DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 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; Randie Yeager, Director of Human Services; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Robert Burns, Director of AAA; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Troy Petery, Court Administration; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Greg Schneider, Budget & Finance; Kay Lengle, Human Resources; Dave Schreiber, Human Resources; Faye Fisher, Director of Human Resources; Annmarie Kaiser; Administrator of Children & Youth; Melody Osborn, Commissioners’ Office and Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Julie Mattera, James Roxbury, Barb Miller, Tom Connelly, Scott Loercher, WHP, WHTM and WGAL

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are 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 was an Executive Session held on September 9, 2015 to discuss matters of litigation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Children & Youth Administrator Candidate

Ms. Annmarie Kaiser thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to speak today and for giving her the opportunity to head Dauphin County’s Children & Youth Agency. She looks forward to working with Commissioner Hartwick as the County continues to improve the Department and serve the communities’ children and families. She also thanked Joe Dougher who came out of retirement and literally rescued an agency that in some respects had lost its way. Thanks to Joe’s work as Interim Administrator, she is coming to an agency that has faced up to its problems and is already well on the way to turning itself around.

Her commitment to the children of Dauphin County goes back to 1994, when she began working as a Deputy District Attorney for Dauphin County. She requested to be assigned to child abuse cases. During her tenure in the District Attorney’s Office, she worked closely with the County Children & Youth caseworkers as they ensured children were removed from dangerous situations and that those who harmed them were punished. She gained appreciation for the hard work and dedication shown by the caseworkers – dedication that she expects is the same today as it was 20 years ago when she first worked with the Department. She can’t think of a better motivation for getting up every morning than when you know you are helping children and keeping them safe. The caseworkers at times see the very worst in human behavior.
She read the Grand Jury Report about the problems and mistakes that were made. She has also seen the plans of correction and knows how the Department has improved over the past year. Under her leadership, the Agency will stop at nothing to keep predators from hurting children. Keeping families together when possible is a primary goal. If a child does have to be removed from their home, the Department will always attempt to place the child with other appropriate family members. Both research and state law recognize that children do best when they are able to remain in a family setting.

While the investigation into Jarrod Tutko’s tragic death pointed out significant failings, it is important to remember that Dauphin County Children & Youth has a tradition of excellence. The Agency has been praised by the State for its work in keeping families together. She knows a good example of this is Commissioner Hartwick’s emphasis on family group conferencing, in which everyone with an interest in a family comes together to address problems. This family-oriented focus will not change. For much of her career, she has worked to ensure all of Pennsylvania’s children are protected.

After leaving the Prosecutor’s Office in 1997 to become the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, she focused on what could be done on a statewide level to combat crimes against children. They lobbied to change the law and Pennsylvania’s constitution to allow children who were victimized to testify via closed-circuit televisions. Children would no longer be terrified by seeing the person who hurt them in the same room. District Attorney offices across the State were seeing the need to create dedicated teams that would specialize in investigating and prosecuting child abuse. They oversaw the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Coalition and developed and oversaw the Juvenile Prosecutors Network, which regularly meets to discuss best practices. They also sought and received State money to train prosecutors, police and Children & Youth caseworkers. As part of the training, they developed the framework for creating the first multi-disciplinary teams made up of law enforcement, Children & Youth caseworkers and medical professionals. As the Executive Director, she visited most of the counties in Pennsylvania to help train and organize these teams. These are the same kinds of teams Children & Youth and the District Attorney’s Office has created to handle all serious cases of abuse. They also coordinated efforts to pass tougher child abuse laws, including Megan’s Law Legislation which allowed the public, for the first time, to find out if convicted child sex offenders were living in their neighborhood. Later in the Attorney General’s Office, she continued to work on child protection-related issues. This included advocating for legislation that allowed the child predator unit to file criminal charges against those who communicate online for the purposes of trying to have sex with a minor. She also had the privilege to serve as a member of Pennsylvania’s Gaming Control Board, but had been looking to return to a position that would allow her to advocate for children.

As Administrator of Dauphin County Children & Youth, in addition to having a background in child protective work, she knew she had the management experience to ensure the agency remains on track. At the same time, as an outsider, she comes to
the position with a fresh set of eyes, ready to continue to make whatever changes are necessary to safeguard the children. Her first priority will be to make sure the quality assurance team is up and running this month as planned. This team will review cases at random to ensure continuing compliance with regulations and promote best practices. She will also ensure all staff receives the proper training so there is never any doubt what action needs to be taken to protect the children.

She thanked the Commissioners for selecting her to head Children & Youth and for giving the agency the resources it needs, including the ability to bring on six additional part-time caseworkers. With everyone working together, it can make a difference in the lives of the County’s children and help strengthen families.

Mr. Pries indicated that he enthusiastically supports the hiring of Ms. Kaiser. She is the right person at the right time.

Mr. Haste stated that many comments were received when Ms. Kaiser’s name was circulated. The judges and the District Attorney are excited to have Ms. Kaiser on board.

Mr. Hartwick stated that Ms. Kaiser’s emphasis on the department and idea of protecting kids is the most important function statewide.

B. Scott Loercher, Director of Design, Buchart Horn

1. Update on the Space Needs Assessment

Mr. Loercher of Buchart Horn provided the Commissioners with an update on the County’s Space Needs Study. To date, Buchart Horn has developed an interview format to identify space and adjacency requirements. They held kick-off meetings for court related departments on August 13 and non-court related departments on August 20. They conducted interviews with 32 departments. After the kick-off meetings, they began surveying 8 county buildings.

The next steps will be to complete the department interviews and required building surveys. They will then update/create building plans to indicate area use. A program will be developed to indicate current organization vs. current needs. The final step to the study will be to review available building square footage and develop planning options.

He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Haste indicated that he had a conversation with Mr. Burford regarding user needs and client access, such as more public access in some places and less in others.


**SALARY BOARD**

A complete set of Salary Board Meeting Minutes are on file in the Commissioners’ Office.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Lengle asked if there were any questions. (There was none.) She did indicate that she needed approval on four items. They are #3, #9, #11 and #12.

> **It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Items #3, #9, #11 and #12 of the Personnel Packet.**

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

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci reported that the Purchase Order Packet was distributed yesterday. There is one budget adjustment that will need to be made. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Hartwick questioned the purchases that are being made by the Court.

Mr. Haste indicated that the Courts do this every year. They make purchases at the end of the year, after their budget meeting with Mike Yohe.

**TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Saylor indicated that Item #2 needs a vote.

> **It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Item #2 on the Training Packet.**

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

There was none.

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

Mr. Curcillo reported that he has nothing to add to the Solicitor’s Report and that the items will be ready for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting.
CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor noted that he attended the 230th Anniversary – Founding of the Courts. The event was captured by PCN and it was a very nice ceremony.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Hartwick discussed the State budget impasse and the challenges it presents. The County has to rebalance. It is a different situation for the Children & Youth system that is burdened by changes in the law. The County cannot shut the door to critical human services. The Board will need to continue to evaluate where they are financially.

Mr. Haste stated that a proposal is being released today from the Senate regarding the budget. There is a CCAP leadership conference on Friday and following that there is another call with the membership.

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