



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JUNE 1, 2011
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Laura E. Evans, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebeck, Controller; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; August Memmi, Director of Community & Economic Development; Joshua Eisner, Commissioners' Office; Brad Winnick, Chief Public Defender; Steve Libhart, Director of EMA; Kay Lenge, Human Resources; Tom Guenther, Director of IT; Tom Wasco, Director of Veterans Affairs; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Bree Thomas, Commissioners' Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Steve Chiavetta, Director of Registration & Elections; Terry Kaufman, Solicitor's Office; Julie Mackey, Commissioners' Office; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office; Abby Gabner, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Les Ford, Neil Grover, Matt Miller, Bob Hauser, James Roxbury and Tara Leo-Auchey

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haste: We have a number of meeting minutes that we'll take up at next week's 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? (There was none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Bob Hauser

1. Operation Sandbox

Mr. Hauser: The surprise for me came when I got the phone call from one of your interns asking if I could come to a meeting. I was asked to talk about Operation Sandbox. Operation Sandbox is a project that the Bob Smith Detachment of the Marine Corp League in Hummelstown came up with to send care packages overseas to our combat soldiers, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen. The project started in 2002 and was very low key at the time. We had three or four names and we sent three or four boxes. It started to mushroom and much to our surprise we are now sitting on 28 names waiting for product to send overseas. The Detachment had an executive meeting last night and they have increased the budget for us to use for postage and purchasing. The Operation Sandbox Committee now has a budget that is rather comfortable. It will get bigger as time goes by I'm sure. Operation Sandbox takes the standard large cardboard box that the Post Office issues as a flat rate box for APO/FPO addresses. It costs \$12.95 to send whatever we can stick inside. Merchandize happens to be a lot of the items that are listed on the backside of the brochure and more. We get items that we don't have listed and that is fine with us, because that is good thinking on the donors part. We just package it and send it over. We have received several letters back from the servicemen and women that are over there.

There is a female engagement team (FET), marines, and they are the women marines who will interrogate, talk to, or, if necessary, frisk the females that are in the area over there in the combat zones, because their Muslim law prohibits males from touching females. The marines are over there and they are doing a good job. We sent them

several boxes that were geared towards female interests. Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guardsmen that are over there, they also get boxes.

We have a standard package that we put inside. Each package contains a letter, on behalf of the Bob Smith Detachment of the Marine Corp League, thanking them for their service. It goes on to tell them why they are receiving this package. They are receiving the package, because at one time in history many of us sitting in our Detachment received packages when we were in Vietnam or some other nasty place. It is just a thought that what was done for us, we can turn around and do for somebody else. They are following in our footsteps. We had the enjoyment of receiving a box every once in awhile from home, whether it was from Mom, church or even a former Boy Scout Troop might have sent their former Boy Scout who was sitting somewhere in the jungles of Vietnam a nice little cardboard box full of goodies.

Times have changed. We cannot send pork products, because of the religious customs over there. We also do not send home baked goods. I know you really like to have them home baked cookies, but we can't send them. If there would be a person and Jeff you have an Army Dad cup, so you want to send your son a box of home baked cookies that is fine. You can do that, but I can't send your son those cookies not unless he knows me personally and we made prior arrangements. We are careful about this. We also don't send items that have expired. They have that use by date on the bottom. If the date is within two months of expiring we don't send it, because we don't know how long the boxes take to get over there. Sometimes they go over there in a week. Sometimes it is a month and a half depending on where the address is finally showing up, what part of the country they are in and if they have a reliable mail delivery. They might get paper letters every day, but they might hold boxes for awhile until they have enough to send the truck out to deliver all the boxes. We are careful as to what we send over. Obviously we can't send something that is going to melt, like chocolate bars. There are other things that we can send like Twizzlers.

Operation Sandbox right now, for the past few years has been going pretty good. We get a lot of good names. We had a booth over at the Armed Forces Day on City Island just to spread the word, not to collect anything, because nobody knew that we even existed over there. I'm getting emails from people that picked up a flyer that would like to help contribute. I will respond to everybody. If anybody wants to take these and photocopy them and hand them out for themselves to start their own little group collecting things and then contact us and we will come and pick it up. If people get the merchandize we will gladly pay the postage. This is Operation Sandbox.

It also has a sister program called Operation Wounded Warrior. I don't have a brochure for that one. That one right now is extremely low key, because we just started it. Operation Wounded Warrior is where we will fix up a smaller package and send it to a wounded warrior who is in a stateside hospital recovering from combat wounds. To date, in all honesty, we have a large budget for that one also. We've actually only sent one package. We cannot send packages to any Marine, any Army person. It has to be a specific name. For Operation Sandbox, we collect those names and send them over.

For Operation Wounded Warrior, since we just started it, it's going to follow the same pattern as Operation Sandbox where we are going to start off slow and low, but it will eventually build. Our Detachment does go down to the Lebanon Veterans Hospital. We do make an appearance down there, usually over the 4th of July weekend. We take a cake down there and if we have the money in the budget to buy t-shirts, we buy t-shirts. We hand out things and just have a good conversation with those that are down there. Bethesda Naval Hospital is where we did send the Wounded Warrior package and being that is the Naval Hospital I'm sure there is more than one Marine sitting in there. We will probably make a transition in our program for the Wounded Warriors so that instead of sending a box down that we might take several boxes down and go visit specifically those people that are down there instead of having them receive something in the mail; give them an actual face-to-face visit. Invade the hospital with a bunch of Marines. That's scary.

The package that we have that goes out to the Operation Sandbox, there are certain things that always go inside the box. I have a letter, if it is going to a Marine; it goes with the double emblems on the top. The text of the letter is identical to the one we send to everybody else, except we change the word to warrior. This is the letter that we send to anybody who is not a Marine, the yellow branches. There are some names that we get that we don't know if they are a Marine or Airmen or whatever, because there is no rank indicator. Since we don't know the function and location of all the addresses some of them are quite common like Camp Lejeune that is definitely Marine Corp. There is another one that it was Camp Gary Owen. It is Air Force. All-in-all the packages that we send are well received. We get a lot of encouraging letters back, usually commanding officers or staff commanders that are in charge of these guys. They thank us for the boost in morale that these packages provide. Do you have any questions?

Mr. Haste: I would just like to thank you for what you are doing. We hope that we can help in a small way. I think if we haven't already we will soon be putting boxes in the Administration Building and the Courthouse to try to collect, through the month of June, in the hopes that we have some items that can be packaged come around the 4th of July. One of the touching things about our employees is there is a number of families in County government that have relatives that either have served or are serving. It has become just a quiet little thing that has been going on, but there is more and more desire to try to help. I think the reason the interns reached out is that there is an interest by our employees to show their appreciation as well. We wanted to partner with someone local to be able to show our appreciation.

Mr. Hauser: On that thought, if you do have someone that is over there right now, since you know the person personally, we can personalize the box. If they love Twizzlers we will make sure they have them. If they like some other object, if they have a desire for a DVD movie, we have a collection of DVD movies that have already been donated. Things that we know we can't send over, we try to find new homes for. If you have somebody over there right now that has a particular liking for something we can

personalize the box. If someone says that is my son, can we have a letter from Mom? We will stick that in the box too. What a surprise that would be.

Mr. Hartwick: On the heels of Memorial Day, I think this the appropriate time to have the dialogue and discussion. For us internally, I want to give a little credit to Josh, our intern, who is helping to spearhead the project. I would like to thank you Bob, personally, for your engagement and involvement. We are also now developing a current and up-to-date accurate list of all employees who are currently serving in the National Guard and other areas of the armed services to be able to offer them the thanks and the deserving recognition and appreciation for their sacrifice, not only here as County employees, but most importantly to protect and preserve our freedom. That accurate list along with our donations, I guess the only thing that I'm not able to do is donate Schmidt sausage from Steelton, because of your ham and pork restriction, which will certainly preclude anybody from enjoying them.

Mr. Hauser: Actually you could, because we can send that to the Wounded Warrior project. There are no restrictions on that unless the doctor says no pork.

Mr. Hartwick: Make sure we get the full details of the medical background of anybody we send that to.

Mr. Hauser: We ask a simple question...This is what we would like to send, is there anything on the list that we are not allowed to send this particular person that is in this hospital. The Marine liaison officer at Bethesda has informed us that what we had sent down the first time was perfectly fine for the Marine that was receiving. He had checked it out with the attending physician.

Mr. Hartwick: I hear murmuring to my right about HIPPA violations. I guess we can't get too detailed.

Mr. Hauser: Being an employee of the Department of Health, you are absolutely right.

Mr. Hartwick: On behalf of the County residents, we appreciate what you've done and to bring ways that we can specifically be engaged and involved to bring a little bit of home to those who are in faraway lands is something I'm glad was brought to our attention and look forward to being an active participant.

Mr. Hauser: One more thing, we are gathering all these names and addresses of our active duty military, we do nothing with those names except keep them on file so that we have a record of who we sent boxes to. If anybody were to ask us what were the names and who did you send to, I'm sorry if you are not the Federal government and have a search warrant you don't get it. That is an exaggeration of policy, but basically it is a private policy. There is no spam. We don't put them out there in the news. We don't stand around bragging about which sergeants we sent to. Anybody here that wants to submit names that name is confidential in the sense that we know it goes out, but the rest of the world won't.

Mr. Pries: Thank you to you and others like you who continue to put others above yourself. You did so as a young man serving your country; you do so today remembering those who are out there putting their life on the line every day, every night on behalf of all of us here and around the country. As one Commissioner, I think these two have appropriately commented. I just want to say thank you and I'm honored to be sitting here with you today. Thank you for everything that you are doing.

Mr. Hauser: Thank you for having me here today and you're welcome. May I leave these on your press table?

Mr. Haste: Sure. Thank you!

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lengle: Do you have any questions on the Salary Board items? (There was none.) Are there any questions on any items in the Personnel Packet?

Mr. Haste: I understand we need to vote on 2, 8, 9 and 10.

Ms. Lengle: That's correct.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board approve Items 2, 8, 9 and 10 of the Personnel Packet.

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

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You should have all received your Packet yesterday. It is a fairly light one this week. There are a couple of over budgets which we'll take care of. You can review it and get in touch if you have any questions; otherwise we'll have it for you next week for approval.

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

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Haste: I see two items that we should act on, Items 7 and 13.

It was moved by Mr. Pries and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve Items 7 and 13 of the Training Packet.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Purchase of Service Per Diem Rates between Children & Youth and:

1. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA
2. Keystone Children & Family Services, Inc.
3. 120 Rider Avenue Operating Company

Mr. Haste: We have one item listed, which we'll take up at next week's meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.

Mr. Tully: I have no changes to the draft report at this time. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions of Bill?

Mr. Hartwick: I would like to see #15 before next week.

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

Ms. Evans: The County's first Fitness Festival is going to be this Saturday. Registration begins at 8:00. It is \$10 dollars. It is from 9:00 to 1:00. We have Zumba, Turbo Kick and Soul Line Dancing.

Mayor Thompson and the Commissioners will outline the details of the plan to transfer the Police Dispatch services tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: Are there any other items to be brought up by the Board? (There was none.)

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,

Laura E. Evans, Esq.
Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz