



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

MARCH 16, 2022

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Pries, Chairman
Chad Saylor, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

J. Scott Burford, Chief Clerk; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Mary K. Bateman, Controller; Chris Davis, Director of Budget & Finance; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Stephen Libhart, Deputy Chief Clerk; Randie Yeager, Director of Human Services; Andrea Kepler, Director of MH/A/DP; Darla Mathis, Human Resources; Brendon Bretz, Budget & Finance; Frank Haulman, Information Technology; Security Guard; Rebecca McCullough, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Kelly Megonnel, Commissioners' Office; and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Mike Musser, Dr. Avis Hendrickson, Representatives Sue Helm, Andrew Lewis, Tom Mehaffie, Greg Rothman, Patty Kim; Dave Madsen, and Jess Vemmerer

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pries, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:02 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Pries changed the line-up for the meeting today. He called forward Representatives Patty Kim, Sue Helm, Andrew Lewis, Tom Mehaffie, Greg Rothman, and City Councilman Dave Madsen. With the increasing gas prices, he cannot understand why the State would continue to push for making the I-83 bridge a bridge toll. Citizens are already just getting by with the increases that are occurring with gas and food.

Mr. Saylor indicated that he agrees with Mr. Pries. This is not the first time the Board has tangled with Governor Wolf. We had the voting machine issue, and keeping the County open, when he wanted to keep it closed (COVID). The Board understands the need to take care of infrastructure, but there are other ways to do that. Pennsylvania does not tax electric cars. There are other options to explore.

Mr. Hartwick stated having all the Representatives and the Board on the same page and to stand up on what is not just a Dauphin/Cumberland problem. The Board wants to meet with PennDOT folks to discuss options that are available instead of making it a toll bridge.

Each of the Representatives discussed their concerns with making I-83 a toll bridge and why they are in support of the County's Resolution. Pennsylvania has the highest gas tax of all States in the country. There is House Bill 920, which would reverse the decision to toll I-83 bridge. At \$2.00 one way, that could cost families \$80 a month and that would hurt a lot of families who are already making decisions on what to purchase with their money (i.e., food, mortgage, gas, etc.). Bridges bring people together and we need to take care of the infrastructure. This is misguided and the wrong approach even before gas prices rose. There is also a Senate Bill that would reverse this as well. There is one person that can stop this and that is Governor Wolf. There are some safety issues with that bridge, and they need to be taken care of, but not as a toll bridge. There are some people that go back and forth on that bridge several times a day. People are going to find alternative routes where they don't have to pay this toll. Those alternative routes are going to be congested. PennDOT indicated that the I 83 bridge

would only be a toll bridge until the repairs have been paid. This almost never happens. Once it is a toll bridge, it remains a toll bridge.

Mr. Madsen stated, on behalf of the city, he supports the County's Resolution. Families are trying to determine what they need to pay for the month – gas, childcare, rent, loans, etc. and are saying that they can't make it work. Downtown restaurants are hurting because people are teleworking. Harrisburg relies on commuters and if they toll I-83 bridge, it will impact the city.

Mr. Hartwick stated that Mayor Wanda Williams could not be here today, but she wanted to make it very clear that the city is behind this.

Mr. Saylor also noted that the Board is sending a letter to Governor Wolf to discuss other options.

It was moved by Mr. Saylor and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board adopt Resolution #7-2022 which strongly opposes any and all plans to toll the I 83 South Bridge.

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

Clifford (last name unknown - did not sign in) stated that making I 83 a toll bridge is the fairest way to pay for the repairs to the bridge. If people take alternate routes, it will take longer to get there, and they will end up just paying the toll.

Mr. Hartwick stated that Pennsylvania has the highest gas tax in the country. PennDOT is bankrupt and they almost bankrupted the Turnpike Commission. There are other avenues available, and this Board would like to sit down and discuss those possibilities.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

- A. Andrea Kepler, Director of MHADP
 - 1. Developmental Disabilities Month Recognition

Mr. Hartwick welcomed Randie Yeager, Andrea Kepler and employees. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Ms. Kepler recognized the daily efforts that the County team provides to people with developmental disabilities. This team supports 1,300 citizens of Dauphin County with a variety of services. Providing services was most challenging during the pandemic, anxieties were high.

Mr. Hartwick thanked each and every one of the caseworkers for the work that they do.

Mr. Saylor also thanked the caseworkers for their service.

Mr. Pries thanked each and everyone on the lives that they impact.

Mr. Hartwick read the following Proclamation.

Office of the County Commissioners
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, promote the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, and support efforts to raise awareness of the difficulties persons encounter while living with disability;

Whereas, people with a developmental disability are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds, and all are valued members of society who find fulfillment living every day;

Whereas, we send gratitude and recognition to our staff and providers in Dauphin County who offer support and resources to persons with developmental disabilities, including impairments in learning and behavior and physical and intellectual functioning;

Whereas, Dauphin County Mental Health/Autism/Developmental Programs currently serve nearly 1,300 individuals in the county with intellectual disabilities, offering an array of services, including supportive living, companionship, transportation, employment services, entertainment options, and nursing care;

Whereas, Dauphin County MH/A/DP, under leadership of Andrea Kepler, works in unison with county agencies, such as the Case Management Unit, and community partners, to also offer programs and events throughout the year;

Therefore, we join the 286,000 residents of Dauphin County in recognition of those with developmental disabilities and the many programs and services developed to support individuals with developmental disabilities, we do hereby proudly proclaim March of 2022 to be "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

B. Jay Wenger, RBC

1. Dauphin County General Authority – Refinancing of the 2016A Bonds

Mr. Pries noted that Mr. Wenger will not be making a presentation today. He was held over in a previous meeting and his presentation will be rescheduled.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Mathis reported that she emailed the Salary Board and Personnel Packets. She is requesting a vote on Items 20, 21 and 26 of the Personnel Packet.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Saylor that the Board approve Items 20, 21 and 26 of the Personnel Packet.

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

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

PURCHASE ORDERS – CHRIS DAVIS

Mr. Davis reported that the Purchase Order Packets were distributed. Any budget adjustments will be made prior to next week.

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

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

Mr. Curcillo had nothing additional to report. Everything will be ready next week for your signatures. No questions were asked.

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – J. SCOTT BURFORD

Mr. Burford had nothing to report, and no questions were asked.

TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Saylor that the Board approve Item #5 of the Training Packet.

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

MATTERS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- A. Fiscal Year 2022 through 2025 Family Center Grant Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and Dauphin County.
- B. Adoption of Resolution #7-2022; a Resolution of the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners strongly opposing any and all plans to toll the I 83 South Bridge. **(Approved earlier in the Meeting.)**

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Saylor that the Board approve Item A listed above under Matters Requiring Board Action.

Question: Mr. Pries – Aye; Mr. Saylor – Aye; Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

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. Saylor that the Board adjourn; motion carried.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz