



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

JULY 1, 2009
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Janis Creason, Treasurer; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Kay Lengle, Personnel; Dave Schreiber, Personnel; Faye Fisher, Director of Personnel; Mike Potteiger, Director of Adult Probation; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Diane McNaughton, Commissioners' Office; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Steve Libhart, District Attorney's Office; Jordan Barkus, Commissioners' Office; Michelle Haack, Commissioners' Office; Danielle Vayda, Solicitor's Office; Lindsey Bierzonski, Solicitor's Office; Gino Santamaria; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Dan Miller and Ruth Simons

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 two sets of 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? (There was none.)

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Mike Potteiger, Director of Adult Probation

1. Creation of a Probation Officer 2 position

Mr. Potteiger: Today, I'm here in front of the Board asking, the Court is asking, for the creation of a position of a Probation Officer 2 for my office in a specialized caseload. That specialized caseload would be in relation to the gang task force. Back in September of 2008 my office had preliminary discussions with the Harrisburg Police Department, Corporal Alavarie, in creating a gang awareness task force in Dauphin County. Since then it has grown substantially with the FBI, along with the Harrisburg City Police, Dauphin County CID and Mr. Marsico's Office has supported it and has kind of correlated it as a Dauphin County Gang Task Force. What I'm asking and requesting is for a position to be created in our office that a probation officer would be assigned to individuals who are currently under supervision that have gang affiliations currently or have in the past, in reference to the gang activity. Before I met each of you individually and gave you a mapping to show you the correlation between the gang graffiti and the guns that were confiscated so far in the City. It has been a direct correlation between those two things that led to some of the violence in the past couple weeks in reference to the gun violence in the City of Harrisburg. Through the efforts of the FBI, they have created a grant to form a task force in the Dauphin County area that would incorporate an FBI agent, an agent from my office, a Detective from CID, along with a Detective from the Harrisburg Bureau of Police. That grant has been approved through the Federal Grant. With that, last year, Corporal Alavarie from the Harrisburg City Police Department put in a grant for the Great Grant, which allowed them to get some funding not only for the data processing and officer, but also for a computer system called

“grips”, which is an intelligence computer program to share information with the other local counties surrounding us, Lebanon, Lancaster, York and Cumberland. That has been approved. I have been talking with Mr. Marsico along with Tom Guenther, Dauphin County will be hosting that through here and there is \$20,000 allocated for that so it would be no cost to the County.

The other thing is that they have an additional \$30,000 in that grant that the City will be willing to allocate towards this position to help fund this PO2 position for the next two years. That would help offset the cost of this PO2 position. I’m just asking and requesting for permission to submit for an additional position of a PO2 in my office, but it will be a specialized caseload in reference to the Gang Task Force that has been created.

Mr. DiFrancesco: We had the opportunity to sit down and chat about this position in the past. Clearly Dauphin County is supporting the efforts of the community any way they possibly can right now with things that are happening in this community outside of the direct gun violence that has happened over the past three weeks. We have seen our area go from influence by gang wannabes to the presence of real gangs. I definitely support this initiative. I think this Task Force is important. Now is the right time for us to send the message that it would probably be better for you to go look for another community, because we take this very seriously. The violence on the street is going to stop it is a matter of how we do that. This is a critical component to our overall success. I support it.

Mr. Hartwick: I guess we are just talking about the additional positions for the City?

Mr. Potteiger: That is correct.

Mr. Hartwick: Partnering with the City through CID, Adult Probation shows that we have been supportive of efforts and have been a good partner and plan on being very aggressive in bringing resources to the table to combat the problem. It is always pitted in the newspaper that we are somehow in an adversarial way with the City and I think our actions clearly demonstrate that we are here to support and will continue to do what is necessary to protect and support the residents of all of Dauphin County. Pitting the suburb versus the rural versus the urban is absolutely something that we can’t do. People who do that lack leadership. We want to bring people together to solve problems and clearly the City is our responsibility as well.

Mr. Haste: You will have the paperwork ready for next week?

Mr. Potteiger: Yes, I will submit it this afternoon.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Lengle: Are there any questions on the Salary Board items? (There was none.)

Are there any questions on the items in the Personnel Packet? There is nothing that needs to be voted on now. (There was none.)

Mr. Hartwick: Do we have the adjustment for the pay scale?

Ms. Lengle: Yes, that is in here. It is actually listed as a separate item.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Are we going to act on that today?

Mr. Haste: No, it is for your information.

Ms. Lengle: Next week will be fine.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: It is a very small packet. Mr. Yohe is on vacation and will be back on Monday to take care of the budget adjustments. The big one on there is all the new Weatherization items. These are our blanket purchase orders, which are out of the new budget, which hasn't been entered into the system yet, but will be next week. The other two are the records improvements budget, which Mike will adjust when he returns. Unless you have any questions, the Packet is there for your review between now and next week.

In addition, I submitted a Remote Access Request for Domestic Relations. They want to get one air card for one of the laptops that is shared among a dozen people in the office to use it when they are in court. Mr. Guenther had approved that. So, if you could review that for approval next week that would be great. Are there any questions? (There was none.)

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Haste: We have the Training Packet, which will be considered at next week's meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Purchase of Service Per Diem Rates between Children & Youth and Little Leprachauns Daycare and Enrichment Center (2008/2009 and 2009/2010). **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED 7/1/09***)**
- B. Weatherization Work Plan for FY 2009/2010. **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED 7/1/09***)**
- C. Food Service Agreement between Dauphin County (Schaffner Youth Center) and ARAMARK Correctional Services, LLC. **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED 7/1/09***)**

- D. Renewal of YWCA Access and Visitation Grant between Dauphin County (Domestic Relations, Greater Harrisburg YWCA and the Commonwealth of PA Department of Public Welfare. **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED 7/1/09***)**)
- E. Increase in Minimum Wage.

Mr. Haste: We have Items for Discussion, Items A, B, C and D that need to a vote today. Chad, is there anything in particular that we need to know on any of these?

Mr. Saylor: No, it is all straightforward.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board approve Items A, B, C and D under Items for Discussion listed above; motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.

Mr. Tully: All matters on the Report will be reviewed and ready for action next week. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have in the interim. (There was none.)

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor: I had a Tourism Board meeting last week. Obviously they have a new mission and I will share the coupon booklets that they are producing. We are trying them out to see how they work. I will say, in looking at the numbers for tourism, it does seem that the Bureau is establishing itself within the community, because the number of reservations that are being booked through the Bureau are up dramatically over last year. Some of that is due to entities within the community, such as HACC, I noticed booked their graduation through the Tourism Bureau. In addition to folks visiting the area, entities in the community are starting to come to the Tourism Bureau for help in planning their events and finding the best venues, which is something that I really didn't anticipate, but it is good to see that they are making a difference within the community. Despite the fact that the economy is down, membership in the Bureau is maintaining very strong. There are some good signs that continue from our Bureau. Unless there are questions of me that is all I have. (There was none.)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Hartwick: There are three individuals who are celebrating their birthdays. Today is George Connor and Scott Burford, who is turning 40. Congratulations! Kacey Truax is turning 21 tomorrow. She is finally growing up.

On a sadder note I just want to extend my personal condolences to Steve Chiavetta who recently and unexpectedly lost a very classy lady in Reba Chiavetta. We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to the family.

Mr. Haste: We should also include the Hetrick family. Former Commissioner Norm Hetrick passed away yesterday morning.

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. Simons: My name is Ruth Simons. Simons and Company is based in Dauphin County, right in Harrisburg. I personally live in York County. I just would like to give you a suggestion, more of an inquiry as to proposals and bidding on HR benefits. Simons and Company has attempted in the past to participate or get involved on some level. Being a women owned business, recognized by the City and about to be approved by the State, just trying to find out who do we contact to participate in finding out how to save the County money? How to be involved in the HR package, particularly with medical, dental, vision and any ancillary benefits that are offered? I don't know anything about the process. It has been several years and there were other commissioners when I have met through other individuals in the community and privately with some commissioners. It is a whole new ballgame, a whole new world in a bad economy and I'm just looking to see support for local business, taxpayers. Being a taxpaying business just asking for your guidance, not necessarily looking for the business per se, but how do I get involved in the process of possibly being able to participate?

Mr. Hartwick: Obviously, we have a procurement process and I would be more than willing to introduce you to our Director of Personnel who is the back of the room, Faye Fisher. We will make sure that as we go out for bid for various ancillary benefits, including what we do with healthcare from life insurance on down the line that you are included in that list of people that we communicate to and receive quotes back from as it relates to these services. Whether you get the business that will depend upon your ability to give the best price to the taxpayers of Dauphin County and provide the best service. I'll make sure that we provide that introduction following the meeting today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz