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; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Jack Lotwick, Sheriff; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Michelle Hornberger, Parks & Recreation; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Eric Papenfuse, Karl Singleton, James Roxbury, Tom Connolly, Barb Miller, WHTM, Fox 43, Yvonne Hollis, Karen Deklinski, Michael Jarman, Joe Lewin, Barry Ramper, Dr. Carol Corlett-Howard, Shannon Danley, Rusty LaCoss, Noelle Barich, Joe Robinson, David Counsil, Richard Allen, Kathy Anderson, Mary Davis, Shelley Beyar, Richard Neff, Ford Thompson and Jonas Penny

MINUTES
CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 three 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

Mayor Papenfuse, City of Harrisburg, stated that last week he expressed his concerns about the current tourism marketing campaign for the City of Harrisburg. Commissioner Hartwick had asked if the City had ideas on how the money should be spent. He went back to the office and worked very closely with the department directors and came up with an alternative proposal. He presented that proposal to Mary Smith and Dave Black of the Visitors’ Bureau last Friday. It was well received. They haven’t committed to it at the moment. They ask for another week or so to review it. He believes that this is a way forward and he asked for the Board’s support. Basically HHRVB is planning on spending $179,000 between now and the end of the year on the marketing campaign, which was already discussed. Most of that is for media buy for the billboards. The rest is for a website. Looking at the City’s needs, it has severe capacity needs at the City. One of the things that the City could use is a Marketing Director and an Event Coordinator. The position is one in the same. They don’t have expertise in marketing, yet at the same time the City has to put on major festivals every year. The City asked for two things in the proposal, which is the ability to build capacity, the ability to fund a new marketing event director position, but also a marketing budget that is specific. The City can specifically market those events. This marketing director will also provide HHRVB with the liaison to the City, an expert who can take a seat on their board. They are proposing not only that position, but also a second position, which is a web content manager for the City. This person can populate the City’s website with content, but if HHRVB wants to continue with its own separate website, at least the City will have someone there that can make sure that everybody is on the same page. There would be two positions as part of the proposal. The rest would go to a specific media buy.
That will total about $178,000 a year. He is proposing a multi-year grant agreement, because you don’t want to establish a new position and then not be able to sustain that position moving forward. He suggested a four year agreement. In addition to that grant, there would still be another $100,000 a year that HHRVB would have to be able to spend on a more general marketing campaign. HHRVB wants to do a general marketing campaign for Harrisburg, but it is important that if that will continue that a committee be established and that the City buys in with that campaign. It is a comprehensive solution. It allows the City to move forward over multiple years. It addresses the marketing needs and capacity needs of the City. He is hoping that the Board’s support will seal the deal. If the City had a marketing budget, that is also going to have a positive effect on the general fund. That will allow the City, when they raise for the events, they can use that money for the event, not the marketing of the event. Therefore, they might have money that the City can use to pay overtime for the police officers, etc.

Mr. Haste asked if the proposal was provided to HHRVB in written form.

Mr. Papenfuse stated yes and he also copied the Commissioners through an email. It addresses all of the concerns that everyone has.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the two new employees would serve on the HHRVB planning committee for future related City events.

Mr. Papenfuse stated that the marketing director would be on the board. They would reestablish a marketing committee – the City would give two members and HHRVB would have two members. That Committee could work collaboratively to determine how to spend the additional $100,000 a year.

Mr. Pries stated what a difference a week makes. It is fantastic that you got together with the folks from HHRVB and hopefully some common ground was found. That is a good start.

Mr. Papenfuse asked the Board to encourage HHRVB to see the merits of the plan.

Mr. Hartwick thanked Mr. Papenfuse for presenting this proposal publically. He looks forward to examining it a little further and is hopeful that a resolution can occur.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Christian A. Johnson, Dean and Professor of Law
   1. Widener University Commonwealth Law School

Dean Johnson indicated that he is honored to be here today. Widener University has the Widener Commonwealth Law School here in Dauphin County. They have been here for 25 years. Recently, Widener Law School now is a separately accredited
independent law school under Widener University. He is the first Dean of the Widener Commonwealth Law School, operating independently of the branch campus in Wilmington, Delaware. His family is East Shore residents. He provided the Commissioners with some hats, etc. The Widener facilities and property is always available should the County need a place to meet.

Mr. Haste thanked him, because the County uses the facility on a number of occasions. The testing for the correctional officers is done at the facility.

Mr. Pries welcomed him to Dauphin County.

B. Carl Dickson, Director, and Michelle Hornberger of Parks & Recreation

1. Dauphin County Charity Golf Outing Check Presentation to Local Organizations

Mr. Dickson stated that for 19 years, the Dauphin County Commissioners sponsored a golf outing and it supports many community causes. It wouldn’t be possible without those sponsors and the volunteers. This year’s event was incredibly successful, raising more than $42,000. Over the life of the tournament it has raised $567,000. Michelle does the heavy lifting and she will list the folks that are receiving some checks today.

Ms. Hornberger stated that the following charities are recipients of the proceeds from this year’s event. She asked them to stand when she calls their name/organization.

The Boys & Girls Club of Harrisburg – Yvonne Hollis, Executive Director
American Red Cross – Karen Deklinski, Board Chair
The Vista School – Michael Jarman, President of the Board of Directors
Crime Stoppers – Joe Lewin, Board Chair & Barry Ramper, Vice Chair
Vickie’s Angel Walk – Micky Minnich, Executive Director
The Program – Dr. Carol Corlett-Howard, Board Chair
Dauphin County Pretrial Services – Shannon Danley, Executive Director
Dauphin County Sheriff’s Canine Unit – Jack Lotwick, Sheriff
The United Way – Rusty LaCoss, Operations Manager & Noelle Barich, Campaign Associate
South Central Pennsylvania Sickle Cell Council – Joe Robinson, Executive Director
New Birth of Freedom Council – David Cousil, Dauphin County District Director
The Salvation Army – Kathy Anderson-Martin, Director of Philanthropy
Estamos Unidos of PA – Mary Davis, Shelley Bayer, Richard Neff – Board members
Panther Ram Foundation for the NutriPacks Program – School Board President Ford Thompson
Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA – Jonas Penney, Development Coordinator

(Pictures were taken and applause was given.)
Mr. Haste asked Mr. Dickson to make sure that he thanks the volunteers and staff. It is a fun event and it is nice to be able to give money back to the community.

Mr. Dickson stated for some of these groups, with the budget issues, this check is really welcome right now.

Mr. Pries stated before Joe Lewin leaves, he thanked Joe for his service on various boards and his dedication to the community. He is retiring from Channel 27. It will be a big loss to Central Pennsylvania and the community, but hopefully he will stick around and stay active as he has in the past. The Board appreciates it.

Mr. Lewin stated thank you.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he is going to give him a list of Dauphin County boards after the meeting.

C. Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance

1. Update on 2016 Budget

Mr. Yohe indicated that he is at the meeting today to give a brief update on where the County is at in the 2016 budget process. There are four different reports. The first two, the Board is familiar with. Back in September and early October, he met with all the departments where they refined the estimates for 2015. The General Fund – on the expense side is coming in at roughly $1.8 million under budget. He would expect it could be even lower. On the revenue side, it is short. Bottom line is the County is about $1.3 million to the positive. Courts (total of all Court departments) came in right on budget with the expenses, but they are well over on the revenue side. The Courts were able to meet the budget expectations for 2015.

Mr. Pries asked about the projections for the 911 funding in the future.

Mr. Yohe stated that it looks good for this year. This is 2015. They are transitioning to a calendar year funding model.

The second report is for 2016. The report shows the requests, minus all the new position requests and equipment requests. Those will be itemized on the report for the public hearing. It does include $500,000 to put back in for vehicles and equipment. The positions are up to the Board. There is about a 5.04% requested increase, which is normal. Revenue is up. A lot of this increase in expense and revenue is related to that disaster relief issue. The County budgeted $7.6 million in 2015. After meeting with Economic Development, that figure was lowered to $2.6 million for 2015 and bumped it up to $5 million for 2016. There is a built in $2.4 million increase in that program. Everything is pretty much right where they planned for 2015 and 2016.
With regard to Commissioner Pries’ question, the new funding source, Mr. Libhart and Mr. Yohe reviewed those numbers. The amount from the General Fund is what they had hoped it would be for next year. If more comes in they will be able to lower that a little bit. There was not a hit to the General Fund on that.

Mr. Haste asked if it was where it once was.

Mr. Yohe stated no. There wasn’t a budget relief.

Mr. Haste stated it is good the County was in a position to be able to deal with that, but there are probably other counties that are in a bad situation.

Mr. Yohe stated with regard to the Courts, there is a big increase there, because he does not have any adjustment in there yet. That is not included.

Mr. Hartwick stated some concerns – the high shock claims that Dauphin County has encountered this year. The Board has been very prudent in the past in attempting to build up a reserve fund to address any of these high shock claims. This year was a significant year with caps being taken off of what is being spent. He asked what impact that has on the overall insurance costs moving forward. The County had to deplete the reserves.

Mr. Yohe stated for 2015, his estimates are about $1.5 million over in that area in the General Fund. Even with that over, it is still coming in under. The estimates that the County gets from the consultants are considerably higher than what the County ends up spending, except for the shock claims this year.

Mr. Hartwick stated that when he looked at the list of shock claims, which are all those claims that are over $100,000 and being self-funded, those are 100% paid for by County dollars. There was a reserve fund to deal with that, but that has been significantly depleted.

Mr. Yohe stated that the County was able to build up a significant reserve and that will go down about half this year.

Mr. Haste stated what it shows is that the Board was prudent in being self-funded for a while. However, with the rise in the claims, it is also prudent to take a hard look if that is the way to continue. Mr. Burford and Mr. Yohe need to talk about some of the counter offers and suggestions.

Mr. Yohe stated that the 2016 numbers do reflect the steps that they talked about to ensure the County against future shock claims.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the Stop Loss has always been something that the Board has had concerns with. The other item is the Children & Youth Needs Based Budget. It is
really concerning with what was budgeted from the County’s perspective versus high case volume. He asked if there are mid-year numbers.

Mr. Yohe stated in 2015, those numbers are from the Children & Youth fiscal office. Even with what is happening up there this year, the County was significantly conservative in the estimate going into 2015. Their projections right now are going to come in about $500,000 under.

Mr. Hartwick stated that is with an additional $2 million contribution from the County share.

Mr. Yohe stated it is up, but it is within the budget line. In 2016, they gave him $9.6 million.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that they were given the opportunity to reopen the 2016 Needs Based Budget process, not the 2015.

Mr. Yohe stated that he was pleased with the numbers.

Mr. Haste asked what Mr. Yohe is anticipating in receiving from now to the end of the year – revenue wise.

Mr. Yohe stated cash flow; he is not anticipating anything at this point. The County will be at crunch time. The County will get through the end of the year.

Mr. Haste stated that means that the Board has to have a plan in place for the beginning of the year.

Mr. Hartwick stated that he knows that the Board made a decision not to cut off and shut the door for services, but the Board should have a workshop session about how it plans, once it meets that crunch, to fund it and also have some commitment from providers in the process.

Mr. Haste stated that if this continues, the doors may have to be closed a little.

Mr. Hartwick stated or have providers be willing to step up with a portion of the financing.

Mr. Haste stated that the critical will be the first quarter of next year. It sounds like the County is okay for this year. If the budget impasse continues, the County will have some real issues to deal with.

Mr. Yohe stated that the County has been fronting a quarter at a time in MH/ID. His suggestion would be, come the first of the year, that it be done a month at a time. That would help the cash flow.
Mr. Hartwick stated that they should be asking each of those departments in the weekly meetings to come up with a finance plan that involves both how it would look with the County’s share, but also there are some larger providers that have significant leverage. You can’t have the small providers that rely on cash flow. Those would be the ones that would be run out of business. There are a lot of larger providers that can take out their own financing at good rates.

Mr. Haste stated the more statewide and national programs can probably exist. It is the locals and the County needs the locals in most of the programs.

Mr. Yohe stated that some of the providers can borrow money and carry it over into the next year. They are in more of a position to borrow operating funds. If the County borrows it, it has to pay it back.

Mr. Hartwick asked what the ARC is for this year.

Mr. Saylor stated that ARC means Annual Required Contribution to the Pension Plan.

Mr. Yohe stated that it is about $200,000 over.

Ms. Rebuck stated that the projected amount for next year is $6,950,000. The actual amount for this year was $6,546,502, so it is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Yohe stated that he estimated a little bit higher in the report.

Ms. Rebuck stated that number is based on the asset values as of the end of September.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that it could change. Eleven straight years without a tax increase projected.

Mr. Yohe indicated that there is no consideration for a tax increase for next year.

Mr. Pries thanked Mr. Yohe and his staff for the work that he does having the elected officials and the department heads in to review the budgets. It allows the Board to review the budget line item by line item. This is a very fair budget. It continues to provide a high level of constituent service that the residents are accustomed to and demand. He asked if there is any other county, statewide, that has this accomplishment.

Mr. Saylor stated that there are a few smaller counties that are in the Marcellus Shale region.

Mr. Pries thanked his colleagues, because he has only been here – this is his 6th year for a budget. These are amazing numbers and what the Board is able to continue to do for the residents of the County.
Mr. Hartwick stated that the 2016 budget will go through the nitty gritty of significant reductions, which hopefully will get the County to a zero percent increase.

Mr. Saylor stated one other dark cloud that is on the horizon is the impact of the Affordable Care Act – the Cadillac Tax. If the value of a healthcare plan exceeds $1,200 for single coverage or $2,750 for family coverage, the excess amount is subject to 40% excise tax starting in 2018. Staff has indicated that unless some significant changes are made to the healthcare packages, the County will be hit with the excise tax, which would cost around $500,000 in 2018. That number will double in 2019 and quadruple in 2020. That is a federal tax right on top of everything else. They are working on a plan that will help the County change the healthcare plan to help avoid that tax. It is requiring some tough negotiations with the unions, which the County is going through right now.

Mr. Hartwick stated that is one that flows downhill – trying to provide good benefits and the way the County has been able to structure the self-insured plan has really kept the costs down, but having this additional tax is going to force the County to change plan design, which will have an impact on a number of things. That would include turnover of staff. Some folks stay here because of the good benefits.

Mr. Yohe stated that the public budget hearings are on November 12, 17, 19 and 20.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

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

She requested a vote on the Probation Services hires – Items 11 through 17.

Mr. Haste indicated that he had a discussion with both the Director and the Judge.

Ms. Lengle also noted that Change #26 – it is a part-timer going to full-time. That person has worked the number of hours to make him eligible for benefits immediately. She also mentioned a memo in the packet.

*It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Items #11 to 17 of the Personnel Packet.*

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

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

Mr. Haste stated that as people are looking at the budgets, even though they may be asking for things next year, they may get them this year. He asked Mr. Baratucci if he could keep a list of that like he does every year.

Mr. Baratucci indicated that he would. The one item was too late to get added to the Packet. It is for routine labels for out at the Warehouse for the new filing system. He wanted to get that added so it could be approved next week. The budget items will be fixed. He asked if there were questions. (There was none.)

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

TRAINING REQUEST

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Item #1 of the Training Packet.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Second Amendment to Inmate Telephone Vending Agreement between Dauphin County (Prison) and DSI-ITI, LLC. (**A Vote is Requested 10/28/15**)

Mr. Haste indicated that Item A listed above is for the phone system out at the jail.

Mr. Curcillo stated that it is the phone system that provides the County some financing.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Item A listed above under Items for Discussion.

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

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

Mr. Curcillo indicated that he has nothing else to comment on. Everything else on the Solicitor’s Report will be ready for next week. He asked if there were any questions. (There was none.)
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. Pries reported that the Voter Registration & Elections Department is very busy. They have been delivering machines and preparing for next Tuesday’s General Election. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Best wishes to all the candidates.

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.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz