



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2008
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary (ABSENT)

STAFF PRESENT

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk; Marie E. Rebuck, Controller; Janis Creason, Treasurer; William Tully, Esq., Solicitor; J. Scott Burford, Deputy Chief Clerk; Randy Baratucci, Director of Purchasing; Carl Dickson, Director of Parks & Recreation; Tom Guenther, Director of IT; Dave Schreiber, Personnel; Kay Lengle, Personnel; Diane McNaughton, Commissioners' Office; Amy Richards, Commissioners' Office; Leila Brown, Solicitor's Office; Gertrude Farling, Controller's Office; Brenda Hoffer, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Mike McDavid, Gene Stilp and Garry Lenton

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 three 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?

Mr. McDavid: My name is Mike McDavid. I work with Penn State Cooperative Extension. I'm the Northeast Regional Director in that capacity where I serve and am oversight of 11 counties in Northeast Pennsylvania. I'm here today to introduce myself in a new capacity, however, an additional role for next year. We are going to do a second year of a program with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania whereby Penn State provides them a resource to bring the organizations closer together in providing the educational services to county governments. This year I'm that person providing close liaison with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. I'm here today to introduce myself in that capacity and to thank you for the committee work that you have done with CCAP. I would also like to thank you for our local office and the support that you provide them programmatically and of course financially year-in and year-out. I'm here to just listen. If I can be of help in that capacity as I'm working with CCAP during the next year, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Mr. Haste: When you say education are you involved with the Academy?

Mr. McDavid: Not directly. I'm familiar with the work. A lot of the work that we are doing jointly with CCAP currently is around natural gas exploration and Marsala shale issues. In fact I think we have a program scheduled here for early November in Dauphin County for the public. We established a CCAP Task Force with several counties that are in the core region of the Marsala shale to start looking at legislation around those issues.

Mr. Haste: I know our Cooperative Extension and our Conservation District, as well as some of our northern tier residents, have been communicated with already by companies and investors.

Mr. McDavid: We will certainly get the information out to have meetings for the public to inform and educate the public so they can make informed decisions around this whole issue.

Mr. Haste: When is the meeting for Dauphin County?

Mr. McDavid: I believe it is scheduled for November 4, 2008.

Mr. Haste: What time?

Mr. McDavid: It will be in the evening, but I have not seen an official announcement on that. I believe they are still putting it together.

Mr. DiFrancesco: We have been doing a lot of work with the branch in Middletown. As we work with those two different entities are you communicating at all or should we basically understand that when we are talking to one, we are talking to the other.

Mr. McDavid: By branch in Middletown are you talking about the Extension?

Mr. DiFrancesco: No, by the State Campus. Did you have any direct communication with them? Is there any kind of an organized level as two different aspects of Penn State reach out to us?

Mr. McDavid: I can say if you are talking to one you are talking to the other. We have those internal communications. Thanks for your time this morning and if I can be of any help, as I fulfill this additional role with the County Commissioners Association, I certainly will.

Mr. Haste: Gene.

Mr. Stilp: I haven't been in this room, except for once. With the nice weather and cold weather coming on, I think this will be a good place to be at 10:00 every Wednesday morning. Just a few items.

One is currently, as we all know, residential customers, commercial customers and public customers for PP&L will be experiencing huge rate increases come January 1, 2010. Right now there is an effort on to extend the rate caps in the Legislature. I don't know if it will be within the next five days of their legislative session. It looks like nothing will happen until next year. I just wanted to know if this County, by itself or in conjunction with the County Commissioners Association, is doing anything or has taken a position about the extension of the rate caps. That is the first question.

Mr. Haste: I would suspect no and no on the position of rate caps. We have actually started to look at things to put us in a better position that whenever the rate caps go off, whether in 2010 or later, that we will be in a position to keep our rates lower.

Mr. Stilp: I would really urge, on behalf of the citizens, that you take this opportunity to extend the rate caps, if you have a position about the extension of rate caps, and that you develop this and also participate with others who are interested in the 26 county PP&L service area and the County Commissioners Association, to extend the rate caps

to really benefit the citizens of the County. The County wouldn't have to raise their tax rates, because of the huge rates that are going up.

Mr. Haste: Actually Gene that is what I was referring to. We are trying to take steps that we won't be as adversely affected.

Mr. Stilp: Also the PUC's latest report says that rates will be much higher than anticipated, from 30% up to 60%. This is something that as a government entity you really have to watch out for and also lead the way in the 26 county service area. People are going to get hit by this.

Secondly in regard to the relicensing of Three Mile Island, I was wondering if the County has taken this opportunity to take a position on strengthening the evacuation rules in any fashion, because there are a lot of problems with the evacuation rules with regard to day care centers and private day care centers. This would be a good opportunity while this relicensing time is up, if it hasn't expired, to utilize that to strengthen the emergency evacuation plans, because it literally affects the County in how the residents are affected. Just a thought.

Mr. DiFrancesco: No question?

Mr. Stilp: Is there anything going on with that aspect?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Specifically, again, you mentioned the day cares. Anything beyond the day cares or just the day cares?

Mr. Stilp: Any way of strengthening the, for instance having the utility pay more for emergency responders for communication systems for the County, with what the County has to utilize to support the utility, any way of making this corporation, how should I say it, that is utilizing the County's space, the County water and utilizing it for more than the benefit of the citizens of the County, because so much of the evacuation plan falls on the County's shoulders, especially first responders.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Right. I guess I would answer it in the broad sense. I think we are always working with the utility to try to improve the ways we handle evacuations. Within that, the day care centers in particular are a very hot topic. Probably if you ask each of us, I'm not sure what our views would be independently, I know my view of that is that the day care centers should be handled through the licensing requirements at the State and only in that matter. I have said all along, quite honestly if parents are out there expecting government to take care of their kids in times of emergencies, they are making a major mistake. If I'm a parent I'm going to make sure I know exactly what is going to happen with my children and I'm going to take them to a center that basically has plans to resolve that. That is not something that really should come under our umbrella. I think it should be a requirement of licensing of those day care centers to say okay what's your plan on file? We have said all along, our staff has worked with day care centers every single time they come in to say how do we do this, we are there to

help. My answer in a broad sense to your concern is that we are constantly working with them to improve the way we would evacuate the area. We have, in terms of the things that we think are important like one of the major aspects that we have taken care of through this whole thing is simply the way they are assessed even for land value and the tax structure. The two aren't connected, but now is a good time to talk about things like that. They have agreed to increase the allotment that they are paying into the taxes, which means they are subsidizing operations more and more. We have a really good working relationship with them, whether they are going for a licensing renewal or not. I guess that is ultimately it. The things that we thought we should bring forward in terms of license renewal we have. My greater concern in the license renewal process was actually dealing with the NRC. The NRC, from what I have seen, a lot of the license renewal process seems to be somewhat cookie cutter. When they say they do the environmentals, they don't do the environmentals necessarily specifically of how TMI affects the Susquehanna River and Central Pennsylvania. They do it as a generic nuclear plant impacts the local economy and environment and so forth. I'm not real comfortable with that, but...

Mr. Stilp: Could I get a copy of any comments that you submitted to the NRC during the licensing renewal? Are there any copies of that available? Also, has there been any position on the security process being diminished and also the public affairs process has been diminished and cut back and I think they moved the public affairs office down to another county towards Philadelphia.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I think diminished is a suggestive opinion. I would disagree with you on that, on both fronts.

Mr. Stilp: I'm just asking if the County has commented specifically on the license renewal and have you commented about public affairs in the licensing renewal.

Mr. DiFrancesco: The only comments that we have made so far is I testified at the meeting down in Middletown at the Elks. As far as written correspondence and so forth, I don't know in terms of license renewal that any has transpired.

Mr. Stilp: With regard to Fort Hunter, the church in the Fort Hunter area, which the County now owns, there have been some questions about moving the church to a different location. What is the Commissioners' understanding on that?

Mr. Haste: It has been part of our plan for awhile to relocate the church to the southern side of the Fort Hunter property along the river. Part of that is for protection of the facility from flooding. It will be up a little higher and we will be able to protect that historic building a little better and to have it better utilized for weddings and other events. I believe everything has been cleared through the Township to be able to do that.

Mr. Dickson: We are still in the process.

Mr. Stilp: What is the extent of the gas station across the street?

Mr. Haste: We are still in the planning stages of that and we are still getting approvals. That is why it is marked off. There are a number of things that have yet to be done.

Mr. Stilp: What about the church property?

Mr. Haste: That is more than I know. I know there has been an environmental analysis done and Carl can give us more details.

Mr. Stilp: When the gas station was acquired and this goes to the future of the property. I guess the property extends back to the creek. I want to go on record saying that I would not like to see any kind of development of that into anything that is less than wild, because we are constantly losing wildlife space to office buildings and the constant development there, the migrating animals such as turtles and reptiles, etc. whatever comes out of the river. If that access to the creek could be kept wild behind the gas station that would be a great thing. Right now there is some concern that the church shouldn't be moved and where it would be moved to. I just wanted to let you folks know that there was some concern. Thank you for your time this morning.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Carl Dickson, Director, Parks & Recreation

1. Growing Greener Funds

Mr. Dickson: I'm here to discuss the idea of a possible transfer of \$100,000 of Growing Greener funds towards the Fort Hunter Park project. These funds have been somewhat allocated almost two years ago and we are concerned that the clock is ticking on that and that we might lose the funds. In fact, while an earmark was made you still have to apply for the funds regardless. So, we don't know if these are assured at all at this point. In order to talk about this a little bit, I wanted to review some of the existing projects that are going on with Parks & Recreation.

We have the Open Space Greenway Plan, which is going on and a grant from the Fish & Boat Commission for the purchase of the previously mentioned Fort Hunter Station. We are working with/through Williams Township on various grants for the first six miles of the Lykens Rails to Trail. Also mentioned is the remediation of the Fort Hunter Station property. We are planning on applying for a grant during the next month to help with that. We have been approved for Growing Greener Funds to do some improvements at Wildwood Park. The Friends of Fort Hunter and the Trustees have set aside the money to move the Heckton Church, again as previously discussed. They have also agreed, along with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to fund the Master Plan for Fort Hunter Park, which is pivotal towards any future projects there and ties into what we are going to be talking about shortly. Part of the Growing Greener Funds, \$150,000, has already been set aside to implement some of

the things of that Master Plan that requires matches. I would also mention that is almost \$1.5 million in projects, which has next to zero County funds going towards them.

If we were able to fold that \$100,000 into the Fort Hunter Park Project, we could possibly fund the development of the Fort Hunter Station property, the development to provide services around the new location of the Heckton Church, to do landscaping at the old location of the Heckton Church, to do roadway enhancements along Fishing Creek Valley Road, to provide better facilities for parking in the field during our large special events and also the idea of a linear trail that includes the old canal towpath connecting the different parts of the Park and we hope that will also lead to connectivity with the Greenbelt at a later date, which ends at Wildwood Park at this point. That is the comments that I have to make. Do you have any questions for me?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Carl, are there any projects at Wildwood potentially that this money could be used for?

Mr. Dickson: We already have \$350,000 in projects planned for Wildwood.

Mr. Haste: They have already been earmarked.

Mr. DiFrancesco: That's right.

Mr. Dickson: And approved. We are now proceeding to start up on that project. Those include things like restrooms for the north end of the Park, a part of the trail floods on a regular basis we hope to put in a boardwalk and to improve the circulation around the Nature Center. Right now the pedestrians and runners kind of run in the same area as cars do. So, the design needs some help on that.

I would like to invite you and anyone to a wagon tour of the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail on Sunday, October 12th from 1:30 to 3:30. There is a group from upper Dauphin County that are gathering to see a trail in action, to talk to the people that maintain it and the people that developed it, to answer a lot of questions about what is involved in that. We encourage anyone who is interested to either contact me or Tim Poole to make reservations.

Mr. Saylor: Can I ask something just to clarify the records? Are you going to come back to us or send to us a proposal or something for the additional monies?

Mr. Haste: It is mentioned right here.

Mr. Saylor: Do we need to have an authorization of that or reauthorization of that since we voted on the Growing Greener Plan?

Mr. Haste: I guess it doesn't hurt.

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board amend the Growing Greener Plan and to shift the \$100,000 to Fort Hunter and that the staff do the appropriate notifications; motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Lengle: I have some Salary Board items. Are there any questions on any of those items? (There was none.)

Are there any questions on the Personnel Transactions Listing?

Mr. Saylor: Commissioner DiFrancesco, I would draw your attention to Item #14.

Ms. Lengle: There is nothing that is requiring a vote today.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You all should have received the Packet yesterday. It is a small one and believe it or not there are no over budgets this week to fix. I did want to point out that there was an item that was pulled last week. Commissioner Hartwick had some questions and he wanted to follow up on it. It was for a Palm Pilot for Children & Youth. I have received some communications between Sandy Pintarch and the Commissioner. I believe he is with Peter and I think they are working all of that out. I believe he had a concern about whether it was similar to a Blackberry. It is not. It doesn't do as much. It's more of an organizer type thing and they use it in the field. I'm thinking they are going to get it resolved and if they do I will have it back in the Packet next week for approval. I know Commissioner Hartwick is away, but I believe he is with Peter and they are going to discuss it.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Just to be clear, I think the concern and at least this is my concern, I don't know if it was George's or not, but not so much that it was like a Blackberry, but simply it costs the County a heck of a lot less to buy a little paper calendar every year for those. For years they have been making paper calendars work and now to start getting into this newfangled stuff that costs hundreds of dollars. Again, I think it was a matter of cost cutting, because in terms of the Blackberry it is not just the phone service, it is the fact that you have to buy the units and everything else. Once people start using them everybody wants to use them. Surprisingly paper and pencil still work rather well and it is a heck of a lot cheaper.

Mr. Baratucci: We do spend quite a bit on those. I know a lot of people still use them. I thought the concern was that there would be additional costs like the Blackberry's have a monthly cost. These do not. It is once and done. I guess these are the older version, before the Blackberry's. Not many people use these as much. Most of the people do go to the Blackberry area, because you can do a lot more with those. Whatever the concerns are I know they are communicating and hopefully they will come up with an

idea. It is not on this Packet, but if it is going to be considered again I'll get it back on the Packet for next week once it is resolved.

Mr. DiFrancesco: It should be noted for the record that Randy had the opportunity to be at the historic last game at Yankee Stadium. That is noteworthy for the record. A piece of history.

Mr. Baratucci: It was fantastic. I have a little bit of dirt from the stadium in my office.

Mr. Haste: Was it obtained legally?

Mr. Baratucci: I refuse to answer on the ground that you may prosecute me.

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Saylor: There is nothing on the training packet.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Amendment #1 to Purchase of Service Agreement between the Department of Drug and Alcohol and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg. **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED 9/24/08***)**
- B. Agreement with Comcast for the installation of cable Internet at the Weatherization Office. **(***A VOTE IS REQUESTED 9/24/08***)**
- C. Requests for Exoneration:
 - 1. Progress Ridge Mobile Home Park (April Waulk) Parcel #62-033-103-028-0045 - \$61.75.
 - 2. Cedar Manor Mobile Home Community (Jeffrey Houpp) Parcel #34-026-005-137-0696 - \$362.26.
- D. Approval of Repository Sale – Parcel #8-27-9, Richard W. Lewis - \$350.00.
- E. Court Ordered Refund of 2006 and 2007 Real Estate Taxes – Hershey Foods Corporation, Parcels #24-029-034 and #24-029-040 - \$21, 610.30.

Mr. Haste: We have Items A through E that have made its way to the Agenda. Item A and B, we need to take a vote on. Are there any questions regarding A and B? (There was none.)

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – WILLIAM TULLY, ESQ.

Mr. Saylor on behalf of Mr. Tully: You have copies of the Solicitor's Report and if there are any questions I'm sure he will be able to answer them. (There was none.)

Mr. Haste: I'm sure if Bill had an issue he would have left us know.

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – CHAD SAYLOR

Mr. Saylor: Likewise, I have nothing unless there are questions of me. (There was none.)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: We have Retirement Board and we will go into that as soon as we are able to set up.

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. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Haste that the Board adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz