DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2019
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; DiAndra Pena, Human Resources; Amy Richards, Press Secretary; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Steve Libhart, Director of Public Safety; Vince Paese, Controller’s Office; Jerry Feaser, Director of Voter Registration/Elections; Steve Howe, Director of Tax Assessment; Stacey Librandi, Tax Assessment; Chris Davis, Treasurer’s Office; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; J. Kiss, Public Safety; Donna Miller, Commissioners’ Office; Darian Durkin, Solicitor’s Office; Julie Mackey, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Laura Kurtz, Esq., Tom Connelly, Dick Bouder and Jim Roxbury

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 an Executive Session was held on November 6, 2019 to discuss personnel matters.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Chad Saylor & Jerry Feaser
   1. Presentation on State Mandated New Voting System

Mr. Saylor updated the Commissioners on a State Mandate to update the voting machines, because of concerns with the security of some voting systems and seeking verification certificates (paper ballots). These new machines are to be in place for the April 2020 Primary Election. The State approved several systems from which the County must pick. Dauphin County has not made a decision. Some counties used the new machines at the recent election, and he provided the Board with articles on the experiences that occurred. The system that York got was reviewed by the people that attended the Expo in June and that system was ranked as one of the lowest.

Mr. Feaser reported that the problem in York County was with the scanners. There was only one scanner at each precinct. At one of the larger precincts this caused a 45 minute to an hour wait. If this would have occurred during a Presidential Election, this wait could have been 2 to 3 hours. Some of his colleagues are regretting some of their decisions. Northampton had serious issues. They had to bring in other scanners. They are not very durable. Some came back broken.

Mr. Saylor indicated that Mr. Feaser and his staff have been going through due diligence with the vendors. A demo was held at the Courthouse and an Expo in June. All the vendors replied to a Request for Information (RFI) that was issued. The County
is ready to take the next step and needs the Board’s directive on how to proceed. There is a special election in January for just a small part of the County.

Mr. Haste asked what time the results were finalized.

Mr. Feaser responded that there was a high number of absentee ballots. Most of the results were in by 10:00 p.m. There were two that were held up because the satellite pickup waited longer so they didn’t have to make another trip. He was out of the office by 11:30 p.m.

Mr. Haste noted that with these new machines, they are more fragile, less efficient and have more problems than the current machines. It took a while to get the machines certified.

Mr. Feaser indicated that they only had one system certified in the beginning of 2018. By the end of 2018, they had two systems certified.

Mr. Haste stated that he heard from numerous poll workers wondering why the County had to get new machines when the current machines were fine. Because of the issues that some counties had with these new systems, it resulted in a disservice to the voters of this Commonwealth. The Legislature needs to get their act together before an issue is mandated.

Mr. Pries thanked Mr. Saylor and Mr. Feaser for their work on reviewing the new systems. The three vendors that were ranked ESS, ClearBallot and Unisyn. He asked what the project cost is for these machines.

Mr. Feaser reported that it could range from $1.5 million (bare bones) to $5 million. The estimate from E&S is based on one scanner per precinct, but as was seen in York County that didn’t work and York has more voters than Dauphin County.

Mr. Pries indicated that the large precinct in Dauphin County is Susquehanna 3 and they would probably need 3 to 4 scanners, which would make the cost go up.

Mr. Haste also noted that more trucks or trips would need to occur to deliver the machines.

Mr. Pries noted the long lines, jams and incorrect results were found on the new machines. He noted at this moment he could not support going with new machines when the current machines are working.

Mr. Feaser noted that the current machines are not connected to the Internet.

Mr. Pries noted that he would be happy to discuss with the State on the machines. The presidential election is the wrong time to implement new machines. You need to walk before you run. If the kinks are not worked out, you are just asking for trouble. The
Governor mandating it was unexpected. Dauphin County did its due diligence – the June Expo and then the machines were brought in for review. He was in favor of going with the new machines, but with all the issues that have occurred in other counties, the State can tell the voters of Dauphin County that their vote doesn't count. All the County machines are paid for and the Director has noted that everything is operating fine. The residents and poll workers are happy with the machines. At this point, he is not comfortable going forward with the purchase of new voting machines when ours are working and functioning fine. It is being fiscally responsible.

Mr. Saylor asked if there was a motion to proceed.

No motion for new machines was made.

Mr. Pries noted that the current machines will be used for the upcoming Special Election in January.

Mr. Feaser noted that the State gave permission to use current machines for any Special Election.

Mr. Pries noted that if it is okay to use the current machines for a Special Election, then it is okay to use them for the Presidential Election in 2020.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dick Bouder of Swatara Township asked the Commissioners what the status is of the investigation regarding the political flyer that showed a copy of his voter registration card listing personal information.

Mr. Lighty indicated that the matter is still under review and the Solicitor’s Office is working on what information the law allows to be released.

Mr. Bouder stated that the State right to know indicates that it is illegal to disseminate information with social security numbers, personal or financial information, which was on this flyer.

Mr. Lighty indicated that the Right to know law allows for disclosure if there is another law that permits it such as the Registration Act.

Mr. Bouder stated that this is identity theft to him, and it is a criminal offense. He is going to complete a right-to-know request for Dauphin County to find out who requested this information. This information came from the Elections Office and they would know who asked for it.

Tom Connelly of Swatara Township congratulated the Commissioners on their victories. He noted that there was a glitch in Swatara Township, but it had nothing to do with the machines. The situation in Swatara Township had to do with absentee ballots. He
noted that he felt that some inappropriate comments were posted on social media by a few County employees. These comments, he felt, were not acceptable and wanted to bring this to the Commissioners’ attention. He went on to say that this behavior would not be acceptable from Swatara Township employees.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Pena reported that she has some items in the Personnel Packet that require a vote. They are #11, 26, 27, 32, 33, 35, 36 and 45. No questions were asked.

**It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve Items #11, 26, 27, 32, 33, 35, 36 and 45 of the Personnel Packet.**

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

The remaining items of the Personnel Packet will be considered at next week’s Legislative Meeting.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci reported that it is a small Purchase Order Packet. No questions were asked.

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

TRAINING PACKET

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Resolution #20-2019 approving the Royalton Borough Infrastructure Bank Project. *(A Vote is Requested 11/13/19)*

**It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board adopt Resolution #20-2019 approving the Royalton Borough Infrastructure Bank Project.**

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

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – FRED LIGHTY, ESQ.

Mr. Lighty reported that everything is in the Packet and is happy to answer any questions. *(There was none.)*
CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

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

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board adjourn; motion carried.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz