



**DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WORKSHOP MEETING**

**MARCH 9, 2011**

**10:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

J. Scott Burford, Acting Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebeck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Jim Zugay, Recorder of Deeds; Steve Libhart, District Attorney's Office; Tom Guenther, Director of IT; Faye Fisher, Director of Personnel; Brad Winnick, Chief Public Defender; Steve Howe, Director of Tax Assessment; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Dave Schreiber, Human Resources; Helen Spence, Human Services; Kay Lenge, Human Resources; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Peter Vriens, Director of Human Services; Sherry Clouser, Drug & Alcohol; Mavis Nimoh, Director of Drug & Alcohol; Tom Wasco, Director of Veterans Affairs; Garry Esworthy, Risk Manager; Judge Scott Evans; Judge Todd Hoover; Laura E. Evans, Esq., Chief Clerk; Megan Evans, Courts; Joe Cardinale, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Kacey Truax, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Mike Musser, Matt Miller, Joe Lahr, Alvin Taylor; Bev Ulsh, Mark Tatar, Gerald Feaser, Riley Johnson, Neil Johnson, Clint Cullison, Barb Zemlock, Warren Hillbish, Ernie Cribari, David McDade, John Suhr, Larry Mummert, Jack Ulsh, Nicole Keiner, Bryan Florence, Julian Dorsey, Catherin Conry, Saliyma Chapman, Brittany Pearson, Kanai Brown, Manuel Valera, Samuel Evans; Sara Evans, Glendora Richardson, Darria Williams and Margaret Stuski

## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 series 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?

Ms. Stuski: My name is Margaret Stuski. I live in Wormleysburg, but my family owns substantial properties in the City of Harrisburg. I'm here to express a couple concerns. We have been in the City of Harrisburg participating as an investment business for over 15 years. I believe that we are experiencing more and more issues in the City of Harrisburg, which I also believe is going to spread out into Dauphin County. My family has asked me to come here, because we are finding it really difficult to do business in the City. The fire and police protection in the upper part from north of the bridge is really becoming difficult. The murder that happened the other day in the City is very disturbing. I'm also concerned from an economic point of view in that I have a client that I'm not going into details on, but the economic development arm of this County does not really understand what is going on. I'm just asking for a plea to look at what is going on. I know there is a lot of big politics going on, but my family wants to be able to stay and operate here. The district justice office that is closest to us is being targeted to be closed and it is going to make landlords extremely difficult to do business and get any kind of justice. In economic times they are spreading very badly. I really appreciate the time. I know we are just a little concern, but I think somebody has to reach out to you guys and say it is getting bad out there. You are in the City of Harrisburg. I understand their problems, but we need the County.

Mr. Haste: I think we are very aware that there are concerns going on. In fact, we have been trying to raise some of those ourselves and we have been trying to fill in some of

the gaps. With the district justice office, I don't know if that one in particular was targeted. It is actually a State Supreme Court decision. It is my understanding you are going to see that across the Commonwealth.

Ms. Stuski: I know that office raises \$450,000 over expenses. I'm going to go to the Supreme Court also. I just think we need to make a stand.

Mr. Haste: That service won't go away. You understand that? It will just be in a different office.

Ms. Stuski: It is going to be extremely difficult. On average I am there two to three times, because the amount of tenants we have. It is very efficiently run. I have been to other districts and that is one of the reasons why we invested in districts that we did, because it is not as efficient. It is just very difficult, because of what is happening. I appreciate, honestly, what you are saying. I just think that somebody that is caught in the middle of this needs to speak out. I don't know where else to go.

Mr. Haste: I understand what you are saying. It is always tough when you lose an efficient office and you have concerns on whether or not the other offices can handle these matters. From the Supreme Court's standpoint, I think what they are doing is they are hearing the taxpayers saying that enough is enough. This is one of the few areas that they looked at that they feel that they can start to trim, just as we talked about the number of legislators, senators and numbers of forms of government. The Supreme Court is going to step forward and say here is one area that we can start to have an impact. It is then incumbent upon the Courts to make sure that the district lines are drawn and the staffing is done in such a way that the services still continue. That is the challenge that we'll face.

On the economic development side, could you be a little more specific on what you are referring to, because it was quite a broad statement?

Ms. Stuski: There are some legal issues, so I don't wish to bring the legal issues forward, but what I'm finding is the economic arm here...There is a proposed project that is in Steelton that we have been trying to struggle through and some litigation came up regarding DCIDA. I don't mind if somebody is within the realm of what is going on, but to actually authorize criminal charges against my client as part of a tactic in the lawsuit I believe went well beyond. We are trying very hard to advance the one economic project. There became a fee dispute on the other side. The actions of DCIDA's Executive Director really upset me. I'm sitting here trying to bring more and more business into the City and County and it is leaving a very bad taste in my mouth.

Mr. Haste: I actually have no idea of what you are referring to. Since you are concerned about legal issues, Bill Tully, our attorney, can you make sure you pass it along?

Ms. Stuski: I will. I'm just saying in general I just think you need to send a really clear message that you want projects coming forward and you want disputes worked out. We can take this to mediation. No offense to lawyers, but somebody has to have a head on that says let's get this right.

Mr. Hartwick: On the district justice item, I want to make it clear that it is not a County Commissioner decision. I think that needs to be the first piece. I do have some challenges and reservations also with the district justice moving, as well as the timing. I understand the concept of a reduction of the district justice offices and our role in doing that. I happen to think that we can do it in a much more thought out way. Lines are redrawn and we have the ability to have folks actually vote for who their magisterial district justice is going to be rather than not have the ability to do that for somebody who is going to be in office for the next six years. I think the timing of that and the actual definitions of that for voters is a real challenge and one that I'm...I have a great relationship with the Court and I want to be a part of cost-saving measures. I just don't want to disenfranchise voters. Quite frankly that's an issue that I'm a bit concerned about from the district justice level.

The second part is from our perspective on the Steelton project, I want to make sure you are talking or referring to something that would be County related that is moving forward in legal action and not the Borough itself. Can you make sure?

Ms. Stuski: No, the action I'm defending is a DCIDA action. The project, however, has County funds. There are two parts to it. One was a disagreement over a lease amount that my owners are involved with. The economic development project is in Steelton and has County funds and State funds involved. This litigation is holding up him moving forward, because of what happened.

Mr. Hartwick: I want to make sure that we are not mischaracterizing things, because if there is a way to come to a resolution we would prefer to do that over going through legal action.

Ms. Stuski: I want to spend my time not using legal fees on this, but going forward on the project. Someone is not looking at those two components.

Mr. Hartwick: If we can clearly resolve that I'm in favor. I don't know what specific issue you are talking about. If you can get with Mr. Tully and follow-up with a conversation, hopefully we can come to some resolution. Obviously there are two sides so we need to look at those as we examine the issues. I would like to be engaged to help you out if I can.

Mr. Pries: Thank you for bringing these matters to our attention.

Ms. Stuski: I normally don't do this, but my family really likes Harrisburg and we like being business people in Harrisburg. We don't want to be forced out when somebody can step up and make this a little better. Thank you!

Commissioners: Thank you!

## **DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS**

### **A. Dauphin County Commissioners**

#### **1. Proclamation – Tall Cedars Week**

Mr. Haste: I believe I have all of the names in front of me: Warren Hillbish, Ernie Cribari, David McDade, Gerald Feaser, John Suhr, Larry Mummert, Jack Ulsh, County alumni Bev Ulsh, Neil Johnson and Riley. It is my understanding that Riley is the Ambassador this year for Harrisburg Forest 43. Actually Riley I was thinking of you when we were doing the pledge. I should have stopped and let you sing the anthem for us, because Riley is so good at doing that. It is our honor to have you here today and to recognize you.

(Mr. Haste read the following Proclamation.)

### *Office of County Commissioner* **Dauphin County, Pennsylvania**

## **Proclamation**

***We**, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are delighted to join the many outstanding members of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America, their friends, family members and community supporters, in showing our heartfelt respect and appreciation for their charitable efforts, as we celebrate the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America during Tall Cedars Week from March 13 to 19, 2011;*

***Whereas**, an achievement for which they can be justly proud, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon was chartered 109 years ago to promote a stronger bond with ALL Freemasons and to further the goals and tenets of Freemasonry;*

***Whereas**, living up to their motto "Fun Frolic & Fellowship," this esteemed group has offered every Master Mason an opportunity to enjoy a fuller, more enriching life;*

***Whereas**, with more than 13,000 members who share an unyielding commitment to provide a "place in the sun" for thousands of victims suffering from neuromuscular diseases, the Tall Cedars have made a difference in the lives of many;*

***Whereas**, from former U.S. Presidents Gerald Ford and Franklin D. Roosevelt to professional golfer Arnold Palmer, the Tall Cedars has thousands of distinguished and decorated members and is known for their ability to help unite this nation in peace and brotherhood;*

***Therefore**, in honor and tribute to their life-enriching work, we join the 256,000 residents of Dauphin County in commending our local Tall Cedars for 109 years of remarkable service to mankind; we wish them many more years of service and success; and in recognition of their continued efforts to make the world a better place, we proudly declare March 13 to 19, 2011 as "Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America Week" in Dauphin County.*

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Hillbash: One thing that distinguishes Tall Cedars is the pyramid that we wear. It has been an emblem for 109 years. As Grand Tall Cedar of Harrisburg Forrest 43, I want to say thank you to the Commissioners for the Proclamation. We can assure you

that our efforts are going to be ongoing and continuing to basically help muscular dystrophy research in finding a cure. It has come a long way since we started. There was a time it was almost a death sentence. There are now people living into adulthood. We do definitely thank you so much for your Proclamation and look forward to working with you again. Thank you!

Mr. Haste: Riley, as the ambassador, do you have anything you want to say?

Riley Johnson: I would just like to thank the Tall Cedars for everything they do for helping all the families like me. I just want to thank the County Commissioners for recognizing them with this great honor. Thank you!

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

## **B. Dauphin County Commissioners**

### **1. Proclamation – National Problem Gambling Awareness Week**

Mr. Hartwick: My job is to now discuss another issue. We have heard about a lot of great projects, infrastructure, public service and emergency services that have happened and sprung up only as a result of the revenues of the Hollywood Racino. They have been a great partner. Local municipalities have been able to benefit through some of the local shared gaming revenue. However, we would be remiss if we didn't discuss issues that may arise as a result of gaming. We have an obligation to be able to address those issues in a proactive way. Our human service delivery system here in Dauphin County has been recognized as one of the State's best. We are not taking a backseat in the delivery of problem gaming addiction services to individuals who are in need in our County. We have done a significant amount of research and hired a gaming addiction counselor that is in partnership with both our Drug & Alcohol Department and Northwestern Human Services that are really unmatched around the State. While we have talked about the good things that have come from gaming, we can't ignore the fact that many families and individuals have been affected negatively through the addiction of gambling. It is just like any other addiction, gambling also has co-occurring issues. We are working collaboratively across all of our systems in educating law enforcement, community professionals, as well as school districts in being able to identify those issues and making sure no matter what part of our system they come in we try to offer them the help that they need in order to help them maintain their families and try to address the issues that come along with gaming addiction.

(Mr. Hartwick read the following Proclamation.)

*Office of County Commissioner*

# Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

## Proclamation

*We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, join the National Council on Problem Gambling, Northwestern Human Services and families everywhere in raising awareness about the warning signs of problem gambling and its devastating effects, as we recognize March 6 - 12 as National Problem Gambling Awareness Week;*

*Whereas, problem gambling affects approximately six to eight million people in the U.S. in any given year;*

*Whereas, Dauphin County and its many community partners are dedicated to mitigating the negative effects of gambling for all Pennsylvanians through our problem gambling service system that provides prevention and treatment for citizens throughout the state;*

*Whereas, Dauphin County honors the families and highly skilled professional staff who provide prompt, caring and effective services for individuals in need of counseling services— it is their competent and compassionate care that ensures recovery is possible;*

*Whereas, as part of National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, we spotlight this significant public health issue to raise awareness and encourage those who need help to seek it out;*

*Therefore, we join all 256,000 residents of Dauphin County in offering a message of hope and support to those recovering from gambling addiction and to their families as we proclaim March 6 – 12, 2011 as “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week,” and with continual support, individuals can identify problem gambling, seek treatment and overcome its devastating effects.*

Mr. Haste: I think you said it all.

Mr. Pries: It was very heartfelt.

Mr. Hartwick: Catherin, I want to thank you for your continued efforts. I know we are moving forward with another grant to renew those efforts in making sure that we proactively address the issues of problem gambling. We have a lot of prevention, and intervention and specific clinical-related treatment that is targeted not just for the Hollywood Racino, but this is for folks who are involved in sports betting, shooting craps, card games that can relate to other addictions.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

Ms. Conry: Thank you to the Board of Commissioners for bringing this important outreach effort to Dauphin County. It is a great honor.

### **C. Mark Tatar, CGI Communications**

#### **1. Video Tour Book**

Mr. Tatar: My name is Mark Tatar. I work for CGI Communications and I'm here to explain a brand new community movie program that is going on Dauphin County's official website. It is a very visual program. We've done a video tour book movie program for over 3,000 communities across the country. Dauphin County's is kicking off in the next week or two to go live on the County's site. The focus of this program is to

be able to have video information for future residents that are moving in or relocating to the community, as well as people who are visiting the area. These people are going to Dauphin County's website to get different information.

(Mr. Tatar demonstrated the program.)

There is a link on the website that will take you to a video tour book. We created about 20 minutes of video that is highlighting all different aspects of the community. Each of these different chapters is a one to two minute movie on that specific topic. There are different business logos around the border. This is a sponsorship program. It is not taking up any taxpayer dollars. It is sponsorship by the different businesses and organizations that get involved. They are able to get involved and create their own 60-second video about their business. When you click on any of those different logos it educates the person viewing the program on their business and the different services they have to offer throughout the county. Those are going to be live within the week. These are all interactive links for the different businesses that get involved. We've already had 23 different businesses and organizations within Dauphin County get involved with the program. We've had an outstanding response with it so far.

Mr. Burford: The Dauphin County link, do you not have a visual for the Commissioners to take a look at?

Mr. Tatar: The visual is going to be identical to what you see on the right hand side. It is going live within the next few days. I don't have the ability to show you that on Dauphin County's website. The positioning on the page has not been decided yet.

Mr. Burford: I was hopeful that we would be able to see a Dauphin County example as opposed to Lycoming County.

Mr. Tatar: That is out of my hands in terms of when the program goes live. I apologize. Do you have any questions? (There was none.)

Commissioners: Thank you!

## **D. Helen Spence**

### **1. Systems of Care Youth Leadership Committee**

Ms. Spence: Thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity to share this exciting endeavor with the young people of our community. Recently by using our Street-based practice here in Dauphin County, I have had the opportunity to work with many young people in many agencies to come up with solutions, to be part of the solutions for what they see as the concerns in their county. One of the things that we have done is we gave our young people a voice. They decided to utilize that voice in a really unique way to get across what is good for them in their own homes, schools and communities; along with Community partners and our County people working and supporting us to be



able to do this. We have been able to come up with a real wonderful project. They are going to explain that to you. I'm going to have Miss Dee come first and talk to you about what that project is and then I will allow the kids an opportunity to explain.

Mr. Hartwick: Can you explain how they got to this position?

Ms. Spence: One of the things that our Systems of Care Youth Committee does is really look at what is going on around them. We know this is an election year. One of the things that I took this opportunity to do with them and with the help of Commissioner Hartwick is to really get them engaged in the whole process of voting. They have officers in their committee, the chair, co-chair, secretary and treasurer. They had to do a mock election and it was really fun. They had to really sell themselves, have a good platform as to why they needed to be elected and then they had to be voted on by their peers.

Mr. Hartwick: One of the unique things that I want to give Helen credit on...she brought kids from various high schools. They were mixed in with kids from our neighborhood reporting center and from all the different school districts and the ability to have the communication occur and some of these kids took those questions seriously. I was impressed by the vote total. You are missing your secretary today.

Ms. Williams: As Helen stated, "What's Good" is an initiative. It really came out of our young peoples' concerns that there weren't enough positive news stories being presented. They wanted the opportunity to be able to have a voice and have that voice heard by the masses. That is how the show "What's Good" came about. This show in a nutshell is a show by youth for youth and about youth. They want to focus on "What if it bleeds, it leads". We know that if we want to uplift and encourage our youth we need to highlight what they are doing, what is important to them and let that be heard as well. "What's Good" is the vehicle by which we will do that. We will educate the public about services that these young people are involved in, programs that they have helped to create that they are fully engaged in and community service that is important to them in what they are doing. "What's Good" encompasses all of that. It will give our students real world experience. I teach them what it is to prepare for an interview, how do you properly conduct an interview and how do you make contacts with people that you are interested in interviewing. I'll discuss the format of our show in a bit. That is what the purpose of "What's Good" is. It is an opportunity for high school students throughout Dauphin County to participate in something that is positive, but that will also open many doors for them.

The format and structure of our show, we allow the students to make all of the decisions. Everything that they do is under adult supervision, but they have decided everything along the way. The title of the show "What's Good" and the logo was designed by the students. They are a part of our cast and crew and also the theme song for the show was developed by some of our students. With the format of the show they will decide the content and who will be invited to participate. We also have production meetings where they will decide where we go in the field, how the interviews

will be conducted, the content and developing the interview questions. Currently we are in final production of our third show. What we brought along today is the first show. The students have decided what each show topic is going to be about. They decided that the format and structure of the show will be in two different segments so that they can encompass more information, but all items in the show will pertain to the overall theme of the show. All students are to be assigned a particular role in the show. We have directors, producers, reporters and also field reporters. They learn what it is if they were to have a career in broadcast journalism. Being a part of the "What's Good" cast and crew is going to teach them what it is to be a reporter, what is it to be a producer, what is it to be a director in the studio. They are learning all of these tasks as we go. They are then held accountable for that production aspect with each show. Those roles and responsibilities rotate with each show, so that each student has the opportunity to sort of get their feet wet with each area of responsibility. Our hope is that it will grow. "What's Good" will grow to have summer enrichment programs where we will bring in other industry professionals and media representatives that will be able to teach them even more about what they do on a daily basis and expose them to other real world experiences. That can be done through media camps that we would hold during the summer and also field trips where they can see studios in action, speak with other people, possibly go into the field with some reporters to see how they chase a story and how they interview people in real life. The children are actively involved in every aspect of the show.

We know that as adults we may think we know what is best for them or what is important to them, but it has been my experience that what we think as adults is completely different than what they think is important or what they want to hear about themselves or what they want to see on TV. They take full responsibility for the content of the show, the way the show will air and everyone that is a part of that. We do have an expectation of excellence for all of the students that are involved. We invite students from all high schools throughout Dauphin County to participate in "What's Good". We have just about all high schools represented in our cast and crew. We maintain that level of excellence in all that they do. I would like to say that failure is not an option and mediocrity is unacceptable, because we know that we are trying to prepare them for college or the work place if that is what they choose to do, but we want them to know that they are gifted, talented and intelligent. You are capable to do this so we will not lower the bar. We will have the expectation that you are going to be excellent in everything that you do so that when someone watches "What's Good" that is what they are going to see. They are going to see our children developing, growing, maturing, and getting that real world experience that they are going to need to make them marketable when they apply for a college. When they are in college it will give them a leg up on other students who were not living in Dauphin County to have that experience or that opportunity of a "What's Good".

We have four of our cast members here with us today to share with you what they have done with the show thus far and how the show has impacted them. They will each speak. They will introduce themselves and the school that they attend.

Manuel Valera: My name is Manuel Valera and I go to school in Harrisburg. I like this school, because it keeps me out of trouble and it gives me a voice.

Mr. Hartwick: He shows up for everything. He misses nothing. He is at every event. How old are you?

Manuel Valera: 13.

Mr. Hartwick: He is young, but he is one of the most reliable kids that come.

Kanai Brown: My name is Kanai Brown. I'm in the Central Dauphin East School District, but I attend Dauphin County Technical School for Cosmetology. This group helps me, because instead of being on the streets and running around with my friends I'm doing something productive and not getting into trouble.

Brittany Pearson: I'm Brittany Pearson. I'm the co-chair person of New Beginnings and I'm the reporter for "What's Good". I am a part of Derry Township School District. I am a junior at Hershey High School. "What's Good" is helping me in every way possible. My mom is a Criminal Justice Major and she worked at Dauphin County Prison. I did some research and it is predicted nationally that this generation, our generation, will be the first generation ever in history to do worse than our parents, which means to us people are waiting and expecting us to fail. When you expect something to happen and keep expecting, it is going to happen. Yes, there is a lot of violence and problems going on in the youth and a lot of adults are complaining about it and are having problems about it, but they are never asking the youth. You are complaining and not doing anything about it. "What's Good" gives us a chance to change the perspectives of our peers and our adults that are in our lives. "What's Good" is giving us an opportunity to have a voice. Just because we are young and our voices are still developing doesn't mean that we don't have one. I feel that it gives us a chance to inspire other youth and let them know that there are good things happening. We're good. We are doing very well now, but I know for a fact that we have the potential to be even better. This is my first time meeting you guys, but you guys have the ability to help us in ways that we wouldn't be able to. We appreciate that very much. I also think that here at "What's Good"...I'm a junior and I am applying to Penn State looking forward to majoring in business and psychology with a minor in theatre. "What's Good" has helped me learn how to manage my time and prioritize accordingly based on the amount of time I have. It has given me an opportunity to learn how to make connections and contact people in a business and professional way as opposed to just talking on Facebook. It gives me an opportunity to make business and other connections with other people that are right here in my community. I love "What's Good" and hopefully with your help we can make it even better.

Saliyma Chapman: My name is Saliyma Chapman. I'm 17 years old and I go to Susquehanna Township High School. I'm also the chair for New Beginnings and reporter for "What's Good". I just love "What's Good". Just getting to meet new people and interview new people that I would never have the chance to meet if it wasn't for this

group. We want to reach other teens in our community just to say come with us, be a productive person for society and be positive. "What's Good" grabs people's attention. If you are on the committee of "What's Good" then you get to put something together and be like "wow" I put this show together and this is something good. We really want your support, because with your support we can reach new people and go new places and get more people to come with us. Harrisburg needs us and the teens really need this. Thank you!

Ms. Williams: There are a lot of good things happening in Dauphin County and people need to know about that. We need to know as community members the negative things, but our kids are doing a lot of fabulous things. The four young people behind me are just a snapshot of what's to come in Dauphin County. They are the future shining stars. The logo, as well as the soundtrack was all designed by students.

(A clip was shown of the first show for "What's Good".)

Ms. Williams: We are also partnering in helping to give back to our show our public service announcements. Any of our Systems of Care agencies and any other community agencies and organizations that provide services throughout Dauphin County can submit their PSAs to us and we will incorporate them into each show that we do. The tag line that the kids developed is that "real eyes realize what's good."

(Applause was given.)

Ms. Williams: That was our first show and it aired on WHBG-20 on March 2. Our second show will be edited and ready to air on March 17. We are finalizing the third show. Thank you so much for your time and attention. We have Mr. Julian Dorsey who will come and speak to you a little further.

Mr. Dorsey: I just want to again thank you for the opportunity to sit in front of you guys and talk to you about this project and initiative. I'm kind of the silent guy behind the program. I come in as the Executive Director of the J.T. Dorsey Foundation. I have been working with Helen for quite a few years in terms of trying to create opportunities for the kids in the community. When we came up with this we thought it was a great idea to look at how to engage, educate and connect kids to something that is positive and something that is for them. My job was to actually put together the ASK to present to you, which has been set before you. The budget is relatively conservative, based on what the impact is. You know that it costs \$635 a day to incarcerate a young child or keep someone in detention, how can we combat that. This is an opportunity to engage kids in education, mentorship and employable skills that will hopefully create positive secondary outcomes for them. I just ask that you take an opportunity to seriously look at the proposal and then connect with us if there is an opportunity to continue to move forward and to positively affect more kids like this in our community into something that is not only "What's Good", but what can turn into a great thing. Again, we ask you to take that opportunity to look at the proposal and then get back in touch with us.

Mr. Haste: I think being positive can get contagious. So, I hope this gets very contagious. My biggest criticism of the media is the fact that there are folks in there who like to earn a living by reporting negative things. It is very difficult, for whatever reason, I think part of it is society too, we seem to be drawn to the negativity so therefore I think the media reflects that. Hopefully you are the generation that changes the way media reports and the way we want to look at things. I commend you greatly for that.

Mr. Pries: I echo those comments. Was that Robert Tate from Harrisburg, Cincinnati and the Vikings?

Ms. Williams: Yes.

Mr. Pries: I want to congratulate you. I thought this was an outstanding presentation. I also thought it was a great idea to bring four of the kids who are participating, benefiting and representing the program. You guys are the future of our country and I'm very impressed with each one of you.

(Applause was given.)

Mr. Hartwick: I want to recognize Helen Spence for all of the great work that she has provided. A lot of the initiatives you see came about as a result of collaboration in our work within the community. You know you have my support. I'm at most of the meetings. Some of the kids said that there were challenges that were talked about, but there was no solution focused responses. I heard recommended solutions. They did not just point the challenges out, they found solutions. You can and do control your own destiny and future. When you realize that you become leaders. I see potential county commissioners, mayors and community-leaders. It is not only about being responsible, it is talking about being cross-cultural, being with peers throughout all of our school districts. All of you had the ability to communicate about the issues that were important to you. That is reflective of all of our aspects of our community. "Real eyes realize What's Good". We're going to find out a way to support you.

(Applause was given.)

## **SALARY BOARD**

A complete set of Salary Board Meeting Minutes are on file in the Commissioners' Office.

## **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Lengle: Do you have any questions on any of the items in the Packet? (There was none.) There are a few that I would like to request a vote for today. They are #3, #15, #24 and #30.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Personnel Items #3, #15, #24 and #30.**

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

### **OATH OF OFFICE – CHIEF CLERK**

Mr. Haste: One of the items that we just voted on was the hiring of our new Chief Clerk, Laura. For those who are out there Laura Evans will be the new Chief Clerk/County Administrator. As such under the County Code, it requires a swearing-in. So, we have the honor of having the President Judge and I see he is joined by other distinguished members of the bench. It is a pleasure to have Laura step into this role. I think we are making history here today. She is obviously the first female that I'm aware of that has ever been in this position. Luckily she is not the youngest. I think I still hold that title, but not far behind. Some of the impressive things that Laura brings to this position is not only her work ethic, but she is also an attorney. She has a Masters Degree in Public Finance. As we are addressing the difficult times that the County and other local governments will be having over the next few years, I think her talent will bring us well on a course through this difficult time. I'm looking forward to her guidance. It is our honor to have the Judge here to swear her in so she can get to work right away.

Judge Hoover: Are you prepared to take the Oath of Office?

Ms. Evans: I am.

Judge Hoover: Would you repeat after me? I, state your name.

Ms. Evans: I, Laura Evans.

Judge Hoover: Do solemnly swear.

Ms. Evans: Do solemnly swear.

Judge Hoover: That I will support, obey and defend.

Ms. Evans: That I will support, obey and defend.

Judge Hoover: The Constitution of the United States.

Ms. Evans: The Constitution of the United States.

Judge Hoover: The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Evans: The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Judge Hoover: And I will discharge my duties.

Ms. Evans: And I will discharge my duties.

Judge Hoover: As Chief Clerk.

Ms. Evans: As Chief Clerk.

Judge Hoover: With fidelity.

Ms. Evans: With fidelity.

Judge Hoover: So help me God.

Ms. Evans: So help me God.

Judge Hoover: And keep me steadfast.

Ms. Evans: And keep me steadfast.

Judge Hoover: In this my Oath of Office.

Ms. Evans: In this my Oath of Office.

Judge Hoover: Congratulations!

(Applause was given.)

Ms. Evans: Thank you!

Mr. Hartwick: As I congratulate Laura in her new role. I'm going to make a couple comments about Laura as well. I would also like to thank Scott Burford who quite frankly has been a steadfast leader in this County who has brought a great deal of competence. His skill set has been one that has allowed us to accomplish significant tasks and allowed us to move smoothly through a transition when Mr. Saylor resigned. He has been one of the nuts and bolts. The talents and skill sets that Scott has, matched with the public finance and legal background of Laura will make a great team in dealing with the significant amount of challenges that face the County. I also believe that it is another step in continuing to make sure that we have diversified. I know that in my life women often get it done and pay attention to detail a whole lot more than what men do. We are certainly grateful that we have someone that not only has the educational background, but the tenacity to be able to accomplish the goals set forth. We look forward to a significant amount of work being done. Juggling three heads is never an easy task. Congratulations!

Mr. Pries: That is why I always try to go before George. Laura, you are going to make a tremendous asset to this team and will play a vital role. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I feel that the residents will be well served by your hiring today. The 40 directors will be very impressed with you, as the three of us have been and are. I look forward to working with you as one of the three Commissioners and I couldn't be prouder of this moment today, not just based upon your gender, but based upon your educational experience and knowledge. You are a go-getter. The three of us have a great deal of respect for you and we will enjoy working with you. Welcome aboard on behalf of the three of us.

Mr. Haste: We'll take pictures after the meeting and I hope everyone can stick around. I want to thank Laura's family for being here. It is a pleasure to have you here.

### **PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci: You all should have received your Purchase Order Packet yesterday. As usual I have some budget issues to take care of. Are there any questions on the Packet?

Mr. Hartwick: I have a couple, but I will get with you before next week.

### **TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Haste: We have the Training Packet. We have Items #2, #6 and #18 that need action.

**It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Training Requests #2, #6 and #18.**

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

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

(There was none.)

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tully: No changes to the draft Report, but would be happy to answer any questions you might have. (There was none.)

### **CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT**

Mr. Burford: No report, but happy to answer any questions. (There was none.)



## **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Pries: We also have another very important hire today. A new member of the team, who has worked in the County for several years, his name is Steve Libhart. He has worked in the District Attorney's Office for several years. He was in charge of the Drug Court. Steve will be our new Director of the Emergency Management Agency. Steve brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge and a lot of organizational skills, as a former member of the military. We were all very impressed during our discussions with him and observing him in action. Helping to run the Drug Court over the years, I feel that he will make a tremendous asset to the team, as well as Laura. To me it is a win/win for the County today. It is a big loss for Ed Marsico in the District Attorney's Office, because of the amount of work that you have done there over the years. We have a need in Emergency Management and you have the skills and ability to hit the ground running from day one. We are glad to have you as part of the team, effective March 21. There are a lot of challenges that lie ahead with the City and all the other items that are going to come about in the future, but for you in emergency management and the transition of the dispatch center from the City to the County you are up to the task. It is a proud day for me as one Commissioner.

Mr. Haste: Congratulations, Steve!

Mr. Libhart: Thank you.

Mr. Hartwick: He knows how I feel. We need a manager out there and someone who is able to be responsive. Some of the biggest future budget issues based upon current legislation may exist at EMA. I know we have had significant dialogue and we'll evaluate you after 45 days. Thanks! Congratulations!

## **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 was none.)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz