



**DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Workshop Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 28, 2007 (10:00 a.m.)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jeff Haste, Chairman  
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, II, Vice Chairman

ABSENT--George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bill Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Guy Beneventano, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie Rebuck, Controller; Jim Szymborski, Director of Dauphin County Planning and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Sharon Chatman, Personnel; Debora Sabalusky, Commissioners' Office; Leila McAdoo, Solicitor's Office; Brandon Handwerk, Commissioners' Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Dan Robinson, Director of Economic Development; Dave Schreiber, Personnel; Kay Sinner, Personnel; Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Diane McNaughton, Press Secretary; Mike Pries, Director of Safety and Security; Greg Schneider, Budget and Finance; Tom Guenther, IT Director; Carolyn Thompson, Court Administrator; Marielena Martinez Fure, Commissioners' Office; Kacey Truax, Commissioners' Office; Gertrude Farling, Controllers' Office; Deb Lisi, Controllers' Office and Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office.

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center; Kristen Olewine Milke, Whitaker Center; Rev. Alvin Q. Taylor and Garry Lenton, Patriot News.

**MINUTES**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Haste, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 six meeting minutes that we will take up at next week's 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?

Rev. Taylor: I'm Rev. Alvin Q. Taylor, one of the community active ministers in the area. I only have one concern. As you know, I have given my name further for public service work here as a candidate for Commissioner, but I didn't come to talk about that. I come to talk about a procedure that took place while I was here. I was accosted by the Chief of Security and his deputy. Mr. Rittner was the Deputy and the Chief was Mr. Pries. As I was getting and waiting for some information, I was accosted and humiliated. I don't know if that is the proper protocol or terminology of the matter, but it followed the procedure of my trying to meet a deadline with my petition. It was basically like ethnic voter intimidation. I would not have thought much of it except it happened that Thursday prior at Strawberry Square. It is almost the same identical scenario with their Chief of Security. I had attended the Heritage Breakfast over there with Vera Cornish's group. I got a drink and I sat there and I guess they thought I was actually doing some solicitation, but I was actually tired. I was just disturbed at this protocol that here I am a businessman as you know, clergy for 31 years in the community, and I was embarrassed publicly. One it was stated when I was getting information "why are you harassing my staff." I was dumbfounded. There was a TV camera there running. I was embarrassed. They didn't know who I was and I didn't know the reason. As I was waiting to get a letter then that is when the Director of Security came down with his assistant and they pulled me aside and said we want to talk to you over here. When I lived in Virginia that was ethnic voter intimidation, which was against the law federally. I didn't want you to get this hearsay, because I know sometimes folks sit on information like that. As a business person, as a community clergy person and as someone who has a goal to better our community, had it not been me but someone else you would have had a scene down there. You would have had people who didn't know what was

going on. Here I am, and I'm a committee person out of the 105th precinct too. All of these things and I was accosted like I was a common criminal.

Mr. Haste: When you say accosted, what do you mean?

Rev. Taylor: They came up and I was standing at the far window by the Tax window. Two white gentlemen were standing beside me and when they came up they came to the white gentlemen and said what is going on. They didn't know what was going on and I was standing there and I said well I'm Rev. Taylor I think you were sent down to talk to me. They said hey come on over to this table and I just happened to have my coat, hat and bag right over there. I said no problem. I said what is going on. I told them that I just wanted to know the lady's name because she wasn't wearing her ID. I said "what is your name" and he told me, Pries and Mr. Rittner. I said "can I get a card." This is all of I asked the young lady for and how it became harassment, security coming down. I was humiliated. I was embarrassed as a community leader, 30 years as a clergy in this community, just gave a big banquet trying to do some things here. I was dumbfounded. I don't know what my options are, but you know I have always come here to present to you any issues that I have had, because I like to present it one-to-one without the bureaucratic red tape. I just wanted to bring it to your attention today personally. That should have never happened to anyone. They were loud. I asked a question and I asked your Chief of Security and he answered. He gave me his ID and a card, but the employees there should have to show their ID so they don't have to be put on that spot, because if we see your name we can just write it down. It was not my intention when I heard all of this that someone would come out and it was the Director that did it and yelled at the top of his voice "why are you harassing my staff." I was embarrassed. People from all over Dauphin County area were there with their petitions and asking questions. Mr. Jackson was there and some other folks were there from the community. They looked at me and I looked at them. I was so embarrassed. No one should be humiliated like that as a citizen of Dauphin County. I wanted to tell you myself, because someone else may have been there and it happened to them. They wouldn't come up and tell you. I want you to know. It is my role as taxpayer, paying their salaries, and for me to come in here and ask you one question, Mr. Haste, what is your name. I didn't know your name. Once I know it I can call you in your proper name and I was dumbfounded. I wanted to take time out of my schedule to come down here today just to share that with you and I hope that from your Personnel Department something is done, because somebody else may just have a question and for them to be publicly humiliated I don't think it is necessary.

Commissioners: Thank you.

Mr. Haste: Anyone else at this time?

### **DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS**

- A. Scope of Work for a Regional Action Plan for Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development - Jim Szymborski, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Szymborski: Thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal to you this morning. I think you are both somewhat familiar with the background on this Regional Action Plan. It is a Statewide Initiative originating back in the Ridge Administration, when the Governor through Executive Order called for more cooperative planning. Following through in 2003, with the Statewide Conference to establish the overall theme - Land Use Planning, Transportation for Economic Development. In 2004, there was a Statewide Action Plan that was developed and distributed realizing that if anything was going to be successfully accomplished they needed to break this down to the region and the county level. In 2005, we had a regional conference here in Harrisburg that covered our area of planning responsibility and that includes the Counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York. That is the old Region 6 that was created by the State Planning back in the early 60s. The Statewide Action Plan established the framework for this initiative and that is the way the Commonwealth can integrate state, regional, county and local decisions that involve land use, transportation and economic development. The focus is on inter-governmental cooperation. That is why they are looking at establishing a regional approach among our eight counties in South Central Pennsylvania. The initial presentation was made to the South Central Caucus, I believe it is an affiliate of CCAP now. Back at the Fall Conference in Hershey the planning directors from the eight counties were then requested to prepare a scope of work and present it to the Caucus at their March meeting. We have met and prepared a scope of work. I distributed that to you folks on March 9th. We presented the final scope of work on Monday to the Caucus Meeting. We are looking for an affirmation or commitment from the respective county boards to participate in this. If you look at the last page of the scope of work that was distributed there is a Resolution of support for the Regional Action Plan Participation. The State is looking to see how many of our eight counties are willing to participate in this initiative. I think, personally, here in Dauphin it is to our advantage because of the theme - transportation, land use and economic development. You had a recent economic development initiative and a summit that was held and a Committee and Task Force structure that created. The focus is really on what we have identified and we think the Counties' agree are the topical areas that this initiative should address. This is not creating another vision or another plan. The foundation we already established among the county agencies whether it is a county planning commission for the County Comprehensive Plan, the Community of Economic Development for economic development, Housing and Redevelopment for housing initiatives, and your participation in the Tourism Bureau. There are a number of different issues that were addressed and recommendations that were presented to you at the Summit that we feel can be accomplished. As a result of this participation, the Commonwealth is telling us that the participating State agencies will in fact place a priority on funding the initiatives that the participating counties identify as being regional in significance. A quick list of those topics - agriculture, infrastructure and that is going to include projects and this, I believe, will also help you with your community development block grant program, which is continuously under attack at the Federal level to reduce the amount of funds that you receive as an urban county to distribute to the benefit of the public. It would include transportation through our participation in HATS, which we can enhance. Sewer, water, telecommunications, information, I believe there was one recommendation that came

out of the conference was to provide for more information, more readily accessible to the public storm water management planning and in particular with sewer under the Chesapeake Bay Strategy. Our sewage treatment plants will be required to achieve a higher level of treatment before they discharge their treated water into the Susquehanna, others include land use, economic development, tourism, housing, natural environment and historic resources and state and county administration and operations. What we are recommending is that a steering committee be created, 35 to 40 people among the eight counties. Each county board will be requested to appoint 4 to 5 committee members to the Steering Committee. The planning directors will be part of that Steering Committee. They will, for the most part, coordinate the development of the Regional Action Plan for the 8 counties. The Steering Committee, as that is occurring, will be meeting with you, each of the respective county boards, to give you a more thorough briefing on what this is recommending to familiarize you with a purpose of a process, gather the input from you and what your expectations are going to be, identify the eight major issues as you see them that they are addressing the county and then ultimately an administrative organization would apply for the funding on behalf of the eight counties. That would go to the Department of Community and Economic Development. There will be no local match. It will be 100% funding and a consultant will be retained to prepare the Regional Action Plan. An original overview will be collected with the assistance of the County agencies, all the projects, scopes of work, reports, studies, strategies under those topics that I mentioned as well as others that you think are more important so that we have a good comprehensive collection of what each county has looked into in terms of issues and needs. We can give them to the consultant then and that will be put together on an original initiatives report so that we can look at the other seven counties in our region to see what they feel are important and how we can interact with one another and mutually support one another. I'm sure there are common issues. I think housing would be a common issue, redevelopment authority, economic development, the storm water management as well as sewage treatment where we will be dealing with accomplishing the Chesapeake Bay strategies. After the regional review is completed, this document will be put together and taken back to each of the Boards' Commissioners. We will sit down with you and review it. It is not going to be prioritized. Each of the counties has a role to play individually and what they consider are their highest priority projects. Then that will be put together in a final original opportunities report so we can see what we have in common with the other seven counties in our region and how we can work together to accomplish collaboratively what we feel is important for the counties as well as the region. The final consensus building initiative will be undertaken again meeting with the boards through the Steering Committee that has been selected. I will be functioning under this scope of work as a direct liaison to your board. It will be my responsibility to keep you up-to-date on the activities of the consultant and the progress of the report. Finally a schedule of short, mid and long term projects that are of regional significance that can be presented to the State. It is not committing the counties within any given point in time to commit themselves to any county projects or multiple county projects. It is when the counties feel most comfortable and in the best position to take those initiatives as you selected them and as you prioritized them. We are very careful in establishing guiding principles so that we think that we can put the counties in a position that they could at least by

resolution indicate they are interested in participating in this and pursue their consultant and bring a consultant on board and create this Regional Action Plan. It is voluntary. It requires no financial commitment from the participating counties. My staff and our organization feel that our involvement will be covered under our regional transportation program. Because this is linking transportation, land use and economic development, that fulfills national priorities to link land use, transportation in particular to benefit economic development. We feel that we can cover this, our participation and support through the Regional Transportation Program, which is about a 93% grant from USDOT/PennDOT. I believe the County's support on this is about four or five cents on the dollar. That is with all three counties, Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry participating. The consultant will be funded by the Commonwealth. Participation in the Regional Action Plan doesn't commit a county to implementing any of the potential regional projects suggested through the process unless and until they are comfortable with the ability to enter into that initiative. Finally all deliverables and products will be provided to you for your review before it goes to the caucus for any discussion or any action.

Mr. Haste: I think early on when this was being kicked around in our Caucus; we had indicated this is the way that we would like to see it go. The only question I would have you said the Committee is going to be 35 to 40.

Mr. Szymborski: That is the Steering Committee. The Executive Committee will be comprised of the County Planning Directors.

Mr. Haste: Even that Committee, the only thing that makes me nervous on that and I rode along and went to the Workforce Development Committee where they have 90 people, nothing got accomplished. It was just too big. I'm wondering if, even at 35 to 40, that it wouldn't be better if it was at 16 to 24 as opposed to 35 to 40. I'm just curious as to who are they looking at needing to be on the Committee to have four or five from each county?

Mr. Szymborski: We are recommending that potential members include or could include County staff, and initially the County Planning staff would be involved in this, but you have staff from the Department of Community & Economic Development, Housing & Redevelopment Authority, the Conservation District, local government representation, economic development officials, housing and redevelopment professionals, business leaders, transportation professionals, natural resource and agricultural professionals and any interested residents, as well as the State agencies from the Departments of Agriculture, Community & Economic Development, Conservation and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Transportation, the Governor's Policy Office and the Center for Local Government Services. They will be participating as ex-officio members. Looking at transportation and land use and economic development, we tried to pare this down so that there would be fewer members, but in order to get the broad based representation that we thought the counties would want four to five from each county would establish a 35 to 40 member working group. It has been my experience in attending the meetings of the SEDA-COG, undertaking the same initiative for their

ten or eleven counties, they have a much larger working group and they are experiencing 80 to 85% participation. In order to cover all the bases, we felt that 35 to 40 could be acceptable. If we have 35 to 40 appointments there is a good chance that you are not going to have all 35 to 40 of them actively participating in each meeting. We would do our best as County Planning Directors to keep the group focused on those issues at hand at that meeting and bring those together, put them together for a presentation to the Board as an Executive Committee. We could cut it back if that is your request, but we felt this would...

Mr. Haste: I was just curious.

Mr. Szymborski: This still gives you an opportunity to have a broad range of people represent you.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Ultimately that decision would be made by?

Mr. Szymborski: As the regional action plan is completed and the final report is prepared with recommendations that are prioritized so it would go to the Boards of County Commissioners for review.

Mr. DiFrancesco: So, the structure of the organization...

Mr. Szymborski: Goes to the Caucus for their discussion and then ultimately acceptance.

Mr. DiFrancesco: So, the actual structure of the organization would come through us as well?

Mr. Szymborski: That is correct. As County Planning Directors, we felt that in order for this project to be successful it needs to have the decision makers on board collectively and be the major representatives of whatever organization that we deal with. With the Caucus being established with our county commissioners sitting on that board we felt that had the greatest chance of success, because what we are recommending is something that we are actually recommending to our bosses, because you are our bosses. You manage our planning program, as well as the other agencies that are going to be providing input to this and what you have accomplished. We felt that you are the decision makers in the long run so it is good to deal directly with you rather than any other organization that might have county commissioners affiliated with this as the decision makers. You are the keystone of this program.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I see the planners, because you are the ones that will actually take the input from all the different parties and that is sort of why I agreed with Commissioner Haste in that yes it is nice to get input from all those people, but if you have all those people sitting in a room discussing priorities when in that capacity they are sort of coming at it from the one dimension of whatever their organization is and they don't have the broad understanding that you do of how everything ties together. I'm not so

sure they have to be sitting in a room to give you input. The process could be to gather input from them so that you all can make a decision about where the priorities should be in the presentation to us and then we can sit down and work with you.

Mr. Szyborski: That would be the Executive Committee to be the filter between the Steering Committee and the Board.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I would assume too that this is a dynamic process that if we get into something and realize that this isn't working out as exactly how we would like it to go back and amend this working group. Is that possible?

Mr. Szyborski: That is correct.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Really they have created in such a way that there is no down side risk and it is a good vehicle.

Mr. Haste: Once you have members it is hard to remove members. I would be fine if it is four to five. My recommendation, did you ever hear "keep it simple stupid" theory, I feel it should be simple.

Mr. Szyborski: If the ultimate recommendation is four from each county, you would be okay with that?

Mr. Haste: Yes.

Mr. Szyborski: And then consider the Resolution to support entering into with the consultant.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Realistically the resolution is simply saying that we think this is a good process and move ahead. It is not agreeing to any terms at this point. It is simply to say yes we want to be a part of it.

Mr. Szyborski: With the understanding that it is voluntary.

Mr. Haste: We will take action on that next week.

#### B. Whitaker Center Update - Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center

Mr. Hanes: I'm Michael Hanes, President and CEO of the Whitaker Center. With me this morning is Kris Olewine-Milke, she is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Whitaker Center. We thought it would be appropriate to come to you this morning and simply share with you in a few minutes what is happening at Whitaker Center, since you have been such strong supporters of Whitaker Center for so many years.

Ms. Milke: As Dr. Hanes just mentioned the reason that we are here this morning is first of all I wanted to make sure that you had the opportunity to meet Dr. Hanes, who has been on the job for the last 2 ½ months and who comes to us from Georgia as

President of Georgia Southwestern University for the past ten years. We are so fortunate to have a person of his quality here to lead Whitaker Center. As you know, Whitaker Center is the place where our area citizens have been going to celebrate the arts, explore the sciences and really enjoy experiences like no where else in our area. In fact, since we opened in September of 1999, over 3 million visitors have come to downtown Harrisburg to visit the Center. Of that 350,000 of them have been school children, where they enjoy educational experiences that are not available to them in the schools. Just to let you know Whitaker Center is a non-profit organization and it governed by a diverse Board of actually 30 community volunteers. I'm the Board Chair as of the middle of January when Dr. Hanes arrived. I had served as the interim President when Byron Quann left in July and served as a volunteer from July until the middle of January in that position. What we would like to do today is have Dr. Hanes talk to you about the mission of the Whitaker Center, how we are fulfilling the mission, which is to service the Center for Scientific, Artistic, Cultural and Educational activities and enhancing the region's quality of life and economic development.

Dr. Hanes: Please feel free to ask any questions as we move along. Whitaker Center has become known perhaps for several major venues within the facility. One that is most popular is the Sunoco Performance Theatre. The Sunoco Performance Theatre seats about 660 individuals and it serves as the home to eight different resident companies. These resident companies as you know include ballet, chamber music, theatre Harrisburg and a number of different cultural groups that provide performances here in Harrisburg. One of the things that we do in addition to providing facilities, we also provide support to those organizations. Over the last eight to nine years we have provided more than \$2.5 million dollars in support to our resident companies. We also provide learning opportunities for this community. In order to make sure that the access to those facilities is as broad as possible and to keep our fees as low as possible support from corporations, local, state and federal government is really critical to our organization. Whitaker Center earns two out of every three dollars we spend through admissions and tickets and those kinds of support, donors, sponsors, grantors, underwriters provide about 34% of our support. That is more than \$2 million a year that comes to Whitaker Center through donations and contributions. We feel strongly that we are an economic engine for downtown Harrisburg. In fact, if you go back and look over the last 8 ½ years, Whitaker Center has actually contributed more than \$200 million in economic impact to this particular area.

The HARSCO Science Center is also another prominent feature at Whitaker Center. We have more than 220 exhibits in more than 25,000 square feet of space, including the Olewine Gallery, a space that is dedicated to limited engagement exhibits. Most of our exhibits however have been in place since 1999, when we opened our doors. If you have visited our Center you know that if all those guests coming through things become a little worn over time. In fact, science continues to change and so our exhibits need to continue to change. We are now in the process of working on a master plan and I will talk a little bit more about that for the HARSCO Science Center. As I mentioned the Sunoco Performance Theatre provides performance space and a venue for a variety of different kinds of events. In addition to cultural performances it is a venue for many of

our leading organizations to have gatherings of various types. You may have attended the Technology Council's gala last Friday evening. Great example of how the space is used for a variety of community organizations. It has been known as one of Harrisburg's best for the last five years by the readers of Harrisburg Magazine picking the Sunoco Performance Theatre as the best performance venue in Harrisburg. It is equipped with all the professional kinds of amenities that you would expect of a first rate performance theatre.

The Select Medical IMAX Theatre is the region's only IMAX Theatre. It also has 3-D capability, which is very interesting for our visitors. It has seating for about 200 people. The screen there is 65 feet high and 80 feet wide. It provides, not only for the IMAX experience, but also new large format digitally re-mastered productions of more popular films.

We also have the Wonders Arts and Science Store, which offers a mix of safe and fun merchandise of various kinds. We also have Starbucks Coffee, which is doing very well and adds for quality refreshments to our guests coming into the Center. In some of our literature we dub Whitaker Center as being the community's living room, since it is a place where so many different community groups come together and meet and share the experiences of this fine city.

To give you some idea of just how popular Whitaker Center is for meeting spaces, in the month of March alone we hosted more than 30 events. That is more than one each day quite frankly that was sponsored by a community group or a State agency that is not part of our regular programming at Whitaker Center. That is how popular our space is for, for community gatherings of various types. We are soon coming up on our 10th Anniversary and too many people that I mentioned that to say it is hard to believe that it is 10 years. Well it really is true that 2009 will be our 10th Anniversary year. One of the strong components of our planning for the next year and a half as we lead to that 10th Anniversary year is to plan for the financial future of the organization. It is always a challenge when you are a non-profit organization, but clearly we have a very strong foundation and a strong track record of performance and contributions to the community to plan for the future. We are most interested, as I mentioned, in working to implement our exhibits master plan for the HARSCO Science Center. The HARSCO Science Center attracts students from all over Pennsylvania; quite frankly, more than 41 counties are represented in the student groups that come to visit the Whitaker Center. We feel it is absolutely essential that we plan to the future for revitalizing the exhibits throughout the Science Center. The master plan calls for replacing about 60% of the exhibits that are currently in the Science Center and introducing new science as we go through that revitalization process.

We want to thank you for your support to Whitaker Center over the years. It is vital. It is critical to the future of Whitaker Center and we appreciate the time that you have given us this morning to share this information with you and we encourage you to come by and visit us down the street, any time that you would like. Most importantly, I want to invite you to visit with us on June 13th, this summer, when we will introduce a new

exhibit, the Science of Aliens. You may have read some press about this. It is an exciting new exhibit. It will occupy all of the first floor of the HARSCO Science Center. This exhibit appeared at the London Museum of Science, then came to North America and stopped in Miami at the Museum of Science in Miami. This is the second stop in North America in Harrisburg, PA at Whitaker. I encourage you to come and bring your children and your friends and see the Science of Aliens in June. I thank you very much.

Ms. Milke: Thank you.

Mr. Haste: How much have you done or are you planning to partner with the Ned Smith Center? There are a lot of similarities, but yet enough differences. I am on their Board and I have talked to them about trying to partner with the Center. I'm just curious where that is.

Ms. Milke: Actually, we are planning something that we are working on together not only with Ned Smith, but with the Pennsylvania Audubon.

Mr. Haste: You have a little bit of connection there right!

Ms. Milke: Yes. We are working on a project that I think is now scheduled for the beginning of June. I would have to look at the exact date. It is a film of John James Audubon that we are going to be showing for the first time. It is being produced by Public Television. We are in the process of doing that. I have our Vice President of the Science Center up to Ned Smith and met with Jerry Regan and the educator who is there and actually Steve has gone up and done some seminars in the evening. He is into astronomy so he has been doing some things up there. We've started the dialogue and as things work that we can do together we are definitely trying to do that. Also, I was just telling Dr. Hanes, he hasn't been to the Nature Center at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary yet. We need to go look at that as well. I want to make sure that he sees that.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Make sure you leave enough time, because once you go up you will not want to leave. You will want to walk the entire park.

Mr. Haste: I talked with the Ned Smith folks as they are just starting to draw more people from outside of the area here. One of my goals is always to get those folks to stay over because that helps. I think the more we could do between the two Centers the more likely we will have someone stay over. They can plan a day activity up there and an evening here and they could stay over night within walking distance. That is what I have been trying to encourage Jerry and some other folks to start working with you to try to develop activities that get people to come here and stay at least over night.

Ms. Milke: I speak to Jerry at least a couple times a week. There are a lot of things. We have discovery webs as part of our educational experience at Whitaker Center and

we have camps during the summer. That is one of the things that we probably can talk about. If they are up there in the morning or for the day and follow your suggestion.

Mr. Haste: As Jerry told me there is going to be an outdoor theatre up there. That may give it some interesting options.

Dr. Hanes: One of the things that we have been focusing on is reaching out and strengthening partnerships that we have had in the past. The Whitaker Center has worked very well with so many different organizations in Harrisburg, whether it is providing access to our facilities or facilitating a performance or an event or activity. One of the things that I want to continue to do is to strengthen those partnerships and in some cases where we haven't had connections to build some connections among different agencies and organizations in the community so that as their planning activities and events we can work with them and perhaps find some energy between what we are doing and what they are doing as well.

Mr. Haste: When you talk about the Audubon film that is being done. I know we are going to be getting an Audubon display up there and it might be interesting to put together a weekend package, again working with the Tourism Bureau. You know the following of the Audubon folks, they will go a long ways for an event. A package could be put together and sell it as a package that could be a nice weekend for the folks who enjoy that. You can tie into some active birding up at Wildwood that day. That could be a real nice weekend for some folks.

Dr. Hanes: To give you some idea of what we are currently doing. This evening we will have over 1700 people in the Forum for a performance of Lucinda Williams. Many of those people will be coming from outside this area to Harrisburg to see her perform. We informed all of our partners in downtown Harrisburg. We did as well as Harristown and others that this is happening so that they can get the word out to the local businesses. We are anticipating that the restaurants in downtown Harrisburg are going to be filled this evening because of that performance alone. We are very serious about partnering with all of our agencies in this area, whether they are for profit or non-profit to maximize the opportunity for us to an economic engine in this area.

Mr. Haste: Have you talked with the Tourism Bureau yet?

Ms. Milke: Yes.

Dr. Hanes: We have ongoing conversations with them. We have folks that work with them on an ongoing basis.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I just would like to add two comments. Really both are praise comments. Your board has been masterfully crafted I guess because you have a very active board with people who at least seem to be really truly committed to the facility and have done a lot of fund-raising and very high quality fund-raising for the facility, getting the word out and making sure that this regional asset is going to have a rich

future. Many of us know that in the early days, once it was built it was sort of like how do we make it go now. There were a lot of nervous times when people couldn't quite see where that money was going to come from. A number of community leaders came together and you have created quite an effective board of directors and that is one thing I want to commend you for.

The other thing and this was important for me when the debate was going on about whether or not this should be built with the tax dollar investment and so forth and that was it was made available to the community. One of the things that most impressed me I think was the partnership with Citizens Bank. I think they are still doing this, but days where kids are traditionally off school, where the schools are closed, they open the facility for free to the community.

Dr. Hanes: That is correct.

Mr. DiFrancesco: That is so meaningful that people who may or may not have the means to go and see this facility and pay to get in now have an access to it. It was very creative in terms of now you have a free day what do I do with my children, here is a great place to go. I think you are going to see this Board, along with many other regional assets, pour out more and more to the community. Look we have great facilities here, we are looking for opportunities to promote parents getting involved with their children and this is a great place to have that happen. You play a very important role in this community and we want to try to help as best we can to promote that.

Dr. Hanes: The Citizens Bank Foundation supports the community days that are those days when schools are closed. In January we set an all time record of 3600 parents and students touring the facility on that one day alone. In February, we didn't hit the mark of 3600, but we had over 2900 parents and students touring the facility on that Monday. We too believe that is a great program that we want to continue in the future. We also, one of my pet projects, is to find ways to create free events. In the last two months we have had four different free events on the weekends for parents to come with their children at no cost come into the Whitaker Center and enjoy an event. You may have seen Kids Love Comics Day. We also had the Entomology Society of America come and bring their bug collections for a Sunday afternoon on bugs in the lobby area of the Whitaker Center at no cost to the public. We are continuing to promote those kinds of activities as well to encourage people to just visit without a cost to the family and bring the entire family and enjoy the Whitaker Center as a community asset and some of the programs that we can provide to them at no cost.

Mr. Haste: Do you still do the scout sleep over?

Dr. Hanes: We have not done that, but we have talked about bringing it back, because it was apparently very popular.

Mr. Haste: I was on one of those.

Dr. Hanes: Particularly over the summer months we are thinking that might be something that we want to bring back with our new exhibit on aliens.

Mr. Haste: Our scouts loved it the night we did it.

## **PERSONNEL**

Dauphin County Discrimination and Workplace Harassment  
Policy/Procedure—Kay Sinner, Personnel

Ms. Sinner: The first item in the Personnel Packet is the Salary Board requests. Are there any questions on the Salary Board requests?

Ms. Rebeck: On the Maintenance Assistant Director position they would be eliminating two, however, on the cover sheet it doesn't indicate anything.

Ms. Sinner: For the Maintenance Assistant Director it says that it is eliminating a position. To my knowledge it is not eliminating a position.

Ms. Rebeck: The justification form says that it would be eliminating two maintenance supervisor positions. Usually when they are adding and taking away you usually put them in one Salary Board request.

Ms. Sinner: That is correct. Edgar can speak to that.

Mr. Cohen: Yes, the positions will be eliminated, but it hasn't been determined yet. I'm working through Personnel and through my oversight as to the positions itself. Right now we are just creating the position and to post it. I have two vacant positions. One of the positions will be eliminated and another position will be redesigned so it will fit better within the department itself.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Is there a reason to move the supervisor's position forward without having a firm understanding of what we are going to do or are you saying that because of the reorganization we have to get that Assistant Supervisor in first and then just how the other two will be... Normally they come packaged together.

Mr. Cohen: Correct, I'm creating the top of the tree and then once I create the tree itself I'll have the branches.

Mr. Haste: The last discussion Edgar and I had was once the Assistant is identified having that person have input into... Since the Assistant is going to be the one that Edgar is going to lean on for day-to-day operations have that person's input into how they want to help restructure.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Can we in some manner put a time frame in place that comes back to us?

Mr. Haste: Yes.

Mr. Cohen: Yes, I'm hoping to put that in the packet for the next window.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I just want to make sure that it doesn't sort of slip and slide on down the road. I want to do it as quickly as possible.

Mr. Cohen: Definitely.

Mr. Haste: Any other questions? (There was none.)

Ms. Sinner: Are there any questions on the Personnel Packet? (There was none.)

The last item is our Discrimination and Workplace Harassment Policy/Procedure as we are getting ready for workplace harassment training. I would like an approval on that next week hopefully.

Mr. Haste: This has been run through the Solicitor's Office?

Ms. Sinner: This policy, yes.

Mr. Haste: Any questions of Kay? (There was none.)

## **PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci: In addition to the Packet that you received yesterday, this morning I got this fax from the Coroner's Office. They are interested in replacing a refrigerator out there. I don't want to ask what they keep in the refrigerator. There are two different ones. I just got the fax this morning and I haven't been able to contact them as to which one they are looking for. Once we identify that it will be in next week's packet. I just wanted you to have notice that it will be added to the Packet.

Mr. Haste: Is he getting one or two?

Mr. Baratucci: I believe he is just getting one. I don't know why there are two on here, because our discussion was just about one. These are two different sizes. One is 21 cubic feet and the other is 18 cubic feet. I don't know which one they decided on. It is to replace a broken one. Otherwise, do you have any questions on the Packet itself? (There was none.) There are one or two budgetary items that will be corrected until next week.

## **TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Haste: Training Packet, is there anything that needs to be approved today?

Mr. Saylor: No.

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Approval of Resolution #10-2007 stating that federal financial participation (FFP) is not available in expenditures for services provided to individuals who are inmates of public institutions.
- B. Contribute the County's pro rate share (\$460.00) for appraisal services and trial costs needed to ascertain the true value of Steelton Moose Lodge, 225 North Front Street, Steelton, Parcel No. 59-01-5-021.
- C. Contribute the County's pro rate share (\$1,150.00) for appraisal services and trial costs needed to ascertain the true value of the following Tyco International Ltd. Properties:
  - 1. 2801 Fulling Mill Road, Tax Parcel No. 36-007-015
  - 2. 2900 Fulling Mill Road, Tax Parcel No. 09-001-008
- D. Contribute the County's pro rata share (\$1,610.00) for appraisal services and trial costs needed to ascertain the true value of the Tyco Ltd. Property at 200 AMP Drive, Tax Parcel No. 35-034-013.
- E. Approval of workshop/training services for **aha!** Process, Inc. **(\*\*\*A VOTE IS REQUESTED 3/28/07\*\*\*)**
- F. Approval to refund 2006 Real Estate Taxes to Glenn and Fay Enders, Parcel #29-014-001 on Bunker Hill Rd., in the amount of \$33.29.
- G. Approval to refund 2007 Annual and Interim Real Estate Taxes to Robert Cramer, 811 Grandview Dr., Parcel #24-048-028, in the amount of \$2,786.81.
- H. Approval to exonerate owed taxes in the amount of \$1,210.86 for property ID No. 25-008-008-265-0265 on Austin Dr.
- I. Approval to refund 2005 and 2006 Real Estate Taxes, 2450 S. 5th St., Parcel #57-017-011, Steelton Borough, 123 N. Front St., Steelton, PA 17113, in the amount of \$479.43.
- J. Approval for offer on repository property to Timothy Hoot, Parcel #02-032-040, 1606 Hunter St. in the amount of \$350.00.

Mr. Haste: We have Items for Discussion and I know we need to take action on Item E, which I believe was left over from last week.

Mr. Saylor: That is correct. Commissioner Hartwick wanted to review that and he has and he is okay with its approval.

**It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board approve Item E, as listed above in the Items for Discussion; motion carried.**

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

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

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

Mr. Saylor: Commissioners, I was a bit tardy to the meeting today because the Airport Authority Meeting ran a little long. One of the items at the end of the meeting was the approval of hiring Tim Edwards, promoting him from Acting Director to the Executive Director. I think this is a very positive step for the Authority. By way of an example, one of the capital projects the Airport is working on is the demolition and clean-up of the Crawford Station, which is an old building at the southern end of the Airport by Middletown Borough. It is a dilapidated building. There is asbestos and who knows what else out there. Kids have been playing out there. The Boro was anxious to see this torn down as quickly as the Airport Board. We are finally moving forward on the project. I approached him about going to a Borough meeting and just within the course of the business of that meeting just sitting down in public session with the Board outlining the details of the project and the first words out of his mouth were "I would love to", which was a breath of fresh air. I think the Board is considering how to rearrange the other chairs on the deck as far as the deputy director and that kind of thing. I think we will have a plan together on that soon.

The other Board I have the distinguished pleasure of serving on is the Tourism Board. They met a couple weeks ago. I have been pushing them to document some way to show the hotel rooms, travelers to the area, and the ability to show how they are having an impact on what is going on. They have started to pull that information together. It is still in the early stages and we are seeing some good results. Hopefully, the next time they come before you they will have some good hard statistics to show you about the impact the Tourism Board is having on our area.

Other than those two items, do you have any questions of me?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Just a comment to say good move on the part of the Authority. Tim has been terrific and I really think there have been some positive things happening down there in terms of potential improvements and maybe that golden carrier that we have been looking for. He has been great to work with.

## **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Haste: Any comments by the Board?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Only to say I guess for the record that I will not be at the April 11th Commissioners' Meeting. I will be attending training. It is actually a Federal training at PEMA. It is a two-day event. Hopefully the other two Commissioners will be here, but I will not.

Mr. Haste: Just for the record we have Retirement Board. We will go into that immediately following the Commissioners' Meeting.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Haste: We are again at the point in time 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. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: R. Martz