested a vote on New Hire #15 and Change #19.

*It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve New Hire #15 and Change #19 of the Personnel Packet.*
Question: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci indicated that the Purchase Order Packet was distributed yesterday. In addition, just after the report was prepared, Catharine Kilgore sent over a requisition. The agreement that is attached to the Packet is also being reviewed by the Solicitor’s Office.

Mr. Hartwick asked where this amount will be charged.

Mr. Baratucci indicated from Mr. Marsico’s grant funds at the D.A.’s Office.

Mr. Hartwick asked if it was the small games of chance.

Mr. Baratucci indicated that he has a number of different grants. It will be on the report and will show the exact fund. The Packet is for your review and will be ready for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

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 everything listed on the Solicitor’s Report will be ready for consideration at next week’s meeting.

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

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

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Hartwick indicated that the Board received a request from CCAP for the adoption of a formal resolution supporting changes to the 9-1-1 funding system. That may be something that can be added to next week’s agenda.
Mr. Pries congratulated Mr. Haste and the Outdoor Show for another tremendous event here in Central Pennsylvania. He is looking forward to hear what the overall numbers are. He was told that there were record numbers throughout the week. Again, it brings in tons of revenue for the County, City and local municipalities, shops, restaurants, etc. Everybody benefits from it. The day that he was volunteering he heard a lot of great comments from individuals not just from here in Central Pennsylvania, but folks coming from outside the area that are spending lots of dollars. It was a very impressive undertaking. What goes on there from the Farm Show to the Outdoor Show, the amount of work and efficiency that takes place moving folks out and folks in is pretty remarkable. He gave Mr. Haste credit in working with those folks from the NRA and other areas to bring this show back here after that $70 million kick in the gut when the region could least afford it. Last year it was a great show and this year it was a greater show. Everybody is a winner. Thank you again for bringing that forth. Commissioner Hartwick and he are both supportive of Commissioner Haste’s efforts to have that show here.

Mr. Haste indicated that there are some areas where they can keep working on. In talking to some of the vendors, the nice thing is that they are starting to appreciate the region and a number of the vendors are starting to think about spending a few days to enjoy the area. People come from all over – Canada and Australia. If they are civil war buffs they realize how close they are to Gettysburg and other places. That is a marketing effort that can be enhanced. The concert on Saturday night was a sellout. The groups seemed to enjoy themselves. Lee Brice talked about how the farm show is a unique setting. He found it to be an inviting setting for the band. The place was packed. He doesn’t understand why the Farm Show and the folks at the complex don’t do more of those types of things. It is an asset that is way underutilized in this region.

Mr. Pries stated that he was at an event at Swatara Township last week for CREDC. There was no place to park. He had to park over by 5-Guys, because of the outdoor show. He thanked City Councilwoman Susan Brown-Wilson and asked her to pass onto the police department his thank you as well. They were very professional and courteous. They were handling a lot that week.

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.