



**DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WORKSHOP MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 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; Marie E. Rebeck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Fred Lighty, Esq., Human Services Director's Office; David Feidt, Solicitor's Office; Brooke Miller, Personnel; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Diane McNaughton, Commissioners' Office; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office; Mike Pries, Director of Safety & Security; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office; Edgar Cohen, Director of Facilities Maintenance; Hector Ortiz, Human Services Director's Office; Stacey Patrick, Controller's Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Emily Opilo, Kirt Barden, Jenny Gallagher-Blom, Tim Laverbein, Sonya Stokes and Paul Zeigler

**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 a series 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 at this time? (There was none.)

## **DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS**

### **A. Kirt Barden, Jenny Gallagher-Blom, Captain Tim Laverbein and Sonya Stokes – Salvation Army**

#### **1. Performance and Red Kettle Drive in 2009**

Mr. Barden: My name is Kirt Barden. I'm the Director of Philanthropies for the Salvation Army in the greater Harrisburg area. I want to do a couple things. I want to share a few minutes with you on some things that might be of interest; then I'm going to have some of our staff come up and share some items with you. Captain Tim Laverbein is our commanding officer for Green Street. He is in charge of our social services, their location itself, as well as emergency response and the kettle program. Jenny is our Director of Training and Director of Programs and Evaluation. We also have Sonya Stokes who is the Administrator of the Bridging the Gap Program, which you all know a lot about, because you blessed us with your help.

Thank you for letting us come before you. This is exciting to us to be able to do that. Salvation Army is a social service organization assisting people. What really separates us from a lot of others is that we help those that are in need from birth to old age. You will see some of that in what we share with you today. With our cutting edge life assisting assistance programs, we really feel that we are the ones that are in the trenches of Harrisburg. If someone is in need they are right down on Green Street. We may be able to serve them or we may have to lead them to some other place depending on their specific needs. We really are the ones right there and we are honored to do that. Hopefully, through that assistance program, we also share the grace of God and love and compassion. Interesting stats the last two years – in 2008 we were hit with unbelievable needs in our services. We were up in 2008 65% in our services. This year in 2009 through the end of July we are up an additional 17% from those

unbelievable numbers. I don't know about you, but for the Controller, if the County got hit with an 80% increase in cost for the last two years, would that impact you guys?

Ms. Rebuck: Absolutely.

Mr. Barden: Because of you all a lot of our donors and Board of Directors, right now you sponsored us with the Gaming money. We appreciate that. It means a lot to us. All of these things that we do, if it wasn't for you guys supporting us I don't know where we would be at today. We have not laid off anybody, if you can believe that. We are concerned about this last quarter or our first quarter of the new fiscal year which ends in December. We are concerned about what's going to happen. I can stand here in front of you and tell you that we are aggressive in the marketplace. We are excited to tell you that even with those unbelievable needs we are holding our own through the grace of God. We are proud of that. It has been a trying last three or four months. We have seen continually dwindling donations, even though we are flat. We are starting to see that a lot of our donors are still giving, but they are not giving as much. We are starting to see the impact of that right now. I think as you all know with the job loss being 13,000 jobs in this area from year-to-year that is probably some of what we see. We are concerned and we are watching our expenses. We are being very aggressive in the marketplace.

Ms. Stokes: My name is Sonya Stokes. I'm the Administrator of the Bridging the Gap Program. Bridging the Gap Program is a prevention, intervention and youth development program for youth ages 10 through 18. We offer a variety of topics through the program such as conflict resolution, job readiness, financial literacy, self-esteem, respect, diversity, community resources and many more other topics that our facilitator provides lessons on. We provide different discussions, lessons and inter-activities that focus on how choices can result in positive or negative consequences. We will take referrals from any referral source, juvenile probation, coaches, schools, parents and even self referral. So, anyone that wants to make a referral for a youth to our program anyone can do that by getting in contact with the Salvation Army and they would let me know. Last year we serviced 527 youths. From January 2009 to present, we have already serviced 548 youths. We currently service the program through Dauphin County Juvenile Probation, the Schaffner Youth Center, Susquehanna Township Middle School, Steelton-Highspire School District and the Salvation Army's After School Program. We've also serviced this year Harrisburg School District at the Lincoln School and the New Beginnings Summer Youth Enrichment Program. Our program is offered in two different ways. We offer the program, which is a 20-hour program. How that works is usually we have the youth meet with us once a week for 2 to 2 ½ hours until we complete the 20 hours. We also offer the program in workshops. The workshops can range from 1 hour to 2 ½ hours. We tailor the curriculum and the meeting times to fit the needs of the youth for which we have referrals. The program is offered in small group settings. We offer it for 8 to 10 youths. We like to keep them small so that the youth will become comfortable with each other and the facilitators so that they would want to have open discussions and be able to open up and share what they are going through as youths today. A big thing about our program is that we

discuss community resources, because we know that we are not the only resource out there for youths. So, we educate them on the resources in this area and we also show them how to access that. Anyone who completes the full 20 hour program gets a book that we developed with Contact Helpline. It is a book of resources that the youth can use, but not only the youth, they take this home and their families can also use it. They can look up different resources when they find themselves in certain situations. One last thing about our program is that we offer this program free of cost to our participants.

Mr. Haste: If a coach or a teacher saw an individual/youth that needed these services, how would that work? Would they make a phone call to you and then you contact the youth or do you contact the teacher? How does that work?

Ms. Stokes: They make a phone call to me and I can give them the paperwork to make a referral. The referral sheet is real short just to get some basic information. We are constantly getting referrals from Juvenile Probation. I actually had mothers who started to call. We see what their needs are. That is stated on the referral. We try to keep the kids that have the same needs in the same groups so that we can service them that way. We will contact them and let them know when we have a group starting and we would make arrangements as far as transportation in getting them there. We have different satellite locations that we also use.

Mr. Haste: If a teacher or a coach makes the referral how does the parent get involved in the process?

Ms. Stokes: We can have the conversation with the parent.

Ms. Gallagher-Blom: We are in some school districts so the teachers are able to make a referral through the school. In Susquehanna Township we are in their advisory period every morning so they could be put in that group.

Mr. Haste: You are just in the middle school correct?

Ms. Gallagher-Blom: We are in the middle school at this time, yes. In Steelton-Highspire we are in the school district for 10-18 year olds. In both settings they can be referred to where we are offering it or if they are not going to fit into that then we would contact the parent from there. We have been doing a lot of parent education. At Susquehanna Township Middle School, we were invited to their open houses so we were able to present, during that time, to the parents and be there to answer any questions. We go into their in-school suspensions. The kids they used to go in and they would just have some homework assignments and then they would sit there and not be very productive. Now, we go in and they do their assignments and then we provide a two hour workshop for them about whatever topic that would meet their needs at that time. We are doing that at Steelton-Highspire, as well as in Susquehanna Township Middle School. We try to be very creative with how we offer the program. We have really been able to expand due to the support of the County. Through the Human Services Development Fund, we were able to go into Susquehanna Township

Middle School and then also through the Community Development Block Grant we were able to go into Steelton-Highspire. We are able to service that many more youths because of that support. We were able to hire additional staff, which then enabled us to service more youths. We are very serious about the quality of the program that we offer in all of our youth programs. In the Gaming Commission proposal that we put together we asked for a bus and that would enable us to provide services further throughout the County. In the past the students would just come to us. That was not working. We were only serving about 24 youths a year. Now, we have over 16 community satellite locations. If we have a bus then we would be able to get even further out there. We want to take the programs to the kids. We go to the school where they are already. We go into the New Beginnings Teen Summer Program and provide the program there. One of our staff members actually participates on the youth committee that is through Systems of Care so we are constantly in touch with youths and hearing what their needs are. We try to be innovative in how we reach the youth in the guidance that we provide.

Some of our other youth programs are an After School Program, Summer Youth Enrichment Program, Basketball Mentoring Program, Conflict Resolution Mentoring Program, Youth Ministry once a week and there is no fee for the participants, but we do require something of them. We require their participation in our After School Program. They must attend four days out of the week, because if we are going to give them that spot, we have so many people on our waiting list, we need to know that they are there to be invested in our program. We also try to encourage the parents to be involved through offering them different volunteer opportunities. We've taken the kids, in the past, to stand at kettles so they can see where we get our support so they know someone is paying for them to be in the program. Sonya mentioned with Bridging the Gap we don't charge a fee, but for each youth it costs of \$1,200 to put them through the program. There is a cost. The County is helping to pay for it. Different foundations in the community are helping to pay for it. Different community members are sending in that \$75 a year that helps pay for all those youth programs that I mentioned. In those programs we try to make them very interactive and fun, but there is always a purpose to our programs. Our purpose is to help make them self-sufficient, successful community members. I want to see some of these kids in my job, Sonya's job and maybe be the next commissioners of the County. We are constantly trying to teach them responsibilities and nutrition. We do that through very interactive ways. With our nutrition education that we do in our After School Program and also in our summer program, we do a really quick five minute lesson and then the kids make the food. They see that this is practical. We do that with every program that we have. In our basketball mentoring program, we use the game of basketball to teach them how to interact with each other, how to have positive social skills, how to work as a team and how to be a leader. Everything we do has a purpose and we try to make it really interactive so the kids, I don't want to say that we trick them into learning, but we are having them learn and they don't even realize it. All of what we do is only possible through all of our partners. We are constantly partnering with different organizations to maximize our resources and to reach more youths. Every program that I mentioned we have countless partners that come along side of us that we have a mission that is similar in

that we want to meet the youth and see their positive potential reached. That is a nutshell of what we do with the youth.

Mr. Hartwick: I'm usually the bearer of good news, but today I want to be a realist, because of the State budget crisis. We talked about the additional service that is required and the amount of people who are seeking services and how you were able to continue to keep up with that in a time of dwindling resources. Last year alone our Mental Health Department served an increase of 45% over the previous year and this year the State cut our dollars from \$11 million to \$9 million and they are expecting it to be a worse cut when the final budget numbers are out. We are expected to serve a significantly larger number of people who have no established need. The County is not getting the dollars by which to do it. It is the same thing with the Human Services Development Fund. I'm responsible for making recommendations and am supportive of the Bridging the Gap Program, but HSDF has also been cut significantly again. As we are talking about sustainability, we are talking about trying to service and continue to provide those services, because absent this kind of investment in our kids they are going to be on the street corner. They are going to be hanging out. They are not going to be in a position of positive mentoring opportunities. I'm going to be following up with the parent engagement question, how are we going to be able to engage families because no matter how much we can teach kids the expectation at home, besides what we see outside our door step, we need to figure out a way to do that as well. In a time of dwindling resources from the State and Federal government that is really going to affect us this year with the State budget crisis, how do we plan on sustaining the programs? This year is going to be a significant challenge. We, as County Commissioners, are going to have to sit up here and take a look at our Human Services Development Fund and we are talking about people who get dialysis and transportation to be able to stay alive versus a program that's Bridging the Gap and providing opportunities for kids. There are extremely difficult and challenging decisions that have to be made. How do you plan to address some of those immediate concerns?

Ms. Gallagher-Blom: We are constantly looking to diversify our funding base. We are constantly applying for different grants through foundations. That is something that we are constantly doing. With the Human Services Development Fund, ours got cut last year and we said we appreciate the support and we are going to make it work and we did. I think it got cut by \$7,000. Even for this year as well it got cut by \$7,000.

Mr. Hartwick: That was just for preliminary budget numbers from the Governor. We don't know what we are finally going to get for the fund. There may be additional cuts that we have to pass on to our folks that we contracted with this year. It is not a good thing to discuss and plan.

Ms. Gallagher-Blom: If our funding is cut, then unfortunately, we are not able to service as many youths, but by being in the schools or in some of the places where we are at that allows us to service the kids that are already there. If we are able to go into certain places then we are not picking them up and doing all that transporting. That can save us on transportation costs. We constantly are looking at ways to do more with less.

That is the nature of being a non-profit and especially with the Salvation Army. Our staff is trained to do multiple things so that we can maximize them. Like I said, we have a lot of community partners that allow us to maximize our resources. We are very excited about the parent engagement piece. There is no cost to parents.

Mr. Hartwick: We are, also in the Steelton-Highspire School District, going to be trying to enact a plan, new parent engagement strategy that is going to set a model for the rest of the country on how you engage parents. We are going to ask kids to come up with a plan to reach out to parents to get them to be involved in a positive way. We need to figure out a way to engage families. Obviously we believe in the Salvation Army's programs. We figured out ways to come up with different funding strategies to be able to help support you. I just wanted to let you know that we are trying to decipher what the numbers are going to be to counties. We are going to have to go through a brand new budget process. We went through one in June and now we are going to take a look at what the final allocations are minus whatever money we spent in interest and we are going to have to basically do a new budget and will have to make some very tough decisions. Stay tuned!

Mr. DiFrancesco: I just want to commend you from the time I first came out and did the tour of the facility. I know at that time there was a great push, because that was the time that you were getting pinched. The organization made a real effort and desire to increase the numbers. Rather than sitting back like many organizations, you guys obviously went out and did a lot. Your network is far greater than it was three years ago. The program is one that has a very high value to the community. I said this all along, not that there aren't other organizations out there that I'm very impressed with, but the efforts of the team that is working in Harrisburg here with the Salvation Army you guys are doing a great job in so many different ways. Not just for the youth, but the seniors and you have a lot of good programs. Thank you for being so active and committed to this community.

Ms. Gallagher-Blom: For us it is not just the numbers. We want to serve as many kids as possible, but for us it is really making an impact with their lives. With the Bridging the Gap Program, all of our programs, we see their potential and we want to help them reach that. So many people have such a negative view of the kids. We are realists. We know some of the issues that they come to us with, but someone has to believe in them and our staff truly believes in our youths. One of our facilitators receives so many letters from kids that are locked up at Schaffner or other places. They send letters saying that you believing in me has done this for me. They are giving concrete examples of the difference that the program is making for them, as well as all of our programs are outcomes based. So, we are constantly looking at them, are we making a difference and if so how. With the Human Services Development Fund, we submit our outcomes and our indicators and our results, so hopefully you will take a look at those because you can see that with what we are doing we are making a difference.

Mr. Hartwick: I don't want to sound like a downer. I'm always the optimist who talks about investment in individuals and kids and the opportunity to guide them down

different paths. I just don't think people understand the impact of the State budget yet. I don't see a whole lot of people really up in arms and talking about what it is going to mean.

Mr. DiFrancesco: There is a reason for that. The only difference between the day before they said we have a deal and the day after we have a deal was the fact that they said we have a deal. There has been no concrete discussions or decisions made about anything within. You are right. Nobody knows what the impact is going to be coming down the road. It is not going to be pretty.

Ms. Gallagher-Blom: That is happening to us with our budget. We have to go back and reevaluate it based on the funding that we are receiving.

Mr. DiFrancesco: One of the things that I have observed over time is those organizations that are willing to take the battle to the streets are the ones that are successful. The organizations that sit back and offer programs within their four walls are somewhat effective. The ones that are willing to get out into the streets and literally go after those in need, like you said, especially kids in this community lately have been getting a very bad rap. The bottom line is no matter what decisions they made to this point in time in their life that does not define who they are. Who they are is determined by what they do tomorrow, who takes an interest in their life, who doesn't kick them to the curb, in fact gets actively involved in their life to make them see a different future. You are giving them an example of ways to improve their lives, in very practical ways. Again, many of us don't understand it. We do, because we see it every day. There are kids out there who have never seen that example. They don't know how to cook a meal. They don't know what it is like to have good nutrition. This program comes along and gives them the opportunity to see it and make a conscience choice where do I want my life to be going forward. Again, this program is one of the best that we support and one of the best in the community.

Captain Laverbein: William Booth said it, our General, Founder of Salvation Army said it best "Heart to God, Hand to Man." It is what I believe. You will see on our letterhead today "doing the most good", but it really has a heart to God, hand to man. Our soup kitchen, Monday through Friday, sees 80 people plus. Around 100 to 120 people a month are coming in to use our food pantry. Our funding, which we just spent a few minutes talking about, you know what we are facing. We try our best. We have some of the schools that I have worked with trying to do canned food drives for us and assist us that way. We try to do the best with what we have. We have an emergency food truck that goes all over the county and state. We go out and serve the first responders. We participate with the DUI checkpoints. We are out there with the officers assisting them. We are able to respond whenever called upon. Our Christmas effort is in full swing. As you can imagine we start planning for that in July. I need to raise \$300,000 to be able to keep us where we are without facing any cuts that we know are coming. So, I need more than \$300,000 to keep our programs running. How do you ask someone that has been laid off to put their last few pennies into our kettle? That is what I have to do this Christmas season. We are trying to come up with a new plan. We

have some small kettle cards that we are trying to get into the grocery stores. As people come by scan the \$1. We are coming up with some different plans to try to help this economic situation that I'm facing with my Christmas kettles. Last year I had 17% volunteers. I had to pay people to stand at kettles for me. I'm trying my hardest. This is the first City in 12 years I've been in that I've had to pay people to do Christmas kettles for me. We have been in overdrive for the last year trying to recruit volunteers. 17% is a not a big number for volunteers. That is our main focus to recruit as many volunteers. Pretty soon you will be seeing a blitz in the paper and TV to recruit more volunteers. There is also an avenue for people to get in touch with us through our website, the Bridging the Gap referrals are on our website. Our website is loaded with this information of all the programs and things that we can offer. I would just like to thank you for letting us come and share and to tell you a little bit about our story this morning.

Mr. Hartwick: Thank you for your obvious commitment. I guess the first thing that I would like to do is to sign Nick for his yearly kettle drive. I join him, at least for one day, to do that, but we should also do something to send out to our employees to try to assist you to see if we can assist from the County's perspective in your cause. Particularly when times are tough, the region's character is revealed and hopefully if we put that challenge out to our employees they have stepped up time and time again for those important causes and I believe this is a worthy one that we should ask them to support as well. We also have a great deal of volunteers through our Aging Department. I don't know how many of them would want to stand out in the cold and are in a position to do that, but it is certainly something that we could ask them to do. Any way that we can support you I would be glad to.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I think it is very significant what you just said that you had to pay people to come out and work the kettles when all that requires is giving of your time to help raise money for an organization that gives so much to our community. There is a time when the community needs to stand up and support your efforts. Today I think that is the newsworthy item, not that I should be so precocious to suggest to the news what the newsworthy item is, but I think it is significant that you have struggled over the years and we know that you have struggled over the years to get volunteers to work the kettles. I think it is also significant that you have struggled to find locations to place the kettles. There are some very large retail outlets in this area that I find it truly offensive that they will not allow you to put kettles out in front of them. That is my own personal opinion. We will do everything that we can to help you to generate volunteers. We constantly get people asking as to where they can get involved. I have some thoughts and maybe they are things that you are already doing, but I have at least two ideas that might help you in that cause. We will have to talk after the meeting. We will have our kettle out in front of the administration building again. Amy, start lining them up.

Mr. Barden: I know that we are running out of time. I wanted to address this to you George, because you brought up a real critical point and that is when the going gets tough the tough get going. What we have tried to do the last 18 months is we have tried to make our board more community responsive by bringing into the board people that

are more like the community. I can tell you that we are real excited about who is coming on our board. Second, we are being very proactive in our annual dinner. This will be our second year. Thank you all for supporting that last year. I'm going to tell you that May 20, 2010 we are going to be honoring Ben Olewine, III. I think a lot of people in this room know who he is. He is a phenomenal leader and community leader and philanthropist. We are going after the marketplace. We are looking for leaders to come in. You can count on the Salvation Army taking it to the marketplace. As an old executive from transportation, when I think of hell I think of hell being 25,000 trucks and out of the 25,000 trucks in the nation 30% of them sitting. After going through that and turning that operation around this to me is going to be a challenge, but through the grace of God and our focus and bringing people in and educating people we are going to have an exciting year. We know there are going to be cuts and challenges, but my philosophy is very simple when the going gets tough the tough get going and if that pie gets smaller we choose to get a little larger piece of that pie. We thank you for helping us. We are standing in Harrisburg and we are going to fight the good fight through the grace of God and with your help and everyone's help in the community. Thank you so much.

## **B. Paul Zeigler**

### **1. Update on the CPEC Electric Purchasing Program**

Mr. Zeigler: I'm here to give you a brief update on the electricity program as it is today. I should start perhaps in June we went to the market for initial inquiry. We received interest from nine national generators/suppliers. As a result of that inquiry, we took those entities. We have been doing due diligence to make certain that in the final analysis the short list that we come up with would be entities who are financially suitable, capable of providing the power that they said they will and have terms that are most favorable to our members. We have come to a short list of four entities. Those contracts have been reviewed. One of the items that I was most concerned about in the contracts frankly was the fact that an entity should not be penalized because you used either more or less electricity than you had indicated your previous history of usage was. We now have contracts that would be put in place with the successful generator that would allow up to a maximum of 25% more electricity used in a year than you had originally used the previous year or and I think more importantly 25% less than you would have used in the previous year. I know you are very much involved with solar and obviously very active in reducing your energy consumption and you should not be penalized because you are able to do that. These contracts that will go into effect will have those provisions in place. There was a negotiation process that went on, but we are a very creditable entity and large enough to have the ability to negotiate those terms at this point. October 20<sup>th</sup> would be the date when the pricing will be placed back with us from those short listed vendors. That will be submitted to us at 11:00 a.m. EST. There will be confirmation from our members between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. Pricing will only be kept available that short period of time, because electricity pricing like oil and natural gas, is constantly changing. As of yesterday, we have seven new members. So, we have continued to grow far beyond what we were when we went to the market in

June. I'm very confident that we will see good results. As you probably know PP&L has not publicly told us or anyone what their rates will be for individual rate classes. They have one portion of an auction to take place yet. That is supposed to take place in early October. They will then be able and required to give the actual pricing for each rate class for electricity use in the PP&L territory for 2010. We'll have the benchmarks that we think are very important to have in front of us and then will be able to show that to you when we provide the pricing on October 20<sup>th</sup> so it is straightforward and right in front of you to see where you are at. Thank you for your time.

Commissioners: Thank you!

### **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Miller: Are there any questions on the Salary Board request? (There was none.) There are no changes. The Personnel Packet, I do need to draw your attention to #7, I would like to get a vote on that item. It is a change for the additional duty pay.

Mr. Haste: This was when Matt was gone.

Ms. Miller: It was while Matt and Kelly were both gone.

Mr. Haste: I'm okay with it.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Haste, with Mr. DiFrancesco abstaining, that the Board approve Item #7 of the Personnel Packet; motion carried.**

### **PURCHASE ORDERS**

Mr. Baratucci: We have a light packet this week. There are no over budgets. Unless you have any questions now it will be there for your review and action next week.

### **TRAINING PACKET**

Mr. Haste: There is nothing that we need to act on today.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

A. Amended Weatherization Plan. (\*\*A VOTE IS REQUESTED 9/23/09\*\*)

Mr. Haste: We have the Weatherization Amended Plan to approve.

**It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board approve the Amended Weatherization Plan; motion carried.**

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT – FRED LIGHTY, ESQ.**

Mr. Lighty: The Solicitor's Report is in your packet. I would be happy to answer any questions? (There was none.)

### **CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR**

Mr. Saylor: I have one item that came up during the Airport Authority Meeting this morning. The FAA has instituted a residential voluntary acquisition program that HIA is participating in. What they do is in a given area they conduct noise studies and if a certain community surpasses that area in terms of the amount of noise generated by the airport they will put money toward buying back the homes should the residents choose to sell. The staff at the airport has undertaken a lot of outreach from residents to make sure that it is completely voluntary if they wanted to. The Board took action this morning to purchase the first few homes, which are in Middletown. I think they are expecting some more. Ultimately what the plan will be is once they have completed the program they will turn over the land to the borough and the borough will use it as an open space, because it is near the river area. It is completely funded by FAA and it is completely voluntary. Other than that unless there are questions of me that is all I have. (There was none.)

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

(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.)

We have a Retirement Board Meeting, which we will start at 11:00 a.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz