DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JANUARY 22, 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; Gerald Feaser, Jr., Director of Voter Registration/Elections; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor’s Office; Amy Richards, Press Secretary; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; DiAndra Pena, Human Resources; Rebecca McCullough, Solicitor’s Office; J. Kiss, Public Safety; Kelly Megonnel, Commissioners’ Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Larry Arnold, Carol Mathias, Chris Baker, Michael Buchwach, Lori Mitzel, John Heapes, Sheila Heapes, Jean Handley, Art Florio and James Roxbury

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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

Mr. Saylor reported that an Executive Session was held this morning to discuss personnel matters.

ELECTION BOARD

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

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Jean Handley & Art Florio

1. Redistricting Reform in PA

Ms. Handley thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak today. They were here back in June 2018 regarding the redistricting reform. Ms. Handley and Mr. Florio are here today to discuss Redistricting Reform in PA. Mr. Florio is a Lower Paxton Township resident and has been a volunteer of the Fair Districts PA (FDPA) for three years. Pennsylvania voters were clear that the current redistricting process is designed to maximize party influence, minimize accountability and reduce competition. Sixty-five percent of voters support an independent commission to draw state and federal districts, including majorities of Democrats (66%), Independents (78%) and Republicans (63%). Voters overwhelmingly support redistricting reform because the current system puts party interests ahead of voter interests, creates gridlock and polarization, and ultimately allows officials to choose their own voters instead of voters choosing their elected officials.

Resolutions have been passed by 18 Dauphin County municipalities. These 18 municipalities have a total population of approximately 225,000, therefore 82% of Dauphin County residents are covered by adopted resolutions. Twenty-one counties in PA have adopted a resolution. There are 327 municipalities, representing more than 3,770,000 have adopted a resolution in support. Also, the Bucks County Boroughs Association, PA State Association of Boroughs and the Capital Region Council of Governments have adopted a resolution in support. They would appreciate the Board’s approval of a resolution supporting the creation of an independent citizens redistricting commission.
Mr. Pries thanked them for their due diligence. He was not in support earlier. Every one of our State Legislature has signed various bills at the State level for some sort of redistricting reform. People need to be taken out of the process. There are various bills that are in support of a fair process moving forward.

Mr. Hartwick indicated that he would support a resolution. Getting individuals with the most to lose out of the process is a good thing.

Ms. Handley asked if there were any questions. There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Pena reported that there are no changes to the Salary Board and Personnel Packets. Nothing requires action this week. 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 he has additional items for MDJ Smith’s new office. The requisition did not get to him in time to be added to the Packet. There are seven different manufacturers so there will need to be seven purchase orders, because the manufacturers bill directly. There are a few budget adjustments that will need to be made. 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

There was none.

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

Mr. Curcillo had nothing to report; but noted that all items will be reviewed and ready for action next week. No questions were asked.
CHIEF CLERK’S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor had nothing to report and no questions were asked.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

There was none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Haste noted that the Retirement Board will convene at 10:25 a.m.

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