DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2016
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Tim DeFoor, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Gerald Feaser, Jr., Director of Voter Registration/Elections; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Laura Cullison, Esq., Controller’s Office; Donna S. Miller, Commissioners’ Office; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Janelle Weidner, Human Resources; George Connor, IV, Community & Economic Development; Daniel Schramm, Solicitor’s Office; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office; Ruby Doub, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jay Wenger, Donna Kreiser, Tim Horstmann, Cole Goodman and media

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.
MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve the December 9, 2015 Workshop Meeting Minutes and the December 16, 2015 Legislative Meeting Minutes; motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. DeFoor and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve the December 16, 2015 Salary Board Meeting Minutes; motion carried.

Mr. Haste asked if this Board can approve the Election Board Minutes since they did not sit as the Election Board.

Mr. Curcillo stated that the Board is the same, but the members have changed. He took the position that it is a continuing Board, it is just different members. That Board doesn’t exist, so this Board can just accept them.

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board accept the November 19, 2015 Election Board Meeting Minutes; motion carried.

Mr. Haste stated that for the record in the years in which the Commissioners run, the Courts appoint the Election Board. Every other year the Board of Commissioners sit as the Election Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Goodman congratulated the Commissioners for another four years. He also congratulated the Treasurer and Controller as well. He is a Susquehanna Township School Board director. He has two items. The first one has probably already been discussed. For many residents it is tough to get to the 10:00 a.m. meetings with work schedules and school schedules. He would think a conversation should be had about possibly having some Commissioners’ meetings in the evening.
Mr. Haste stated that most county commissioners’ meetings across the Commonwealth are actually held during the day. Dauphin County has had numerous evening meetings where no one shows. The history has been that this is when most folks come, because a lot of this Board does is business oriented. When he was Chief Clerk, the Board would take their meetings on the road, at least every quarter. The only folks that attended were the commissioners and the county staff. There will be evening meetings at times when there are other issues to discuss. They also have Eggs and Issues, which are very informal meetings. They give a breakfast and they have a good turnout then. The Board has attempted many things. This appears to be the time that it gets the most attendance. It is the norm for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Goodman stated that another event that is coming up is a first in a series of regional youth town halls on violence, which will be held on Thursday, January 7th at the John Harris High School Auditorium. This will be an opportunity for the youth and youth leaders to speak to elected officials about what is causing the violence in the communities. This will also be an opportunity for elected officials to listen to the youth. It will be a meeting where they come up with solutions. It is going to be a solution session. He invited the Commissioners to attend.

Mr. Haste asked what time the meeting starts.

Mr. Goodman stated 6:30 p.m.

The Commissioners thanked him.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Jay Wenger, Susquehanna Group Advisors

1. Resolution #1-2016 – Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN), Series of 2016 (A Vote is Requested 1/6/16)

Mr. Wenger stated before the Board today is a Resolution that would approve a $20 million Tax Anticipation Note borrowing that would commence on the closing date. It would have to be repaid in calendar year 2016. It is intended to cover shortfalls that the County might experience as a result of the Commonwealth budget impasse. Three proposals were received from local banks. They were from Fulton Bank, PNC and Integrity (now S&T Bank). Based on rates and fees, the proposal from Integrity Bank was deemed to be the lowest cost to the County. If the Board would proceed today with this Resolution, closing would occur a week from today, January 15th. The total out of pocket at closing for the costs of doing this loan would be about $20,000. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Yohe had indicated that some funds are starting to come in from the Commonwealth. The Board may want to reconsider this Resolution, since there is some money coming in from the Commonwealth.
Mr. Haste stated that the County hasn’t done one of these in a long time that the fees actually caught the Board off guard. He doesn’t remember the fees being at this level in the past. With the money starting to come in, the Board wanted to hear from Mike what his thinking is on this. If there is a way not to do this the Board would prefer not to do that.

Mr. Yohe stated that the County did receive $5 million for Children & Youth yesterday. Since that came in, he expects that the money for MH/ID will be coming in shortly. The $5 million will get the County through next week and if the County gets another $12 million that will take the County through a couple more weeks. If there is a way to put this on hold and pull the trigger if it is needed, that would be his suggestion rather than incur those costs upfront. He understands that if the Board passes the Resolution then those fees will be locked in, at least to Integrity. He will keep an eye on the cash flow.

Mr. Haste asked if Mr. Yohe is suggesting that the Board pass the Resolution and not settle.

Mr. Yohe stated that he is suggesting that the Board not pass the Resolution today, but he will let the Board know if it comes to a point when the County will need to do it.

Mr. Haste asked if this would have to be readvertised.

Ms. Kreiser stated that this issue was discussed prior to the meeting today. Under the LGUDA the County would have no obligation to readvertise and the Resolution could be adopted at the Board’s convenience.

Mr. Wenger stated that the only caveat to that is the rate proposed by Integrity is subject to change. The rate would have to be refreshed at the time the County determined if they needed the money. It is unlikely that the rate would change by enough that it would offset not paying the financing costs today and never using the money.

Mr. Hartwick stated that the headline should be “State budget crisis takes counties down to the wire”, because this clearly has now expended every bit of the County’s fund balance to this point to be one of the counties that continues to only pay human service providers. Many counties have already cut off providers. The Board has heard from providers thanking them for keeping them in business. He has been in discussion with the Department of Human Services and they believe the wires should be coming out Thursday or Friday of this week. He doesn’t want to have any unnecessary expenses until the Board can see what happens by the end of this week.

Mr. Pries stated that he is fine with holding off.

Mr. Haste stated that the only issue he has is a Retirement Board issue. The Retirement Board had a cash flow and they looked at getting the cash flow through the end of the year instead of taking it out of proceeds. That was with the anticipation of ARC payments beginning in January. He stated that needs to be factored into all of
this. There are two boards that are dealing with cash flow issues. We need to make sure that we don't stop one here and create another problem somewhere else.

Mr. Yohe stated that if the cash comes in from the State as scheduled, the County will be able to meet those payments as well.

Mr. Haste stated the ones that “Sandy” mentioned.

Mr. Yohe stated yes.

Mr. Haste asked Mr. Yohe to stay on top of this.

Mr. Wenger stated that it takes about a week from the time the Board would adopt the Resolution to get to a funding date. In short order money could be available. When the Governor announced that they were funding some line items, he called Mr. Yohe to find out if he still wanted to do this.

Mr. Hartwick asked if there is any way that the Board can authorize this without the expenditure of closing to secure rates.

Mr. Wenger stated that if it is authorized then the County is obligated to pay the bank’s expenses. The cost is $20,000 and half of that is the bank.

Mr. Pries stated that if the Board did that he would be willing to send the bill to the State for reimbursement.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board table the approval of the Resolution #1-2016 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note.

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

**SALARY BOARD**

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

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Weidner noted that on Items 13-17, the effective date is January 19, 2016. She also asked for a vote on Items 21 and 26.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Items #21 and #26 of the Personnel Packet.
Discussion: Mr. Pries asked if the rate on #21 is the rate of the existing employee.

Ms. Weidner indicated that is correct.

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

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci stated that he is asking the Board to approve the Purchase Order Packet today. This is a large packet. It includes a lot of the contracts that run for the year. Although the back page shows nearly $2 million on this Packet, much of that will not be paid right away.

Mr. Haste stated that is the amount for these contracts.

Mr. Baratucci stated that it also includes some blanket POs and the County pays as they need them. The biggest one is for EMA with Motorola. That particular one is paid quarterly.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve the Purchase Order Packet as presented.**

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

**Bid Award – Fort Hunter Service Station & Heckton Church Land Development**

Mr. Baratucci stated that he is asking for the approval of a bid. This is a project for Parks & Recreation, Fort Hunter Service Station & Heckton Church project. This started out last June. A bid was done for this project and only one bid was received. The bid was rejected. A new bid was done, which was opened in November. Four bids were received and the low bid was Farhat Excavating at $1,070,211. There is a letter from HRG recommending that the Board accept that bid.

Mr. Haste stated that this money is not General Fund money. There are a lot of contributors to this. It is a joint project and has been in the works for a number of years.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board award the bid for the Fort Hunter Service Station & Heckton Church Land Development Project to the low qualified bidder, Farhat Excavating, LLC, at a bid price of $1,070,211.**

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

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Items #1, #2, #3 and #9 of the Training Packet.

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

The rest of the Training Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Supplemental Engineering Agreement between Dauphin County and Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. for the Duke Street Bridge. (A Vote is Requested 1/6/16)

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board the Supplemental Engineering Agreement between Dauphin County and Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. for the Duke Street Bridge.

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

B. 2016 Mileage Rate – 54 cents per mile. (A Vote is Requested 1/6/16)

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve the 2016 Mileage Rate at 54 cents per mile.

Discussion: Mr. Hartwick stated that every year the Board looks at this. He needs to get clarification again of the requirements of the County Code related to what the County uses as an index to set mileage rates. He is certain that other counties across the Commonwealth have considerably lower mileage rates. It is a huge expense when employees would rather take their own car than use fleet vehicles. He is asking the Solicitor to clarify why the County needs to use as an index the Federal mileage rate as the basis for how reimbursement is set here in Dauphin County. He asked if it is a requirement of third class counties.

Mr. Saylor stated that this has been reviewed in the past and a lot of the counties use the same rate. The 54 cents per mile is lower than last year.

Mr. Curcillo stated that he cannot answer that question. He needs to review it.

Mr. Haste stated is it code requirements or union contracts.

Mr. Curcillo stated that is part of the problem. He believes that it is in some of the union contracts. He doesn’t know if it is in the Code.
Mr. Haste stated that his recollection is that it isn’t the Code as much as it may be contractual.

Mr. Hartwick stated that this issue should be considered in future negotiations. He would ask that it be held for discussion.

Mr. Hartwick made a motion to table this matter until it can be reviewed and to see if there is any room to adjust the rate and then have a discussion in Executive Session related to other negotiations.

The motion died for a lack of a second.

Question on 1st Motion: Mr. Haste – Aye; Mr. Pries – Aye and Mr. Hartwick – No; motion carried.

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

Mr. Curcillo stated that everything on the Solicitor’s Report is being reviewed and will be ready for approval at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

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

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Pries thanked the staff, not just here in the Administration Building, but also at Community & Economic Development, as well as Dave Black and others for their assistance and participation in the Swearing-In ceremonies and festivities. A special welcome to Nick Chimienti and Tim DeFoor and his new number 2, Laura Cullison. He looks forward to working with them in their new roles here at the County.

Mr. Hartwick thanked the staff as well.

He asked if the Controller could review the opportunity for the Commissioners to have a better strategy when this comes up next year with regard to the mileage rate.

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.