



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2010

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, II, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebeck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Kay Lengle, Personnel; Steve Howe, Director of Tax Assessment; Holly Martz, Deputy Director of Tax Claim; Dave Schreiber, Personnel; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; James Szymborski, Director of Planning Commission; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Garry Esworthy, Risk Manager; David Feidt, Solicitor's Office; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Tim Berard, Community & Economic Development; Troy Petery, Deputy Court Administrator (MDJ); George Connor, Community & Economic Development; Stacey Patrick, Controller's Office; Kacey Truax, Commissioners' Office; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Emily Opilo, Fox 43, WHTM 27, WGAL 8, George Groves, Mark Stewart, Justin Warren, Mike Musser, Jim Crouse, Jason Yakelis and Greg Tucker

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haste: We have a number of meeting minutes that we'll take up at next week's Legislative Meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are at the point in time in the meeting for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board at this time? (There were none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. George Groves, Chairman, Gaming Advisory Board

1. Presentation of Recommendations

Mr. Groves: My name is George Groves and I'm the Chairman of the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board. I would like to introduce Justin Warren, Vice Chairman and Jim Szymborski, who is a member of the Board. Both David Craig and Lloyd Umberger were not able to make it today. We also had some advisors to help us through this process, Michael Musser of Community Resources, Mark Stewart, Esq., Counsel for Eckert Seamans, Amy Richards from Dauphin County and Skip Memmi from the Dauphin County Office of Community & Economic Development.

The Gaming Act requires casinos to share their gaming revenues with host counties and municipalities. These share requirements vary by type and location of casino. The annual local share from Hollywood Casino at Penn National is to be allocated to the County at 2% of gross revenues and municipal share at 2% of gross revenues or \$10 million, whichever is greater. Fifty percent of those local share funds are dedicated to grants.

The mission of this Gaming Advisory Board is to advise the Commissioners on the allocation of those municipal grants from local share gaming monies. Grants are to be used to fund costs of human services, infrastructure, facilities, emergency services and health and public safety expenses. These projects must be related to Hollywood Casino.

In this year's cycle, we received 35 project applications, totaling \$19.2 million or approximately three times the amount of available grant funds. The eligible applicants are East Hanover Township, the host Township for Hollywood Casino, and contiguous municipalities (Derry, Middle Paxton, Rush, South Hanover and West Hanover Townships) and Dauphin County. The cycle that was used this year or last year 2009 applications were due and received by September 1 of 2009. During the period of September, October and November, those applications were reviewed and information requests were submitted back to the applicants for additional information. On November 10, 11 and 12 public hearings were held by the Board of all the applicants. During the month of December the Board met several times to go through a ranking of the applications by the Gaming Advisory Board. Today, we make our presentation of recommendations to the Dauphin County Commissioners.

There were certain principles that we followed in going through the grants. Priority was given to infrastructure projects. Intergovernmental projects and projects that leverage outside investment in Dauphin County were also favored. Ready-to-go projects that needed a final funding piece had an advantage. We required that all municipal sponsors prioritize their support for their projects. The slide that you see now is the Gaming Advisory Board recommendation key and it talks about, again, the five priorities (human services, infrastructure improvements, facilities, emergency services and other categories).

We recommend the following projects:

- East Hanover for projects 1 through 11 and 13 that they submitted to us, totaling \$3,118,600 million.
- West Hanover for fire station architecture and engineering and I-81 & Harper Drive turnaround for a total of \$675,000.
- South Hanover for a municipal complex plan and a pumper fire truck replacement totaling \$464,800.
- Derry Township for Route 743 bridge replacement totaling \$618,900.
- Rush Township for a backhoe and (2) ambulances/Medic 6 totaling \$339,000.
- Middle Paxton Township for a shared municipal & fire building totaling \$487,900. (This provides furniture, fixtures and equipment and one year's debt service.)

That is the total of the initial recommendations for the host and contiguous townships for Hollywood Casino.

There were other applications that we are recommending in priority:

- Red Cross - \$80,200
- SARAA - \$26,000
- Grantville Food Pantry – \$33,000 (follow along from last year)
- HACC Public Safety Center - \$250,000
- Susquehanna Township – tanker replacement - \$225,000

- Swatara Township – Firehouse renovations & energy efficiency project - \$194,700
- East Hanover – (Dauphin & Lebanon Counties) – road improvements - \$238,000
- Chamber/CREDC – project with a priority to the host and contiguous municipalities - \$75,000

These applications total \$1,121,900 and the grand total of recommendations of \$6,826,100.

There were other applications in priority that did not fall into the amount of money allocated for this project under the formula. They were: DTMA - \$168,000 Route 743 Sewer Line Relocation, Lower Swatara - \$220,000 Meade Avenue Project; Lower Paxton - \$250,000 Blackberry and Raspberry Alley Improvements, Lower Paxton - \$250,000 Page Rd. & Spring Creek Rd. Improvements, Swatara - \$185,882 Firehouse Living Quarters Renovations & Diesel Generator, Millersburg - \$250,000 Riverfront Park & Lykens Valley Rail Trail Improvements, South Hanover \$695,457 Aerial Fire Truck, West Hanover - \$524,560 Jonestown Rd./Blue Ridge Ave. Improvements, West Hanover - \$405,000 Rt. 39/Devonshire Heights/Douglas Road Project, Grantville Vol. Fire Company - \$300,000 New Fire Station, Upper Paxton - \$225,000 Ned Smith Center Improvements, Salvation Army - \$200,000 Bridging the Gap Program Expansion, Swatara - \$493,258 Firehouse HVAC System Upgrade, South Hanover - \$39,000 Parks Improvements, Wiconisco - \$290,000 Lykens & Wiconisco Field & Stadium Improvements, Hamilton Health – \$750,000 New Health Care Facility, South Hanover - \$2,300,000 Utilities & Access Road for New Municipal Facility and Harrisburg Riverboat Society - \$14,922 Pride of the Susquehanna Improvements.

The Gaming Advisory Board recommends a total of \$6,826,100 in grants to the Dauphin County Commissioners. Forty-five percent or \$3,118,600 is for East Hanover. This does fill the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioners and the Township. Thirty-eight percent (\$2,585,600) are for the contiguous townships. Also breaking it down a different way, they are as follows: Human Services .5%, Infrastructure Improvement 53.5%, Facilities 12%, EMS and Health and Public Safety 34%.

The recommended projects will leverage substantial additional investment in Dauphin County. We expect \$26,679,529 of additional investment from the recommended projects and \$33,345,549 of additional investments if projects are funded down through the Millersburg application.

Included in these applications were a total of nine fire related, engines, equipment or buildings and four EMS-related projects. While clearly there is communication between the townships and Fire/EMS units, there is no coherent or cohesive plan that reviews the needs, capacities and management capabilities and makes allocation decisions. It is our view that monies are perhaps unnecessarily spent and responses may be hampered by this lack of overall management. We recommend strongly that this issue be reviewed for the benefit of the County. We believe that there is a substantial

difference between coordination and management and the ability to make resource decisions. So, we ask you to take that in mind for the next year. May we address any questions?

Mr. Haste: George, I would like to thank you for your diligence on this committee. When this came about two years ago with the gaming dollars, I know everybody out there thinks that there is this flood of money that is just waiting to be handed out. We saw what other areas of the State, how they handled it, and the trouble that they got into. When we decided to set up this advisory committee we wanted to have citizens review the projects, do the due diligence and make recommendations to us. That made it a very transparent and good system. I want to thank you for shepherding that process. You and the rest of the board, Justin and Jim and the other two members, I would like to publicly thank for taking your time to review the projects. I know you take this job very seriously. I've heard from some of the applicants at how professional you are and how well you ask questions. I want to thank you for doing that on behalf of, not only this Board of Commissioners, but all the citizens.

Following up on your point, I think that is a good point. Do you know off the top of your head how many were in that same category last year?

Mr. Groves: I think we had, one, fewer applications and there were fewer in number, but proportionately I think it was about the same. I don't know that factually, but I believe it to be proportion.

Mr. Haste: It is a trend that you have seen both years. Thanks for bringing it up. I know Nick has worked with the EMS community and the fire community and through our Emergency Management Services I'm sure he will relay that to Steve. They have been working on that.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Before the first allocations went out last year, I pushed EMA saying that ultimately we are going to start getting requests and we need to do a comprehensive study in Dauphin County and actually designate under a County plan what assets should be stored in what facilities, because with this opportunity everybody is going to want a truck, multiple engines and a whole lot of things. In order to submit an application and have it be successfully considered, the County really needs to have a comprehensive plan of where assets should be housed. When requests come in that meet that County-wide goal that's when we will give them favorable funding. Where that stands right now is Steve, we talked about two months ago, about doing the review of potential professionals that can come in and take a comprehensive look in Dauphin County and see by strict standards what assets should be where. That's in motion. I appreciate it, because you are right, every year we are going to start getting more and more requests. Obviously the pool is very limited and it is really not a lot of money when you start buying very expensive pieces of fire equipment, fire stations and things of that nature. We are very glad that we have this as a resource to support these companies.

Mr. Hartwick: Quite frankly, we've had a discussion amongst this Board for a long time about the cooperation and potential regionalization of a lot of our emergency services in figuring out ways to incentivize it by doing a comprehensive plan and thinking about the best way to allocate those resources, particularly with this opportunity would provide a very big incentive for folks to start to work together and to provide those assets as a result of that cooperation should be a requirement.

Mr. Groves: From the presentations we saw, there clearly is coordination. They do discuss this between each other in the units, but we had a sense that the overall ability to manage a crisis may be impaired by having separate units attending rather than some over arching methodology to do so.

Mr. Stewart: Commissioners, may I add one comment of explanation. If you look at Page 17 there is a reference there to the additional leverage of funds if the projects were funded through Millersburg.

Mr. Haste: I already know. It is not an addition to the 26.

Mr. Stewart: Correct. It is really an additional \$6 million. I just wanted to provide some additional information. On page 15 of the handout, those six projects are listed, they are the first six items, and the Advisory Board felt that all these projects were very good projects. They serve important public purposes. They all, as indicated by page 17 to a degree involve leveraging additional dollars into Dauphin County. Notably some of those dollars, particularly some State dollars, may well be lost to the County should those projects not receive a grant. I think it is fair to say that the Board felt that they were worthy of funding should the Board of Commissioners so decide.

Mr. Haste: That is a good point. For our friends in the media, if in fact we do pass this, we will be using \$11 million of gaming dollars, but what that brings in is another \$33 million into our local economy for a total of \$44 million, which I think is a pretty good stimulus package of our own.

Mr. Stewart: Absolutely. You would be using slightly less than that in gaming money to do those projects.

Mr. Hartwick: From my perspective, I think, as you look around the State and we get various news articles about the gaming advisory boards and how the structure is set up, oftentimes it is not transparent. It is not an open process to municipalities. It is certainly not, with the intention to leverage these dollars for additional investment in the area. You, as a Board, spent long hours for a great rate of pay, which is zero, to be able to review some very competitive projects and to be able to prioritize them in a way that makes sense for Dauphin County taxpayers, who quite frankly in this economic situation that we are in local property taxes are strained to be able to provide additional revenue for the infrastructure needs and the emergency management needs for those local municipalities are almost impossible without trying to put some additional burden on those local residents. Despite the economy, in the past year, I believe, the "rasino" at

Penn National in the previous year reported about \$171 million in earnings and this past year \$238 million in earnings. So, the folks are not slowing down at the slots, which indicate that we have some revenue sources to be able to leverage to help those local municipalities. I think that is reflected in these projects. Your ability to review them and come up with the most significant local impacts has been greatly appreciated. The process is certainly one that has been modeled in other places around the State of Pennsylvania. I get calls from Pittsburgh to Northampton County to Gettysburg to say "You guys really run a good operation related to how folks are able to apply, how you set up your guidelines, and the review process. Quite frankly that's a great credit to the Board. We greatly appreciate your professionalism, expertise that you bring in construction, banking, etc., in planning as well and being able to provide these projects. I don't think we have a whole lot to argue over. Clearly it has been done in the appropriate way and a transparent way. I'm certainly in support of the recommendations made by the Board.

Mr. Haste: As Mark and Commissioner Hartwick pointed out my math was in error. One through six gets us to about \$7.5 million, not \$11 million.

Mr. Hartwick: That is the first time in the history of six years that he has ever been wrong in a math issue. Trust me he is always straight on. I'm usually the one wrong in math.

Mr. DiFrancesco: If you really take a look at the list and I'm going to use one of the projects that I am very familiar with and that is the Meade Avenue Project down in Middletown. Not only are we talking about direct investment bringing in infrastructure dollars, State dollars, to build this road, but if you take a look at what that is going to mean for further investment at Penn State and further investment in that area as it redevelops. You are talking a great deal more private leverage and private investment to that area. I do believe that what we are doing here today in helping the emergency management community and the local communities most impacted by the casino and also by helping to invest in infrastructure in this area is exactly where government stance should be so that the private sector in this area and our economy can continue to grow with private sector investment. This is part of the picture displayed today in terms of leverage, but there is a whole lot more leverage going on out there than even this program shows. Thank you. It amazes me, not only that each of you are going to put the time in that it takes to do this, but this is very petty stuff. You have to sit down and really listen and probe, do research and ask questions to make sure that this money is being used effectively. Each of you is to be commended for what you are doing for this community. This is not an easy assignment.

Mr. Hartwick: That means we want you back next year.

Mr. Haste: I hope you individually are able to drive around and look at these projects and feel proud of what you have been able to do to help the communities. That truly is your reward. I hope you are proud of the projects that you have been able to move

forward. I'm proud of what you do. I think you and your families should drive around and take pride in what you have done in the community.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board adopt the 2009 Report of the Gaming Advisory Board, approval of the recommended local share of municipal grants, with the exception of one, we are going to remove the Chamber/CREDC Project Initiation Program of \$75,000 and still make that money available in making a transfer of \$250,000 to the Dauphin County Industrial Development Authority for the utilization of those grants at a later time, approval of the remaining applications, which are also ranked by the Gaming Advisory Board as priorities 1 through 6.

Discussion:

Mr. Haste: The CREDC, what you are suggesting is that we not earmark that for them, but you make it available for projects as they come up.

Mr. Hartwick: Rather than giving a bulk amount of money to CREDC, I think our Industrial Development Authority does a great job with also the review process and being able to evaluate those projects, take a look at the background and history of individuals who are applying and I believe it is important for us to be able to invest in those opportunities that will provide jobs to our region, but I would suggest that our Industrial Development Authority be the ones that gauge that rather than handing over the money just to CREDC.

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

B. Terry O'Brien, President, Palmetto Posting, Inc.

1. Presentation on Property Delinquency Software Application (Listed as Item C under Items for Discussion)

Ms. Martz: Instead of Terry O'Brien today, we have Greg Tucker from Palmetto Posting. He is the Marketing and Service Director. I'm Holly Martz, Deputy Director of Tax Claim.

Mr. Tucker: Again, my name is Greg Tucker. I'm here representing Palmetto Posting. I'm from South Carolina and I didn't realize my accent was that distinct until I got up here. I wanted to spend a quick five minutes but very detailed discussion for you on what we are all about, what we do for you and how we can help you to bring in more delinquent tax dollars to your County.

Typically when a county is posting delinquent property tax notices, some of the troubles they have deal with the fact that there is not a lot of information that's sequenced and

put together that allows them to be as productive as possible with the process. For example, some counties pull county maps or use Map Quest information. They don't have GPS units, but in most parts you find people crisscrossing back and forth across the county. What we do is we take the delinquent tax parcels from each county and our software allows us to sequence all that information and put it into a program that allows the best productivity possible. The process is done very effectively and quickly, probably three or four times faster than someone could even do it locally. In addition to that, a lot of times the struggle is that we go out and post and there is no picture taken on site so when you end up in a courtroom situation when you are asked for actual proof of the notice there is not a whole lot that you can give other than a statement saying yes I was there and I remember it. What our program does for you is we take all the parcels and download them into our program. It matches up GPS and GIS technology that in a way allows you to very accurately 100% insure that you are getting an actual notice on the property. There are two forms in your packet. One is a mock-up of a Dauphin County tax notice and the other is a white field report. As far as the Dauphin County notice of sale is concerned and the returning claim is concerned, we put this together based on your criteria. Whatever you tell us, based on your Statutes, based on whatever your requirements are, we mock this up and put it together to your specifications. When we go out and post a delinquent parcel on the back of the parcel you will see very distinctly the roads indicated in red and the parcel that is to be posted outlined in green. When the field agent is on site they look for landmarks that they can see very distinctly in the picture. The other thing that you will notice is there are other delinquent properties on the page so instead of crisscrossing the county it gives them a chance to say I'm here to post 520, 12, 117, but at the same time while I am here I need to make sure right behind us sitting next to me are the tax notices for all the other ones listed.

The final product, what we give the Tax Claim Bureau, is what we call our "field report". That is the white copy that you have in the Packet. The beautiful thing about this is when you go into a courtroom situation, whether it is a judge or appraising attorney or what have you, you always have actual proof that you have given proper notice of the delinquent taxes. In this case, you will look at the top of the page and you will see the latitude and longitude coordinates. This will tell you within one foot where we were standing on the day that we actually took the picture while we were on site. In addition to that, in the middle of the page, you will see a bar code. Instead of just a parcel number, we convert each of those parcel numbers into a bar code, just like you would in a grocery store. We actually have to scan when we are on site. It forces us to be inside those boundaries in order to get an accurate posting. In addition to that you have the typical affidavit signed by the field agent on the date that we were on the property. The beautiful thing about it with 2010 is that you have to have a picture almost to be insuring that you are getting accurate notice. In this case, you'll see an 8 megapixel picture of the actual property that was posted, the posting letter/notice which is clearly visible in the picture and then just as a precautionary addition to the process you will see a GIS aerial overview of the property. You will see the green outline showing the property and you will also see a little point of placement showing exactly where we were standing on the date that we actually took the photo.

So, I believe Dauphin County is looking at 5,000 parcels this year. We include notice of sale and returning claim. What we would propose to do is to help the County insure that every parcel gets 100% accurate posting. We do guarantee 100% accuracy. If something is not posted properly, we do have a backup system that insures that we don't leave the County until every single parcel is done effectively.

Mr. Haste: What is the cost?

Mr. Tucker: \$20 per posting and that is added to the cost of the homeowner.

Mr. Hartwick: I just have two questions. First of all, we don't do anything this thorough currently. There were never any of these field reports that have been overturned in a court of law, is that correct?

Mr. Tucker: That's correct.

Mr. Hartwick: You stand behind them 100%.

Mr. Tucker: Yes, sir.

Mr. Hartwick: That insures us a lot more accuracy and validity as you stand in front of a judge. Is the employment locally? What are your plans to be able to engage folks to be able to go out and do the posting? How do you plan on setting up shop?

Mr. Tucker: We are going to put people in place locally. Either myself or another member of Palmetto Posting will be here to train those individuals and make sure they are 100% trained on how to use the equipment properly.

Mr. Hartwick: My only concern is and I raised this earlier, I know normally you've engaged sheriffs in other counties that you went to. I just want to make sure that our policy is clear related to not double dipping it. This is a great employment opportunity also in Dauphin County at times when it is slow to be able to pick up some folks who really need additional work. I just want to make sure that we are working through all of those issues and coming up with the best plan to be able to do it effectively.

Mr. Tucker: Yes, sir.

C. Carl Dickson, Director, Parks & Recreation

1. Update on Projects

Mr. Haste: Carl is here to give us an update on projects.

Mr. Dickson: It is a pleasure to be here. Just a quick run through of what we have going on this year for you.

We are doing the upkeep and maintenance of 500 acres containing multiple structures as the usual. We have some special capital projects. We are going to be building a new small stage at Fort Hunter Park, installing a bathroom in the recently moved Heckton Church, finishing the interior of a large shed at Wiconisco Creek Park; the Friends are donating funds to renovate two rooms in the Mansion House. Of course, when time and funds permit, we are going to be working on the Fort Hunter Station buildings. We are going to try to get them up and running.

I provided you with the tentative list of headliners and dates for 2010. We have about 34 large programs planned and, of course, a myriad of smaller programs among those.

Mr. Haste: You didn't correct #34.

Mr. Dickson: Yes, we are working on that. We have been in touch with that gentleman.

Mr. Haste: The reason I say that just so everybody understands. Last year we listed it that way and I had a gentleman who portrays himself as Mr. Claus and he was upset that we didn't mention Mr. Claus. We only mentioned Mrs. Claus. So, we are going to recognize Mr. Claus as well as Mrs. Claus.

Mr. Dickson: I would like to draw special attention to July 25 Sunset Series. The Sunset Series are all free concerts. I believe the Mango Men is a cover band for Jimmy Buffet.

Mr. DiFrancesco: My request, somebody listened.

Mr. Dickson: To continue, August 15 we couldn't fit the entire title of that movie, which is "Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs". We have a nice line up and we are looking forward to it. Also, I wanted to mention, getting back to the other list; that we are going to be dedicating the new historical marker for the Rockville Bridge on April 29th. We hope you can join us. If we can do it, we might try to do a luncheon afterwards. It would include the Board of Trustees for Fort Hunter and the Friends of Fort Hunter. So, we were thinking about 11:00 a.m. on that date. We've added four outdoor movies. All of our events are going to feature the Dauphin County 225th Anniversary Celebration banner. Also, we are working with the PA DCED on the Civil War Colored Troops review in November, which you have heard a little bit about. It continues to move forward and we are very excited about the potential of that project.

Capital Project, we have the Wildwood development project, which is out to bid. The bids will be opened Monday. That is a \$350,000 project that is not using any County funds. Again, we are finishing up the Heckton Church project, which was \$200,000 (no County funds). The Fort Hunter Station environmental remediation is continuing and is coming to its conclusion. Fort Hunter Park Master Plan is also almost completed. We are working on matching funds for the Fort Hunter Park development. You had allowed us to have \$250,000 of the Governor's Growing Greener funds a number of years ago.

We have a grant for \$375,000 pending with the Fish & Boat Commission. We will hear about that in a couple of months. We are working with the Solicitor's Office on existing "in-holds" in parks. If you recall a couple of years ago we found out that somebody owns some land in the middle of our park and actually it transferred ownership. We are working on finding out where those are and tracking them down.

Community Outreach, I'm involved personally with Halifax Park and the creation of the Master Park Plan. It involves a lot of community input. At Highspire Park we are working on the design and a grant request to DCNR. The Lykens Valley Rail Trail, we are working to assist Wiconisco Township in getting them moving on some grants that they have already received to develop the first couple miles of that trail. I'm thrilled to hear today about the Millersburg Gateway Project. You did leverage another \$280,000 from PA DCNR with your contribution or allocation towards that project for a total of \$560,000. We also are looking into transferring some small County-owned parcels along Swatara Creek to the Manada Conservancy. They keep an eye on the Swatara Creek. They are much closer and it might also encourage other donations along there. We are just looking at it right now. We haven't pursued it yet. Of course, the Treevitalize Program is continuing. We are trying to get communities to plant more trees by funding half the cost of those trees. That was a State project that was a pass through that we administered.

Overall, I just want to show my appreciation for your support of the Parks Department without burdening the General Fund at all, which we are very cognizant of. Do you have any questions?

Mr. DiFrancesco: The parcels along Swatara Creek, where are they located?

Mr. Dickson: They are towards Middletown. They are very small, what they call riparian barriers.

Mr. DiFrancesco: At one point where back, I can't even tell you when, because this was not a pet project of mine in any way. There was talk about putting some sort of boat launch in Lower Swatara Township and the Parks Department was very much involved in that discussion. I was just wondering if any of those parcels were part of that.

Mr. Dickson: I'm not aware of that to answer your question straight up, but these parcels are narrow long pieces between the road and the creek. They basically have no market value.

Mr. DiFrancesco: It is a topic that I haven't really thought about for a long time. With the level of kayaking, canoe traffic that comes in and out, when I say boat launch I don't think the intent was to have motorized boats going in and out of the creek. It was more designed for hikers, bikers, trail people and people who kayak and canoe.

Mr. Dickson: For non-motorized. We will look at those parcels up close and will get back to you.

Mr. DiFrancesco: That would be great.

Mr. Haste: I think part of the reason of this larger organization is just that so people would have access into the creek. I remember in a previous life when I was chief clerk working with Ed Chubb on these parcels being donated to the County for that reason. It was sort of a hodgepodge. I believe it was the Swatara Creek Association. If I remember right, the one that I can remember distinctively is really Royalton, on the Royalton side of the creek right by the bridge. The Master Plan was to get to a point where there would be public access to the stream and the whole way down. That is what this organization is trying to do. We might as well allow them to do the mission. We have other things to do.

Mr. Hartwick: We talk about what we provide to local taxpayers for taxpayer dollars. This is one of the best investments, I think, that we make in Dauphin County from the Series of events that go on, to be able to self-sustain those events and improve the quality of life, particularly in light of the economy, to make sure that there are opportunities for people to have culture, music and a whole host of recreational activities. This is a dramatic increase over what we saw several years ago. I know the Board members were really tough on the Parks & Recreation Department about being self-sustaining and making sure that we provide a series of events, including the events that are a draw. We use tourism dollars to help supplant some of your budget. Clearly, this is an indication that those revenues, not only come back in corporate sponsorships, but in hotel rooms and quality of life for the residents of this region. We always hear people griping about the sentiment towards government and public officials that is probably at an all-time high negative. But, if you talk about a good investment related to quality of life and opportunities for local residents with no taxpayer dollars support of these special events. It is a no-brainer. I think you should be commended on the job that you are doing.

Mr. Dickson: I have a good team.

Mr. DiFrancesco: So, we can start to promote July 25th.

Mr. Dickson: We have no signed contracts yet.

Mr. DiFrancesco: You better let me know when you have the signed contract.

Mr. Dickson: I will.

Mr. Hartwick: One issue that I want to bring up publicly related to the Board. I know, because of the additional events and cuts to the Human Services Development Fund, we are going to have to make some additional requests related to the Cultural Festival. Just so that is on the Board's horizon.

Mr. Haste: What do you mean?

Mr. Hartwick: The allocation of several additional events, the movies and other things, there's not going to be the ability for us to have HSDF money to support the Cultural Festival, which we also had a huge level of participation for. We may need to re-examine how we fund that in light of those cuts that had to be made. There are some contract provisions today that reduce allocations for folks on dialysis so we had to make some tough choices to remove money for basic needs for residents. This is an event that is important to me and one that I think should continue to be supported.

Mr. Haste: Corporate sponsors.

Mr. Dickson: He's beating the bushes.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Lengle: Are there any questions on the Salary Board requests? I did bring the remainder of them down for you to include in your packet. (There were none.)

Mr. Hartwick: This is all reflective of the new contract that was negotiated.

Ms. Lengle: That's correct.

Are there any questions on any items in the Personnel Packet?

Mr. Haste: You're not requesting any votes this week?

Ms. Lengle: No.

Mr. Haste: For the record, what I'm going to do this year is, I think we have been fairly flexible in the past in hiring outside of the window. I'm going to stick to the window. Some positions I may not be for it, just because I think we need to take a hard look at it. I'll look at this before next week.

Ms. Lengle: Right now there is only one hire and that is a part-timer.

Mr. Haste: That is in Maintenance.

Ms. Lengle: That's correct.

Mr. Haste: I'll talk with Edgar. When is our window?

Ms. Lengle: February 10th is the Workshop and the 17th is the Legislative Meeting window.

Mr. Haste: Is he asking to hire before then?

Ms. Lengle: Yes, he is.

Mr. Haste: I'm not going to do it. You can tell him that.

Ms. Lengle: He needs to wait until the window.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You should have all received your Packet. It is a large Packet. We are still getting all of our yearly agreements in. That is why it looks so large. There are a few items that have budget issues that need to be fixed. We'll do that before next week's meeting. Do you have any questions?

Mr. Saylor: I would point out one item regarding Thyssen Krupp's maintenance agreement. I believe five or six in total over \$100,000 worth of work. We are taking a closer look at those to see the nature of the contracts, what the pricing is, etc. I'm unfamiliar with how much effort Edgar may have put into this, so we are just going to check and see that we have done everything there we possibly can.

Mr. Hartwick: On Page 15, that is going to be covered by Act 8 Funds.

Mr. Baratucci: Yes, that is being paid out of Act 8 Funds. It was approved by the Committee. It is a project in the Register of Wills Office.

Mr. Hartwick: Do they have sufficient resources to cover that?

Mr. Baratucci: Yes. Mike moves money once the projects get approved. That will be fixed before next week.

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Haste: I didn't see anything.

Mr. Saylor: We don't need to take any action.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. **(**A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10**)**
- A. Report of Act 44 Tax Fund. **(**A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10**)**
- B. Purchase of Service Agreement between Dauphin County and Palmetto Posting, Inc. **(**A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10**)**
- C. Pest Control Service Agreement between Dauphin County and Ehrlich, Inc. **(**A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10**)**

- D. Energy Conservation and Assistance Agreement between Dauphin County and DHARO. (*****A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10*****)
- E. Energy Conservation and Assistance Agreement between Dauphin County and Tri-County HDC, Ltd. (*****A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10*****)
- F. Authorization for Solicitor to sign Common Interest Agreement. (*****A VOTE IS REQUESTED 1/27/10*****)
- G. Adoption of the 2009 Report of the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board, and approval of the Local Share Municipal Grants recommended by the Gaming Advisory Board.

Mr. Haste: We have Items A through G that are requesting a vote. Item C we had a presentation on and Item G we already took a vote on. Are there any other items that we need to discuss? (There were none.)

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

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tully: Nothing to add, happy to answer any questions. (There were none.)

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor: I was going to report about a meeting that Commissioner DiFrancesco and I had yesterday with the Children's Miracle Network. Nick, do you want to say anything on that?

Mr. DiFrancesco: I don't have my papers with me, but the bottom line is the Children's Miracle Network approached us as a valuable community asset. Obviously they support the programs that go on in a very unique way at the Hershey Medical Center. As it turns out for the services that they provide, a majority of the people that go through the system are from Dauphin County. There were approximately 96,000 cases last year that they promoted and, of course, this is a system of funding that helps acquire pieces of equipment, support of families and so forth. They approached us to see if we could get into some sort of partnership with them and try to do really an awareness campaign. I would say more of an awareness campaign with a fundraising component. Similar to what we do maybe for United Way or something along those lines. They are looking at exploring some options and then doing that in a challenge against the other counties. There are I believe roughly 11 counties in the region. The idea would be to come up with an awareness type program. I would compare it to the departmental baskets that we do for United Way. You raise some money, but the idea is to really boost the

awareness of what is going on. It is a tremendous resource again that we have right here in the County. I was really surprised at the number of children that are supported through this organization. Again, they came in to ask if this is something that we can work on. I am interested. Chad was going to follow up with a little more discussion to see where we want to go with it. I think it is something that, given our departments, our investment of our employees' time, heart and effort, I think it is probably a mission that they would care about and want to embrace.

Mr. Saylor: What I'm going to do is reach out to employees to see if there might be a couple of employees who would be interested in heading this up for us. They are looking at a spring timeframe. I guess we do our United Way stuff in the fall, so it could end up being two separate things that could be very beneficial to the community.

Mr. DiFrancesco: It would probably be an early May timeframe, because they have their fundraising telethon in the first week of June. They want us to do this prior to the telethon.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(There were none.)

Mr. Haste: Just a reminder that we have Retirement Board, which will convene at 11:05 a.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are again at the point in time in the meeting for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board? (There were none.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz