



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JUNE 29, 2011
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Jeff Haste, Chairman (ABSENT)

STAFF PRESENT

Laura E. Evans, Esq., Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Kay Lenge, Human Resources; J. Scott Burford, Commissioners' Office; Terry Kaufman, Solicitor's Office; Jeff Engle, Esq., Tax Assessment; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Stephen Libhart, Director of EMA; Bart Shellenhamer, EMA; Keri Zeigler, EMA; Barbara Haas, EMA; Thomas Swank, EMA; Kristin Cohick, EMA; Bob Burns, Director of AAA; Peter Vriens, Director of Human Services; Julie Mackey, Commissioners' Office; Abby Gabner, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Porcha Johnson, Chris Cekot, Missy Matthews and Ashley Palutis

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pries, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:10 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. Pries: We have meeting minutes that will be approved next week.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Pries: Is there anybody in the audience who would like to address the Board of Commissioners at this time? (There was none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Jeff Engle, Esq.,

1. Addendum to Second Amendment to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement

Mr. Engle: I believe I was last in front of you earlier this month. I provided you with a Second Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement. This was for the property located both in Dauphin County and in Lebanon County. It straddles the boundary. It is known as the Hershey Foods Corporation.

You will recall that we had prior agreements in the past to allocate both the land and building between Lebanon County and Dauphin County for real estate tax assessment purposes. After doing that Agreement and circulating it to the various taxing entities, I got some comments back. Based upon the allegation that I had done in the original agreement, which was based upon square footage, some of them asked for me to do it in terms of market value. I did that and that is what the Addendum is for. It provides further clarification based upon the pre-addition value of the property and the post-addition value. The pre-addition value would take into consideration everything after 2008, but before May of 2011. The post-addition figure obviously is the assessed value of the fair market value after May of 2011. So, you will see those grids laid out specifically for Dauphin County. It is my understanding that perhaps Lebanon County will also want to provide us with their fair market values for the allocation between the two counties. This is not going to change anything for us. This is simply for our taxing entities here in Dauphin County. Derry Township School District specifically wanted some clarification on this. I provided it. It changes nothing with regard to the original agreement. Are there any questions?

Mr. Hartwick: Is this what you are suggesting as Lebanon may undergo their own assessment of the improved values on the Lebanon County side.

Mr. Engle: Correct, they will. I haven't gotten those figures yet, but they may want me to prepare something in line of what I did here for them. I don't think they have signed the agreement yet. I know that some of the entities have, but I think we are still waiting for signatures back from some.

Mr. Pries: No formal action, this is just informational.

Mr. Hartwick: We will take action next week.

B. Dauphin County Commissioners

- 1. Recognition of EMA Staff for Obtaining Professional Certification from PEMA – Bart Shellenhamer, Michael Sobers, Thomas Swank and Keri Zeigler**
- 2. Proclamation – Barbara Haas**

Mr. Pries: Next up, we have recognition of Emergency Management Agency staff for obtaining professional certification from PEMA. There are four individuals that have received this certification, but only three were able to come to today's meeting. I'm going to call them up at this time: Bart Shellenhamer, Michael Sobers, Thomas Swank and Keri Zeigler.

(The plagues were presented to the individuals.)

Mr. Shellenhamer: I think it is a great accomplishment of what we are trying to do here is to get the whole agency to this certification. We are three of how many, Kirsten?

Ms. Cohick: About ten.

Mr. Shellenhamer: We are getting closer to this accomplishment. I think it is a good thing.

Mr. Hartwick: I know I have been impressed by the staff. The professionalism shown during the transition of the City's operations was exceptional. It was not without its fair share of issues. We have handled them, but they have not risen to the level of being critical. You have been able to be extremely responsive and the professional staff deserves a great deal of credit. Continuing to try to aspire to do professional training even though it is not required in order to meet those professional standards that have been set forth by the leadership in that department is impressive. I want to thank you all for taking the initiative to seek that out and to bring that professional level of delivery of service. I often say the people that do the job every day are the ones who make or break you. We hear about the Act 47, bankruptcy, but we don't hear about all of the

issues that are going on in our departments and that is a credit to the people who are doing the job every single day under a significant amount of stress. I know you guys care greatly about your job and it shows with the effort that you have undertaken. Thank you for doing so.

Mr. Pries: Well said Commissioner. I echo those comments. Mr. Libhart would you like to make some comments on behalf of the department?

Mr. Libhart: I would just like to point out that this level of certification from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is not an easy road to travel to get to. There are three levels of certification, beginning with basic, followed by advance and ultimately professional. A majority of the training and study that somebody has to undertake to accomplish this is done on their own time. It is not a specific requirement for a telecommunicator or any other employee of the Emergency Management Agency. I think it brings great credit upon the individuals that have achieved this certification on just how seriously they take their positions and how dedicated they are to ensuring the highest degree of professionalism and the well-being of the citizens of Dauphin County. I really think they deserve as much accolades as they can for achieving this.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

Mr. Pries: Commissioner Hartwick had mentioned the police dispatch transition. To the best of my knowledge and the Board of Commissioners' knowledge, Steve, you've told us that the transition has gone very well. There were some minor hiccups here and there, but other than that it was a rather seamless transition as was predicted by the City of Harrisburg and the County. That was because of the great working relationship that was established by EMA and the City Police Department over the last several months working together in a cooperative manner to make this happen. Kudos to you and the Harrisburg City Police Department for working together and making this happen.

We have a Proclamation for Barbara Haas, a long-time County employee.

(Commissioner Pries read the following Proclamation.)

Office of County Commissioner
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, are pleased and proud to honor the much-admired Barbara Haas for sixteen years of service with Dauphin County and to recognize, with both joy and sadness, her richly deserved retirement on July 1, 2011;

Whereas, as Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency's extraordinarily hard-working Administrative Secretary, Barbara will be deeply and dearly missed by those who had the pleasure of working with her during her twelve years of service at the agency;

Whereas, she is well-known for her poise and professionalism, and for the kind and caring nature she displays each and every day;

Whereas, besides her significant contributions at the county's Emergency Management Agency, Barbara has also worked for Dauphin County Prison, where she began her county career in the medical department in 1995, and the Schaffner Youth Center, developing many long-lasting friendships along the way;

Therefore, we join the 268,000 residents of Dauphin County in warmly congratulating the always dependable and fun-loving Barbara Haas for her well-earned retirement after sixteen years of outstanding service to this very grateful County of Dauphin; as she begins a new chapter in her life, we truly wish her enduring health and happiness for the years to come; and, in grateful recognition thereof, we do hereby proudly proclaim July 1, 2011 as "Barbara Haas Day" in Dauphin County.

(Applause was given and pictures were taken.)

Ms. Haas: I really do want to thank everyone that I have worked with. They've all been great and I loved each and every one of them. Working for the County has been a pleasure.

Mr. Pries: You are one of those rare people as folks go along and they talk about someone's service at the County or whatever, I've never heard anyone say a bad word about you. Everybody has a great deal of respect for you and enjoyed working alongside you and working with you over the years. Mike Wertz used to always tease you when he was here, but he had a great deal of respect for you. I have a great deal of respect for that man as well and the other directors over the years at EMA and the other locations have all spoken very highly of you. That says what kind of person that you are. We are very grateful for the amount of years that you have spent here and wish you the best as you move along into the golden years and get to enjoy more time with your family. We wish you well!

C. Mike Yohe, Director of Budget & Finance

1. Adoption of 2011/2012 Fiscal Year Budget

Mr. Pries: Is it the same as the June 8th copy?

Mr. Yohe: Yes, Commissioner. It is exactly the same. We've had no changes. I don't know how much detail you want me to get into.

Mr. Hartwick: There's not too much that goes on in human services that I don't know about.

Mr. Pries: Can you give a brief overview?

Mr. Yohe: I know three weeks ago we were kind of brief with the presentation. Again, this budget deals with the various County funds that operate from July to June 30th to mirror the primary funding source, which is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Three weeks ago we went through this process. I met with all these departments the last month or so. We had a public hearing back on June 3 where we kind of finalized the

numbers. On June 8 it was presented and it has been available for public inspection out at the front desk and on our website for the last three weeks. Again, I'll say that nothing has changed. If anybody has reviewed it out at the desk or on the website this is exactly the same as it was three weeks ago. You are going to notice the first page is the summary. There is a large decrease. The bulk of that decrease is a change of accounting that we did by moving many of the grants that were in the State fiscal year grant fund to the General Fund at the beginning of this year. As you can see the other funds as well that weren't affected by that were reduced and that just reflects the ongoing reduction in this area on the State and Federal level.

The second page I'm happy to report those reductions again, as have been the last several years, are not impacting so much the County finances. The directors are doing a very good job of reallocating the State sources and Federal sources to meet the needs. I know many of the services aren't quite what they were. Commissioner Hartwick can speak to that later. From a financial standpoint we have been able to handle that from the County's end.

In this whole budget, there is only two new positions. They are both in Children & Youth. These two positions have been approved by the State for the Children & Youth's 2011/2012 budget. They have not been approved by the County yet. That is something that we will go through with Salary Board eventually when these positions come on board.

Page 4 is just a quick pie chart showing where the money comes from. As you can see most of this money comes from State and Federal sources. The funding for these programs, the County is providing about 14% of the \$87 million total budget for these ten funds. The expense breakdown, again, you will see on Page 5, we contract out the bulk of these services. We do have salary benefit costs that make up 22% of the budget. That is primarily for the administration of these funds. Page 6 is the summary. It is a bar chart that shows the last ten years of the County's portion of this budget. For the 2011/2012 budget it is creeping over the \$12 million mark. Again, this is the budgeted figure. The rest of these are actuals. I would expect that next year at this time that will be a little bit below the \$12 million as the actuals come in. These are generally fairly conservative estimates or budgets that we put out for this. That is the scoop. I don't have anything else. Again, it is the same as it was from three weeks ago.

Mr. Hartwick: Obviously this is all contingent upon State budget approval as well, particularly with regard to our contracts. I want to credit our categorical agencies again for the consistent trend of reducing the County allocation towards our State and Federally mandated services despite State and Federal funding cuts. I think it shows and proves that quite frankly inside those budgets we have a chance to change priorities. As we change priorities, particularly in the Children & Youth system, out of less restrictive and formal placements into more community-based opportunities rather than institutional care we can not only see trends improving for the outcomes for kids to not be involved in the system, but we also see a significant reduction, almost a \$4

million reduction in the overall costs in the Children & Youth budget related to those placement costs over the past two years, particularly from the Juvenile Probation side. We are also down in formal placements in Children & Youth. For those of you who don't know, Juvenile Probation's placements and their activities, as well as Children and Youth's activities, are all funded out of the Needs Based Budget. That is one area that is positive.

Two areas that promote and show that there is significant concern, actually three areas, are our mental health system, which continues to be overstressed, under-funded and quite frankly we continue to remain with long waiting lists for psychiatric services, psychiatric evaluations and unless you are really in a position of crisis you are not being able to be supported in the way that you need to be in the community. We are almost in reactionary mode in the Mental Health system if it wasn't for the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute and the opportunity for them to offer short-term inpatient care. We'd be in a really difficult position in this County and that entire investment from Milton Hershey and Pinnacle Health continues to lose money at an alarming rate. The mental health system I think faces the most significant challenges moving forward and again they have received a reduction in this year's State funded budget. The other areas of concern again are the reductions in the Drug & Alcohol budget. Although it is good from the County's side, for the first time last year, unlike any time in history of Dauphin County, we used all of the money that's been allocated towards treatment for individuals who need treatment and who are eligible to be able to receive that treatment. We changed the process rather than somebody having to come down to the Drug & Alcohol Department, then have to go back up to medical assistance and then come back to get an evaluation. We are actually servicing individuals having that evaluation and treatment recommendations done at the locations of the nine outpatient treatment providers, which has increased success in treatment. For the past two years, Dauphin County has used every single treatment dollar. As a matter of fact we have taken advantage of the HUB, which is the statewide dollars to be able to make up for the treatment dollars that have been extended by providers to the end of June. This year again we ran out in the beginning of June and expect to take advantage of the Statewide dollars.

Aging is also another big concern. We have made significant internal decisions to cut staff over the past three years. Since we have been here, it's been eight straight years of flat funding for the Aging department. Our senior population continues to grow in this County, which is projected to be about 70,000 residents in the year 2020. We are one of the only counties that I know that has no waiting list for in-home care or meals-on-wheels. This year may be the first year for us to have to create waiting lists, because internally we've reduced administration staff and we've look for every way to not affect direct services. The media and seniors in this County need to understand that the State, once again, has taken a significant amount of money out of the area that is supposed to promote supporting senior services, which is the State Lottery. Gus the little groundhog who continues to scratch is not doing what he needs to be doing to help provide for senior services. I think less than 40% of the dollars in the State Lottery Fund actually go to fund direct senior services. As the needs of our seniors continue to grow

and we receive a flat or less funding we are going to see significant challenges with our seniors in our community. I would like to advocate that seniors have a voice with their legislature, the Governor and the Senators who represent them in making sure that they receive their fair share in order to be eligible for services as they retire and move into those years in their life that they are going to need some assistance. While County and the administration has done well in changing priorities, shifting plans and investing in more community-based services, next year is going to pose some significant challenges. I think this year we've seen the Human Services Development Fund be almost eliminated in the House Republican budget, but I see it has been restored to \$14.96 million, which is a \$5 million reduction from what it received last year. The Human Services Development Fund is really the only area of flexibility that counties have to fill gaps. This year we are still going to have a significant challenge in our Human Services Development Fund in meeting direct needs of folks that need medical assistance, transportation for dialysis, and distinct direct emergency needs. We are going to be struggling again in trying to put a plan together in order to meet those needs. That is why I was encouraged today to receive notification that Senate Bill 907 is being considered by both the House and the Senate, which is going to allow for the same dialogue and discussion I've had with the County Commissioners' Association and the members of the Legislature to determine a pilot program for counties. We've shown that we have been able to do it for the past four years, but counties that have been able to successfully utilize the monies in their categorical agencies and determine what the highest and most pressing needs are for those counties, reduce the regulations and allow us to have more flexibility within those agencies to direct those resources to the most pressing needs of the counties. It looks likely that Senate Bill 907 is going to be considered and I believe Dauphin County will be one of the counties, if the legislation is passed, that is going to be selected to run that pilot. That could be encouraging. It could be good news for the County. I know next year is going to be a very difficult year for human services. The only way that we are not going to be seeing significant increases that is going to be requested from County funds is if we have the ability to flexibly determine how those monies are going to be spent in our categoricals in Dauphin County. Overall good for this year, but a big warning in those three systems and a huge concern for next year from the County's fund perspective.

Mr. Pries: Thank you Commissioner. I just want to add that the human service agencies within Dauphin County continue to do more with less. That is an attribute to the leadership under the directors and the various agencies. I see several here in the audience today. Keep up the good work! I echo Commissioner Hartwick's comments overall on where we are at and where we are going.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Pries that the Board adopt the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year Budget.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lengle: I would like to note something. At last week's Legislative Meeting, June 22, 2011, New Hire #12 was tabled. That transaction has now been withdrawn per Judge Dowling's orders.

Do you have any questions on the Salary Board item or any Personnel Transactions?

Mr. Hartwick: I do have to say that I did instruct my Administrative Assistant to take a look at getting answers on #14 and #15 as to the details of what happened there.

Ms. Lengle: I'll follow up with that.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You should have received your report yesterday. As I mentioned last week the furniture items for over at the Juvenile Court facility are on this report. They are on Pages 20 and 21. I will note that there is a slight reduction in the amount. Last week we were a little over \$70,000. The total now is \$68,659. It is a little bit less. Those items with your okay will move forward. I just wanted to let you know that they are formally now on the report.

I just wanted to make a note on the items for discussion, the reason that is on there for a vote today is because that is the bid for the food service out at Schaffner that you already approved. We now are formalizing it with a contract. The new company is going to take over on Friday, which is July 1, and we want to get the contract signed and to them before Friday.

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

TRAINING PACKET

Ms. Evans: There are no items for a vote today.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Food Service Agreement for the Schaffner Youth Center between Dauphin County and Compass Group USA, Inc., by and through its Canteen Correctional Services Division.
(*A Vote is Requested 6/29/11***)**

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

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.

Mr. Tully: We have no changes to our draft revised report, but if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

Mr. Hartwick: I notice the increase in the mileage rate.

Mr. Tully: That is set by the IRS. We follow that directive every time they make changes.

Mr. Hartwick: It is just more important than ever, especially with travel requests and other things that we try to work out carpooling. I'm consistently trying to ask directors to make sure that we are using the most efficient effective forms of transportation, particularly when cars are available or the car rental program. We need to make sure that as those costs go up that we continue to monitor that.

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

Ms. Evans: The Harrisburg Regional Chambers 4th Annual Celebrate Diversity Networking Reception is being held tonight from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza. Dauphin County is supporting this annual event that brings together organizations to celebrate diversity such as the Latino Hispanic Professional Organization, the Asian-Indian Americans of Central Pennsylvania and the National Black MBA Professional Association, as well as others throughout the region. Commissioner Hartwick will be offering some remarks at the beginning of the event and if anyone is interested in registering they can contact the Chamber.

We received notification this morning that another mosquito sample tested positive for West Nile. This one is in Lower Paxton Township. The Dauphin County West Nile Virus Control Program is increasing mosquito surveillance and control efforts in this area.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(There was none.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Pries: We are back at the point on the agenda for public participation. Is there anybody in the audience that would like to address the Board at this time? (There was none.)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura E. Evans, Esq.
Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz