



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2012

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Jeff Haste, Chairman (ABSENT)

STAFF PRESENT

Laura E. Evans, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Joseph Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Faye Fisher, Director of Human Resources; Amy Richards Harinath, Press Secretary; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Jack Wright, Human Services Director's Office; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; George Connor, Economic Development; Larry Moore, Parks & Recreation; Michelle Hornberger, Parks & Recreation; Elizabeth Johnson, Parks & Recreation; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jason Sweat, Marcia Perry, Scott Mehok, Les Ford, T. McKnight, Vanessa Brubaker, Janine Park, Justin Warren, Mark Stewart, Esq., Jim Szymborski, Jim Roxbury and Matt Miller

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pries, Vice Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:11 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Les Ford raised some concerns on behalf of the Heinz Menaker Senior Center. Mr. Ford is the Interim Director for the Center. The Center is located in the City of Harrisburg, but other municipalities utilize the Center. The Center is in need of a new roof and a new air conditioning unit. The roof has been repaired/patched numerous times and is approximately 20 years old. The air conditioning unit will be needed for the summer months. The Center is listed as an emergency shelter for seniors when the heat index is high, but if the unit is not replaced the Center will not be able to accept seniors during the summer months. The Center is rented out for various functions and if these items are not replaced the Center will lose money. A gaming application was submitted and Mr. Ford asked for the Board's consideration of it.

The Commissioners have agreed that if the application is not recommended by the Gaming Advisory Board that they will sit down to discuss other options with Mr. Ford. Other options include CDBG funds. The amount of the application was \$130,000. The total cost of the project is \$180,000. The Center does have a commitment from the City of Harrisburg thru their CDBG Funds. If the Center doesn't move forward with the project, the City will ask for the money back.

Jim Roxbury had questions concerning the project that CREDC is undertaking. (Mr. Roxbury's question was answered later in the meeting.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Dauphin County Commissioners

1. Presentation of Proclamation to Cultural Diversity Task Force

The Task Force is a group of staff members that promote cultural awareness through various educational events such as food tasting, scholarship grants and a Cultural Diversity Fair that has approximately 10,000 attendees.

Commissioner Hartwick read the following Proclamation:

Office of County Commissioner
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, recognize the key role that our Cultural Celebration Task Force has played in promoting cultural awareness and planning a host of fun and educational events for employees and members of the community to enjoy;

Whereas, recognizing that differences should unite, not divide us, we formed the county's first Cultural Celebration Task Force in 2005 to honor, promote and draw strength from our diversity;

Whereas, signature events such as Dauphin County's Cultural Fest and Black History Month celebration are made possible by the committee's dedicated members: Faye Fisher, Pilar Calderon, Edgar Cohen, George Connor, Ruby Doub, Kay Lengle, Julie Mackey, Larry Moore, Mavis Nimoh, Amy Richards Harinath and Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III;

Whereas, thanks to the efforts of the Task Force, as well as Dauphin County Parks and Recreation, this year's Black History Month program, "This Far by Faith," which tells the story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of some of its most passionate, courageous leaders, promises to be a moving living history portrayal;

Whereas, we, as a community and a nation, must focus more on what we share and less on how we differ;

Therefore, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County in honoring the dynamic and devoted members of the county's Cultural Celebration Task Force for their noteworthy contributions over the years; we are deeply appreciative of this committee's efforts to promote and celebrate our unique differences and to cultivate understanding; and, in grateful recognition thereof, we proudly proclaim February 22, 2012 as "Cultural Celebration Task Force Day" in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

The Commissioners appreciate everyone's participation and assistance.

B. Jason Sweat, Project Manager, Office of the Secretary of Defense

1. Presentation – Joint Land Use Study between Lebanon County/Fort Indiantown Gap/Dauphin County

Mr. Sweat presented an overview of the Joint Land Use Study. This study serves as a capable tool to plan for future growth. There are three phases of this study. One is the organization phase, the second is the plan and the third is implementation. This study provides each jurisdiction with valuable information with regard to future growth and development. The Department of Defense has several concerns: the military installations and ranges play a vital role in national defense in support of military testing, training and base support operations, the military installations serve as major economic engines, the encroachment pressures from incompatible civilian development create restrictions on the utilization of installations, ranges and training corridors and encroachment can also threaten public safety by exposing the population to artillery fire,

aircraft noise, dust and potential accidents. It is the Department of Defense's policy to work toward achieving compatibility between military installations and neighboring civilian communities by a joint compatible land-use planning and control process conducted by the local community in cooperation with the local military installation. Meetings were held with staff from Lebanon County and Dauphin County. The counties match is 10%, which can be met through in-kind contributions. The study looks at growth trends and interests that various stakeholders have. The County's staff will let them know what is important. There may be concerns with some of the training exercises in that they have become noisy and there are more phone calls to the Gap. There may be ways to inform the community on what is going on. The lighting at Penn National Racetrack has posed some problems, both inside and outside. These are all things that will be addressed by the Study.

Several questions were asked. The military needs to train and these bases do generate economic dollars to our economy. Everyone must work together to meet those needs and that can be accomplished with the sharing of information.

C. Justin Warren and Mark Stewart, Esq., Gaming Advisory Board

1. Presentation of Gaming Recommendations

Mr. Warren and Mr. Stewart made a presentation on the Gaming Advisory Board's (GAB) recommendations to the Commissioners. (Said presentation is attached.)

With regard to the City of Harrisburg's request, the GAB did hear the request and did understand the impact on the City. This is not a project. It is a subsidy request and was not recommended for funding. It did not meet the definitions of a project, such as the purchase of equipment, construction or road improvements.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Warren and the Board for reviewing and prioritizing the applications and ultimately making their recommendations. These grant funds are not intended for property tax relief. These funds are to help municipalities with projects that would otherwise require a tax increase. Not everyone is going to be happy, because unfortunately we cannot approve all the requests.

Questions were raised on various applications.

The General Authority - \$30,000. This is strictly for asbestos removal in the clubhouse facility. The Authority was requesting \$1.098 million for the retrofit of the 2nd floor into an events space.

The Dauphin County Fire Chiefs Assoc. - \$485,553. They were not one of the groups selected. A presentation was made on the purchase of National Fire Incident Reporting Software. The fire departments had indicated that their project was a priority over the software. There is already a level of reporting software through the State.

Harrisburg River Rescue - \$85,000. This is for a utility vehicle to haul their boats and tools to the river. They service the entire County and also help with the State Police. They initially applied for \$130,000 and it was later reduced to \$85,000.

With regard to Mr. Roxbury's question, the purpose of CREDC's project is to demolish the building located at 38-40 North Cameron Street and to environmentally remediate the property so that it can be reused. When the project is completed, the property can return to the active tax rolls. Appalachian Brewing Company (ABC) owns the adjacent property and they will build an 8,000 square foot warehouse structure with a truck-height loading dock.

The Commissioners will consider these recommendations at the meeting next week.

D. August Memmi, Community & Economic Development and Scott Mehok of Eckert Seamans

1. Presentation on Tax-Exempt Financing under the PA Department of Agriculture's Next Generation Farmer Loan Program

Mr. Memmi through the Industrial Development Authority is asking the Commissioners to consider approving a tax-exempt financing for the Hoover family under the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Next Generation Farmer Loan Program.

Mr. Mehok mentioned that the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program is administered through the PA Department of Agriculture. This program allows the next generation farmer the ability to purchase farms and capital assets. The average age of a farmer is 55. The Commonwealth allocated \$10 million towards this program. The maximum that each applicant can receive is \$488,000. The applicant must be the owner, a Pennsylvania resident, 18 years and older and have a net worth of \$500,000 or less. The Hoovers intend to acquire an 82 acre farm and related buildings, equipment and improvements located at 361 Guys Road, Millersburg. The lender will be Fulton Bank. This is the second loan the Dauphin County Industrial Development has made. A TEFRA Hearing was advertised and held on February 17th. There was no public participation. If the \$10 million is allocated, the State can increase the allocation. The maximum amount that was allocated during 2011 was \$8 million. The Hoovers are the only ones that have expressed an interest in this program.

The Resolution will be placed on the Agenda next week for consideration.

E. Marcia Perry, Top Flight Media

1. AND One Basketball Team and Celebrity Games (Organ Donor Awareness)

Larry Moore of Parks & Recreation introduced Marcia Perry of Top Flight Media. This is a very interesting program. It places awareness of organ donation in the Hispanic and African American communities.

Marcia Perry provided a brief presentation on the program. Top Flight Media has many clients. They signed a contract with Street Live Basketball. They would like to bring a sports program to Harrisburg on May 18th at the Harrisburg High School to highlight the importance of organ donation. This basketball program is like the Harlem Globetrotters. Top Flight Media is asking for a small donation from the County in order to make this event one of the best in the area. The Commissioners could become a part of the program by refereeing, coaching or playing.

Commissioner Hartwick indicated that he saw a live performance. Kids do become involved. The program needs to have positive stories. The County will consider the request.

HUMAN RESOURCES

There were no questions on the Personnel Packet and Salary Board Packet.

PURCHASE ORDERS

The Purchase Order will be forwarded to next week for consideration. All budget issues will be fixed.

TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Item #9 of the Training Packet.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There was none.

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

All items listed on the Solicitor's Report are being reviewed, including the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program, and will be ready for next week.

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – LAURA E. EVANS, ESQ.

The Northern Dauphin Human Services Center has partnered with the United Way of the Capital Region to open the Northern Dauphin Prosperity Center. The grand opening

will be held on February 29 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Citizens will be able to receive financial information and resources free of charge.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hartwick indicated that two weeks ago a Healthcare meeting was held. It was very well attended. The committees met all week and are in the process of forwarding a proposal to get federally funded healthcare center that is open 24/7 in Dauphin County.

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.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz