



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Jeff Haste, Chairman (ABSENT)

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Kay Lengle, Personnel; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Emily Opilo and Pat Navagato

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DiFrancesco, Vice Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:18 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. DiFrancesco: We have two sets of Minutes to approve at the next meeting, the February 17, 2010 Legislative Meeting Minutes and the February 17, 2010 Salary Board Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. DiFrancesco: It is the point in time for public participation. Is there anybody in the audience that would like to address the Board at this time? (There were none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Pat Navagato

1. Videotaping of Meetings

Mr. Navagato: My name is Pat Navagato and I live in Dauphin County. Last week I mentioned to Chad that I made an offer to videotape the Commissioners' meetings and host them on a website at no charge to the County. I've had interest in trying to get township meetings online. Over the years I have been to meetings and they are kind of hard to go to and see. If they are broadcast on TV they are usually at odd times and you never know exactly when they are coming on. This idea came to me awhile ago and I actually implemented it at West Hanover Township last April. Since then I have been sort of developing the website. We are actually officially being announced March 1 in the newsletter, but it has actually been operational since last April. I brought a sample, a short 2-minute DVD. The website is westhanoveronline.com. You can go to the website and there will be a page that lists the dates.

(The DVD was played giving a quick summary of the website.)

The concept is not to charge the Township for anything. Basically my costs would be recovered through revenue from advertisers. I bring this to you to get the support to see if you are interested. The nature of the support would be just to promote the website and if people would be interested in advertising push them in that direction.

Mr. Saylor: The only thing that I would add to this is that I did bring this up at the Solicitor's meeting yesterday. We did have a discussion about that. I know you guys have mentioned to me that you have heard from others who have expressed interest and we want to avoid appearing as if we are endorsing any one person. The solicitors had a discussion about folks having the right to come in and videotape these meetings, but should there be some format or guidelines or rules to prevent someone from coming

in and setting up a camera right in front of you or if four people come in, each with 12 cameras, and the media decides to show up, there were questions like that. What do other counties and municipalities do. We are starting to look into some of that information as well. We are exploring this further.

Mr. Hartwick: We are all for openness and transparency. I know that I personally have been approached by about four or five different individuals that wanted to have us help them with advertising from a website perspective. Absent the ability to do an RFP to put this thing out for bid, we've sort of been in the position that anybody is eligible to come in and tape our meetings. We want to be open and transparent. Who do you select and how do you select them is the challenge. Who do we endorse and who do we promote advertising towards puts us in a challenging spot. We want this to be helpful and we want to see your business thrive. I can help you with local municipal contacts if that is something that you want. For us to engage with just one individual after we have been approached by several is my only concern.

Mr. Navagato: I'm not asking for you to engage with me or do anything.

Mr. DiFrancesco: It didn't sound like you were asking. You were simply coming in to present what you are doing.

Mr. Navagato: What I would like to do and of course I realize this is a public forum and I could do it any way if I wanted to. I want to take the same approach that I did with West Hanover Township. I went to their meeting and presented and everybody liked the idea and wanted to try it. It worked out fine and they are happy with it.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I think it is a great idea. I think it is an innovative way of doing it in the fact that you are not asking us for anything other than just show up and videotape.

Mr. Navagato: It is something that I could do any way if I wanted to. I wouldn't want to do it if you had a problem with it.

Mr. Hartwick: I think the questions that were raised by the solicitors and working through some of those issues would be helpful for us to make that kind of determination.

Mr. DiFrancesco: It is a great idea. I don't necessarily see there being a problem. Obviously the attorneys would have to look at it. Obviously others have inquired, but if you are the first one showing up and doing it seems like you have the corner on the business.

Mr. Navagato: I guess where do we proceed from this point. Do I wait?

Mr. Saylor: I will follow up with our solicitors to see what their thoughts are and also when Jeff is back from his cold I will talk with him about it as well.

Mr. Navagato: What timeframe are we talking about?

Mr. Saylor: Probably a week or so.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Lengle: Do you have any questions on the Personnel listings?

Mr. Hartwick: Is there a specific reason that you needed to consider the Children and Youth Caseworker outside of the hiring window?

Ms. Lengle: I can't answer that question. I can get back to you.

Mr. Hartwick: I know we had major staffing concerns that we were trying to keep the ratio of the amount of cases a caseworker had. That ratio needed to be in a certain alignment. Now, I believe we are close to a full complement. Unless this is a critical position that we need to address, I don't see any reason why this can't wait for the hiring window.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: Yesterday I gave you all a Purchase Order Packet. It is a fairly light Packet. This morning I got a call from Bob out at the warehouse saying that with the snow forecast for tomorrow and some more storms basically he wanted me to add this requisition into the Packet for approval next week. People have been bombarding him with requests for rock salt and ice melt. If this is okay with you I will just add it to the Packet. There are a couple of small budget issues that will be resolved. Do you have any questions? (There were none.)

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. DiFrancesco: Are there any items on the Training Packet that need to be addressed?

Mr. Saylor: I think we need to have approval on Items #1, #3, #5, #6 and #7. Some of these are no or low cost. Some appear to be mandated.

Mr. Hartwick: I just raise the issue with 5, 6 and 7. There is no reason why they should come in this late, particularly with #5. That has been on the horizon for quite some time.

Mr. Saylor: I'm just looking to see if there are any notes with the information that came in as to noting why. I don't see any.

Mr. Hartwick: #7, that seems like that has been pre-planned for quite some time.

Mr. Saylor: I'm not seeing any notes as to why.

Mr. Hartwick: I'm not sure why #6 needs to occur.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I have absolutely no idea about #1.

Mr. Saylor: That would be a question for the District Attorney.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Is that information accurate? Obviously something is not adding up on that one.

Mr. Hartwick: That has already happened.

Mr. Saylor: I have no explanation.

Mr. DiFrancesco: According to the information that we have here, we don't have to address #1 at this meeting. We can address #1 at the next meeting. Until we can get answers to the questions, I'm not going to include #1 today.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board approve Items #3, #5 and #7 of the Training Packet.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Energy Conservation and Assistance Agreement between Dauphin County and Trinity Construction Group. **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED***)**

Mr. DiFrancesco: We have one matter of business that a vote is requested for today. This deals with our Weatherization contracts through the stimulus legislation.

Mr. Hartwick: I'm fully aware of this.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I wasn't sure why we had to do this today.

Mr. Hartwick: There is a significant issue that is brewing from the State level and in an attempt of trying to remove dollars from certain counties. So, ultimately in managing this we want to make sure that they are doing as much work as we possibly can. As we post the performance bonds and do all the insurance that is necessary and jump through the multiple hoops that there are in order to try to get these contractors approved, as they come up we want to get them online and out there doing business as soon as possible. This is one that has fulfilled those requirements.

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

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.

Mr. Tully: Nothing to add, but happy to answer any questions you might have on those items. (There were none.)

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor: Likewise, I have nothing to add unless you have any questions of me. (There were none.)

Mr. DiFrancesco: Didn't you have a remarkable success last evening that you wanted to report on the Chief Clerk's reception.

Mr. Saylor: Not really.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION & ACTIONS

Mr. DiFrancesco: Thank you to the many, many people who came out last night for the State of the County. Obviously there were a great group of community partners. As we stressed last night keeping the community vibrant and moving forward is much more than the elected officials, it is partnerships with a lot of people in the community that do so much more than what we do every day in terms of their volunteer efforts, work efforts and their commitment to the community. I just want to say thank you to all the people who came out last night to spend the evening with us and listen to the State of Dauphin County.

Mr. Hartwick: I guess my appropriate response would have been I used my minutes last night.

Mr. DiFrancesco: So noted.

Mr. Tully: It was shorter than last year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. DiFrancesco: We are again at the point in time in the meeting for public participation. Is there anybody 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