DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2020
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; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Holly Martz, Tax Claim; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Jennifer Simpson, Court Administration; Amy Richards, Press Secretary; DiAndra Pena, Human Resources; Donna Miller, Commissioners’ Office; Dave Skinner, Controller’s Office; Kelly Megonnel, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jay Wenger, Jack Sherzer and news media

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 several sets of 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.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Jay Wenger
   1. 2020 Bond Issue Presentation

Mr. Wenger discussed the Proposed Series of 2020 Refunding/New Money Debt Service. The County will be financing $30 million of new money. The $30 million of new debt will be paid by 2028. The current debt of the County includes the Human Services Building, which was purchased in 2016. There is a smaller piece of the Human Services borrowing, which goes out to 2035.

Mr. Haste asked if this includes the ESCO project.

Mr. Wenger indicated that it did.

He discussed the Resolution that is listed on the Agenda for approval. The County anticipates that it will be necessary to pay certain costs and expenses prior to the issuance of the tax-exempt obligations with funds on deposit in the County’s general fund and expects to reimburse such fund with proceeds of the tax-exempt obligations.

Mr. Haste noted that the Resolution is #1-2020, listed on the Agenda under Item XI – C.

Mr. Saylor noted that the key is the bond rating – the bond rating needs to be kept healthy.

Mr. Wenger noted that next week he will be asking for approval on an Ordinance, which initiates the process.

B. Chad Saylor
   1. Election System
Mr. Pries thanked Mr. Saylor, Mr. Feaser, Mr. Curcillo and Mr. Lighty for their help in researching the new voting system. Because of the mandate, the County is forced to purchase new machines. There is a special election on January 14 in which the old machines can be used. Once the County has the new machines, the old machines will be placed in storage in the event the new system runs into problems. He also thanked the poll workers and volunteers who give their time to run these elections.

Mr. Saylor indicated that there was a team of staff that got us to this point. Mr. Feaser is currently meeting with Clear Ballot. Mr. Baratucci also did a great job making sure the rates matched with COSTARS, as well as Ms. Zeigler who was involved on the IT side. He was able to negotiate some savings of around $70,000. In year one, the fees for upgrades, warranties and licenses are included in the costs. Years two through five they are optional. The State is requesting that the County get all five years of coverage. The costs can be paid all at once or annually. That is an additional cost. The total cost of the new system is $2.3 million.

Mr. Haste noted that the real cost is $3.3 if you include additional staff.

Mr. Pries indicated that the numbers could go up. The current vendor is Elect Tech and they are affiliated with Clear Ballot.

Mr. Saylor stated that there are additional costs that will not be covered by the State. everything is included. It will be 60% of the $2.3 million, but the State has not given us any idea. The State was not able to give us direct answers as to what would be covered. Staff is still investigating what supplies will be needed. More scanners may be needed. They recommended 200 scanners.

Mr. Hartwick expressed his concerns with the State not reimbursing for additional machines if needed, the storage of the old machines and additional staff.

Mr. Saylor noted that the Elections Office is running out of space and staff is looking at alternative sites. The current site is not suited for the distribution of election supplies, etc. There may be some space at the old AAA kitchen. The other issue is the ADA compliance at the polling places. Some of the places cannot be made ADA compliant easily. A meeting has been scheduled to review the locations to see what the exact issues are.

Mr. Haste noted that if you take all the costs, the State would only be reimbursing the County for 21.8%.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that a letter should be sent to the State asking for exactly what items the State will reimburse and how much the reimbursement will be.

Mr. Saylor pointed out that most of these costs are not provided for in the current budget. It has been 14 years without a tax increase, and he has his doubts that the
County can get to 15. If the Board considers these costs, it may be an opportunity for the Board to reopen the budget.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Haste noted that there are Salary Board items for next week’s meeting.

Ms. Pena indicated that she will have some additional items for the Prothonotary’s Office. No questions were asked.

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 is large. The $2.2 million will not be going out all at once. It will get the items encumbered. This is the first packet of the year. Regarding the new voting system, he will discuss with Mr. Feaser about getting a requisition for the new system added to the packet for a vote next week. The cost of the machines and what will be reimbursed is an important fact. Mr. Curcillo was asked if a letter could be prepared requesting this information.

Mr. Curcillo indicated that he can ask questions, but he may not get any answers.

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

TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Training Packet.

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

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

Mr. Curcillo reported that everything listed on the Solicitor’s Report has already been reviewed or will be reviewed prior to next week’s meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Interest-Free Grace Period for Property Owners with 2019 Delinquent Taxes. (A Vote is
B. Master Agreement between Dauphin County and Clear Ballot Group, Inc.  (A Vote is Requested 01/08/2020)

C. Resolution #1-2020 – Tax-Exempt Bonds Reimbursement Resolution.  (A Vote is Requested 01/08/2020)

Mr. Hartwick stated that the interest-free grace period brings in revenue.  It has been a policy for several years.  He thanked Holly Martz and Janis Creason.

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

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

CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor had no additional report.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

There was none.

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.