DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

NOVEMBER 23, 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; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; Gerald Feaser, Jr., Director of Voter Registration & Elections; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Amy Harinath, Press Secretary; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Donna S. Miller, Commissioners' Office; Nick Chimienti, Sheriff; Laura Cullison, Controller's Office; Janelle Weidner, Human Resources and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

James Roxbury, Barb Miller, Rob Lesher; WHTM, WPMT, and Mark Stewart

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 several Meeting Minutes that will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

There were no Executive Sessions held between meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance

1. Presentation of 2017 Budget

Mr. Yohe presented the 2017 Budget. This date was advertised to make the 2017 budget available for public inspection.

Page 1 – shows all the funds that run on a calendar year basis. It shows a $6.5 million increase. The General Fund shows a $5.5 million increase. This budget is a work in progress and some changes will be made prior to adoption. A question was asked regarding the Liquid Fuels Fund. The reason for the deduction was because of the construction of Bridge #32.

Page 2 – There is no tax increase for 2017. The original General Fund request was $202 million, which was cut by $4.2 million to $197.8 million. A $650,000 salary/benefit vacancy adjustment is included. Settled union wages between 2-3% for 2017 were budgeted, 2% for contracts under negotiation and 2% for non-union wages. The initial Courts budget was $41.5 million, which was reduced to just under $40 million. The budget assumes a $6.75 million pension ARC for 2017 per the actuarial estimate. 18 new positions were requested, however only five were included in the budget. $960,000 is included for County guarantee on the Harrisburg Incinerator debt per the terms of the Harrisburg Recovery Plan. The debt service budget is showing a $1.5 million increase for 2017. This is the result of this budget line returning to its normal annual payment level after two years of refundings that resulted in over $4.2 million in savings for the County’s General Fund. There are no anticipated refundings for 2017. Expenses exceed revenue in the proposed budget by approximately $12.5 million. This
budget deficit will be covered by the County’s unreserved fund balance. County debt will be paid off in 2024.

Page 3 – shows how the General Fund funds all the other funds. The Children & Youth transfer is a work in progress. Mr. Hartwick noted that they are working to reduce that amount.

Page 4 – is a breakdown of the five new positions.

Page 5 – a chart of the General Fund Revenue by source. 53% comes from taxes.

Page 6 – a chart of the General Fund Expenditure breakdown. Salaries and benefits amount to 47%.

Page 7 – a chart on the General Fund Revenue by Function.

Page 8 – a chart on the General Fund Expenditures by Function. Judicial and Public Safety make up the majority.

Page 9 – are the Tax Rates. For 2017, the proposed tax rate is 6.876 mils and the Library is 0.350 mils.

Pages 10-13 is a breakdown by Department.

Each Commissioner commented on the budget process and raised concerns with employer healthcare costs, as well as the State budget problems. If the State budget process proceeds as predicted, the Board may need to consider a TRAN (Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note).

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve the laying of the 2017 Budget on the table for public review. Adoption is scheduled for December 14, 2016.

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

Mr. Yohe noted that the Budget is available for public review at the Receptionist’s Desk in the Commissioners’ Office and online.

B. Mark Stewart, Esq.

1. Presentation on Local Share

Mr. Stewart provided the Commissioners with an update on the status of the local share funding because of the Supreme Court’s ruling. Unfortunately, the Senate and House of Representatives have not come up with a solution to the ruling. Because of the great
partnership that the County has with the Hollywood Casino/Penn National, they entered into a Memorandum of Understanding. There were some grants and reallocation requests that were placed on hold. He asked if the Board wanted to proceed on these matters.

Mr. Haste indicated that he would like to continue to move ahead with these projects, and that Mr. Stewart needs to tell them that they must move forward before June 1, 2017. He doesn’t want to be sitting here next December and it could be gone.

Mr. Pries noted that the most valuable assets are the first responders. This funding helps municipalities purchase ambulances, fire trucks and building improvements. The Legislature needs to step up to the plate.

Mr. Hartwick thanked Penn National for stepping up. Some of these grants cover long term debt payments and others are long range projects. If things do not change some of these municipalities will have to raise taxes and then the taxpayers suffer because of political games.

The Commissioners advised Mr. Stewart to move forward with the projects that were drawing down funds within the first six months.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Weidner asked if there were any questions on either the Salary Board Packet and/or the Personnel Packet. There were none.

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

**PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci reported that the Packet was distributed and any budget adjustments will be made prior to next week. There were no questions asked.

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

**TRAINING PACKET**

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

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

A. Amendment to Real Estate Purchase Agreement between Dauphin County and Huan Ba Le for property at 2885 Paxton Street, Harrisburg (Turkey Hill). (A Vote is Requested 11/23/16)

B. Appointment of Michael D. Becker (3-year term), Amanda Coffey (2-year term) and Kelly Gorman (1-year term) to the Dauphin County Merit-Based Hiring System Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Panel. (A Vote is Requested 11/23/16)

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

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

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

Mr. Curcillo noted that all items on the Solicitor’s Report will be ready for consideration at next week’s Legislative Meeting. There were no questions asked.

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor had no report and no questions were asked.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Haste commented on the State’s deficit and how that will impact on counties. 2017 will be one of the worst budget cycles for the State that he has seen -- the State will be laying off employees from Labor and Industry and the political games that are occurring. There will come a point where he will advocate to no longer provide human services that aren’t considered essential services by County Code if the State isn’t going to properly fund the programs. The State can take the services back.

Mr. Hartwick noted his concerns with the State budget and the County not getting reimbursement. He suggested that the County row officers continue to collect revenue and not remit to the State in the event of another State budget impasse. A continuity plan needs to be prepared to keep the services open. CCAP is lobbying to hold departments accountable – one area that does not have a clear voice is the senior citizens. He discussed the situation with the State Auditor General and the contractor, Maximus, which handles paperwork for service enrollment. Delays in processing paperwork has led to seniors waiting for services.
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