



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2004

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Burns, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff; Bill Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Robert Dick, Treasurer; Marie Rebeck, Controller; Carolyn Thompson, Court Administrator; Randy Baratucci, Purchasing Director; Mike Yohe, Budget Director; Rick Wynn, Human Services Director; August "Skip" Memmi, Economic Development; Faye Fisher, Personnel Director; Kay Sinner, Personnel; Tom Guenther, Information Technology Director; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office; Kacey Truax, Commissioners' Office; Diane McNaughton, Communications; Jennifer Kocher, Director of Communications; Garry Esworthy, Risk Manager; Noel Falk, Parks & Recreation; Guy Beneventano, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Sharon Ludwig, Personnel; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Bob Christoff, Conservation District; Mike Pries, Security Director; Julia E. Nace, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Jens Damgaard, Rhoads & Sinon; Lou Verdelli, Public Financial Management; Jack Shertzer, Patriot News; Darnell Williams

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 Minutes that we'll take action on next week. They are the January 14, 2004 Legislative Meeting; January 14, 2004 Salary Board Meeting; and January 21, 2004 Workshop 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.)

PERSONNEL

Ms. Sinner: We have Salary Board requests. There is one from Children & Youth to eliminate a Casework Manager I and create a Casework Supervisor position.

Mr. Haste: Is that position vacant?

Ms. Sinner: Yes, it is. At Spring Creek, there is a vacant carpenter position which there is no longer a need for a carpenter. They would like to eliminate that position and create a skilled maintenance worker position. Additionally, there are two other maintenance workers occupying those positions who are being classified as skilled maintenance workers. Their duties more closely fit the job description of the skilled maintenance worker. The Prison is reclassifying a Treatment Coordinator. This is just moving from one range to a higher range because of the duties involving that position.

Mr. Haste: Can we go back to the Spring Creek positions? When this is all said and done, will we have two or three skilled maintenance workers?

Ms. Sinner: There will be three skilled maintenance worker positions, two occupied and one vacant. Additionally, there are some other occupied skilled maintenance worker positions at Spring Creek. The employees are already in a skilled maintenance worker position if my memory serves me correctly. There is actually a grievance about this. It is a couple of years old that they were arguing that they were doing out of classification work that the maintenance workers were doing the work of a skilled maintenance worker. We felt that they should be paid based on that pay level.

Are there any more questions?

Next we have the vacancy listing, in Aging there is an Administrative III position open. In Children & Youth there is a caseworker position open and a program specialist. Community & Economic Development has a Department Clerk III/Program Assistant Coordinator position open. The Controller has an Accounts Clerk I position open. Spring Creek has nursing positions. Adult Probation has a maintenance supervisor position open.

We have the new hires listing and changes listing. I don't have anything to point out on those. We have the overtime reports and no requests for overtime.

Mr. Haste: On the Prison overtime when it is administration, don't they have to ask for that ahead of time?

Ms. Sinner: Yes, and they generally do. I don't have any requests right now. Usually the requests that I get are for correctional officers.

Mr. Haste: The Warden had asked and indicated that he might be submitting a request for some administration overtime. I was looking for it.

Ms. Sinner: I didn't get it.

Mr. DiFrancesco: As far as the Schaffner overtime, I sent up a request yesterday. I want to work with your office. I understand there are a number of vacancies out there that would impact the use of overtime. What I need to determine is in fact and I'm assuming it is the case, that if we fill vacancies, a full time person with benefits is less expensive than continuing to pay overtime. Also, obviously the work place is better when people aren't being asked to work overtime on a regular basis. That is something that I will continue to work on as oversight at Schaffner and bring before the Board that we may need to push to hire more people at Schaffner to fill some of those vacancies because the cost in terms of overtime have just been unbelievable. We got to get that under control.

Mr. Hartwick: Nick, how do you handle the Spring Creek overtime situation?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Spring Creek is a little different. We have to continue to work on that, but the problem there is the nursing shortage that you hear about so often and trying to find nurses to work, trying to find nurse assistants, etc. That's a little more challenging because we have to figure out ways to recruit. Those are vacancies that we would all choose to fill if we had a pool of available people. The problem is the pool is not there. That maybe the case at Schaffner, as well, but I've not been apprised that-that would be the same situation at Schaffner. I think Schaffner is more by choice that we haven't filled vacancies whereas at Spring Creek we're trying like crazy to fill them but it's been a challenge. The goal is that as everything else continues to improve at Spring Creek

we'll also somehow get that overtime under control too and be able to recruit the folks that we need in order to get those numbers down.

Mr. Haste: Are there any other questions for Kay? (There were none.)

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Burns: Commissioners, there are nineteen items today. They have all been preapproved by the oversight Commissioner and they can all be held over until next week for consideration.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You should have received your purchase order packet yesterday. There are three items that need to be resolved from a budget standpoint. Two of them are relatively minor. One on page 19, I want to confirm I think Commissioner DiFrancesco has told John Long to find money for this. This is to pay ZA. There is a purchase order here to match with the contract for the \$195,000. If you look on page 19, you can see there is particularly nothing in that line item. Obviously, it wasn't planned for at budget time. My understanding is that Nick has talked to John and they are working on that. So hopefully by next week there will be money identified to pay for that.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Obviously, that is a major hit. We will continue to look for money. There is still a question out there as far as some of that money what will be covered by reimbursements. We got to put it all together. But again, the Board had to make a decision in moving forward with Spring Creek whether or not we were going to allow the facility to not continue or to take the steps necessary to bring it back into compliance. I'm happy to report that the initial reports that I'm getting back are very positive that good steps are being made over there. I will keep the Board up-to-date on what is happening. You are right, we still need to move some things around.

I have one question on that line item. This is more a general procedural question. We are approving the \$195,000, but that obviously is not the cost of the contract. The contract is narrowly bowing. So that is just an approval to the max for purchasing purposes and then they will draw down as appropriate or how?

Mr. Baratucci: The way I understand it is, I was reading the contract, it looked like and then again if this is a wrong interpretation, let me know. It looked like when I saw it, this \$195,000 was a not to exceed amount that would run from the time they took over just until February 24th.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Right.

Mr. Baratucci: Then they are contracted to run again until May or sometime?

Mr. DiFrancesco: No, that was for the entire phase of the four months contract.

Mr. Baratucci: The way the contract reads, it looks like this \$195,000 is a not to exceed amount only through February 24th. It looks like there might be more money after February 24th. I asked John to verify that and I'm waiting to hear back from him.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Others may want to take a look at that as well, because that's....

Mr. Tully: Significant.

Mr. Baratucci: There is a fee chart as you mentioned in the contract.

Mr. DiFrancesco: It is hourly.

Mr. Baratucci: Right, but the way it reads to me, and then again, I'm not a lawyer, so I will talk with Bill.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Follow up on that. But that is not my recollection. If that is the case..

Mr. Baratucci: If the \$195,000 is the total amount, you are correct it will go into the purchase order as this and then it would just be drawn down as necessary.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Which is what my expectation would be.

Mr. Baratucci: We'll fix that for next week.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Yes, it is very important that we verify that.

Mr. Baratucci: Does anybody have any other questions? (There were none) It can be held over until next week then.

DIRECTORS/GUESTS

- A. Lou Verdelli, Public Financial Management and David Twaddell, Esq., Rhoads & Sinon
 - 1. Ordinance No. 1-2004 Bond Issue to Refund/Restructure Bonds (a vote is requested 2/04/04)

Mr. Verdelli: Last week you authorized your financing team to proceed with restructuring a portion of the County's 2004 debt service. During the last week, the entire financing team has done a great deal of work to pull all of this together. I would be remiss not to thank your Budget Director. We put incredible demands upon him and he came through in time last week that we are able to be back here. He does deserve to be recognized.

If you want to turn to page A5 that is labeled Bond Sale Document, just to kind of begin the report. I think you are familiar with the transaction but I want to give you a picture of

what interest rates have been doing and put into perspective of where we are historically in terms of interest rates. On page A5 at the top, there you can see interest rates over the last 34 years and see that the line has come drastically down close to where we were last summer when we hit all time lows where the line is down near 4%. It continues to be a good time to take advantage of opportunities like these. The lower portion of A5 shows what rates have done in the last four months. You can see we have seen a steady downward decline and with the exception of just last week when there was a little bit of a spike up when you see interest rates we were able to complete this transaction. It is helpful to see this chart.

The next page that has the colored bar chart at the bottom is really the summary of all the numbers that I'll skip instead of taking you through all the complex details. Basically the chart is showing if you look down at the bottom on the lower left where it shows 2004, where that red line is that was the debt service that was scheduled to be paid here in 2004. Where the line is now or where the bar chart stops is the debt service that will actually be paid. And our green area in 2012, 2013, 2014 shows where the new debt service is located. That produces about a \$6.5 million reduction in the debt service for this calendar year. In column 8, at the bottom shows the present value cost of that at \$209,000. That is down from a couple of weeks ago when we first presented. This was about \$230,000 and that is reflective of interest rates coming down and some of the other issuance costs coming in lower than what we have budgeted.

That's really the summary of the transaction. The big picture, obviously there are a lot of numbers. There was a portion that had to be done as taxable debt and there was also a portion that was done as tax exempt bonds really for tax reasons that we had to go through with your bond counsel, Rhoads & Sinon.

Just to show you the interest rates on this new debt, if you turn to page 14 of the numbers can show you the tax exempt portion. On page 14, if you look in column 86, it's labeled rate and you go down that column, you can see the three interest rates on the three tax exempt maturities ranging from 3.25% to 3.65%. So those are the tax exempt interest rates that you would be locking in if you accept this proposal today. That's the tax exempt piece. If you turn a few more pages back to page 19, that's the portion, the \$1.9 million that are taxable bonds. In column 144 there you can see the interest rate ended up being 4.6%. Again, that one really came in lower. We were able to price that one pretty efficiently compared to what we had originally projected. We had a number in there that was closer to 5.5% a few weeks ago.

On page 20, shows the breakdown of the sources and the uses of the funds. The majority of this money will all be used to be deposited into escrow accounts. But the other issuance costs are broken out there for you.

The transaction will settle on February 27th. Obviously, it is a very tight timeline that we are working under which is why we're going to need some signatures from you today so that we can get things filed over at the state to meet that target of settling on February 27th.

Overall, I'm pleased to report that the results came in a little bit better than what we were originally projecting. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Haste: I don't have any. I understand that we need to take action today?

Mr. Burns: Correct, Commissioners.

Mr. Verdelli: If there are no other questions for me, Mr. Jens Damgaard is here from Rhoads and Sinon, who can briefly review the Ordinance that you have before you.

Mr. Damgaard: I'll be brief as well. Commissioners you have before you a proposed Ordinance which puts in many words the financial information that Mr. Verdelli just described for you. As you know it approves two series of bonds. One tax exempt and one taxable which will accomplish the restructuring that has been described. This Ordinance format is something that is familiar to you having been approved in various forms in the past by the County. It secures the notes, they're called notes, and it's for really a technical reason, no financial reason. They are backed by a pledge of the full faith credit and taxing power of the County. There's a covenant to budget appropriate and pay these amounts. The documents associated with the transaction are to be filed with the State and that's why we have to get that approved and back. The goal would be to have the closing on the 27th in hence have realized the initial savings beginning on March 1. So the only formal action required to take of the entire transaction is the enactment of this Ordinance.

Mr. Haste: Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1-2004?

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick to adopt Ordinance No. 1-2004; motion carries.

Mr. Haste: Mike do you have anything that you need to add at this time?

Mr. Yohe: No.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Haste: We have on the agenda items for discussion, A thru G. Bob Christoff would you like to come up and brief the Board? Bob, is here for the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

- A. Adopt a Resolution implementing a Mid-Dauphin Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan.

Mr. Christoff: The Plan you have before you is for the Mid-Dauphin watersheds. The Mid-Dauphin watersheds consist of Fishing Creek, Stony Creek, Clarks Creek, Powells Creek, Armstrong Creek, and Gurdy Run. The Plan was developed under Act 167 which is a Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act. What that Act does is each

county is to develop a stormwater management plan by watershed for all the designated watersheds within the County's jurisdiction. The Plan is developed in conjunction with the municipalities through what is called a Watershed Plan Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the municipalities, the County Planning Commission, and other interested entities such as the watershed organization or municipal water authority. The Act lays out the implementation process which consists of the review of the final draft by the municipalities, DEP, County Planning Commission, followed by a public hearing. Once those items are accomplished and any comments are addressed it then goes to the County for adoption by resolution. Adoption of the Plan does not entail any responsibilities for implementation or enforcement of the Plan. It's a procedural item. Following that, it goes to DEP for final approval and once that final approval is given the requirements of the Plan go back to the municipalities to implement through local ordinances. What the Plan does is that it establishes stormwater management standards for peak flow, rates, ground water recharge, water quality, and channel protection. Those standards would then be incorporated into the local stormwater ordinances and any new development has to meet those standards as part of the approval process at the local level for the development.

Mr. Haste: How long will it take to get the Plan up and ready for us to adopt?

Mr. Christoff: I'm sorry.

Mr. Haste: How long do you think it will be until you come back before us?

Mr. Christoff: For?

Mr. Haste: The resolution.

Mr. Christoff: We should be ready with a resolution today.

Mr. Haste: So this one has already been completed?

Mr. Christoff: Right, assuming there are no additional comments by DEP that draft will be a final version.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions for Bob? (There were none) We'll take action next week. You don't need it this week, right?

Mr. Christoff: No.

Mr. Haste: We have two appointments. Bob do you want to speak to Item D?

- B. Appoint Daryl LeHew to the Dauphin County Planning Commission.
- C. Reappoint Frank Pinto to the Capital Area Transit Authority.

Mr. Burns: These are change orders for two of the contractors on the Courthouse renovations to extend the completion dates to May 14, and there is no additional cost to the change orders. It is just a change in the date.

Mr. Hartwick: Just as long as they are not requiring us to provide any expenditures as a result of the extension.

Mr. Tully: What it boils down to, there are deadlines that would basically make them pay for delay damages. This is basically recognizing the defacto extension to relieve them of that but we are not making any commitment of any financial cost to it. This is essentially recognition of what had been put in place by the other extensions that we have dealt with. This simply puts the other contractors on notice that they have this window within which to do the work.

Mr. Hartwick: We are not expecting any additional change orders that are going to require us to make payment to any contractors?

Mr. Tully: Not that I'm aware at this particular point.

Mr. Hartwick: Thank you.

- D. Change Orders for the Dauphin County Courthouse renovations:
(extend contract substantial completion date to May 14, 2004-
there is no additional cost)
 - 1. Change Order #2002-01-27 with Jay R. Reynolds.
 - 2. Change Order #2002-01-26 with ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corp.
- E. Change Order #1 with Jay Fulkroad & Sons, Inc., Dauphin County Bridge Maintenance for work initiated on bridge numbers 26, 28, and 54S as well as elimination of work items at Bridge No. 32. The result of this change order will be a net decrease in the contract price of \$5,961.
- F. Removal of Gleason Insurance as insurance broker of record.
- G. Application for a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) Local Government Matching Grant sponsored by Metro Arts/Jump Street in an amt. of \$4,600.
- H. Fill vacancy on the Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative Board.
- I. Adopt a Resolution requesting the Dauphin County General Authority to amend its by-laws to add two additional members to its Board of Directors, thereby increasing its board from five members to seven members. The two new members, like the previous five members shall be appointed by the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Haste: Is there any thing else that needs to be discussed through I?

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tully: There is nothing to change from the draft that has been provided to you. There may be an additional matter based upon something coming out of Human Services. I think that was just placed to be reviewed with some additional information for you. But other than that, I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I have one question, and actually my fellow commissioners might have some insight, the Understanding Agreement with Steelton with the CDBG money, help me to understand exactly what that is. I read Mike Musser's letter. What exactly is that Memorandum putting into place?

Mr. Hartwick: Steelton is the only community in my understanding in Dauphin County that meets the demographic requirements to be called an entitlement community. Each year they negotiate, based upon the County status that we have in Dauphin County, as to what their entitlement would be each year. This is simply a commitment from the Board of Commissioners to either maintain or keep the entitlement level at the current rate that it has been in the previous years. Most other individual municipalities send requests and based upon their needs for CDBG money, as you know they have to meet certain social and economic conditions in order for you to qualify to be able to use the money there. So you look at project by project in other communities, where Steelton based upon the entire community, qualifies as an entitlement community under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mr. DiFrancesco: And they are in fact the only one in the County that does that?

Mr. Hartwick: It is my understanding that's the case.

Mr. Haste: I think part of what happened was that they used to get their entitlement directly. Is that right?

Mr. Tully: Right now.

Mr. Haste: When the feds changed it theirs was lumped into the County's. I think at that time the Board had recognized what they are asking us to do is to continue to recognize the fact that they used to get it directly and since it got lumped in basically we are just now channeling what was directly sent to them back to them again.

Mr. DiFrancesco: And that gives them the ability then to have a more stable idea of what they are getting each year.

Mr. Hartwick: That is correct. We define it and get it approved based upon our surveys and the demographics in our investment in each area that we are legally able to spend the money there. We've come up with a list of priorities and we do it. The City of Harrisburg, I don't think uses the County for their CDBG Program.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Right.

Mr. Hartwick: The Borough of Steelton is an entitlement community and they will have it passed through the County.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Thank you.

Mr. Haste: Are there any other questions for Bill? (There were none)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: Do either of you have any comments?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Yes, just a note that the Governor had his budget message and one of the areas most affected as far as my oversight goes, is the Dauphin County Library System. I've been trying to keep my fellow Commissioners up-to-date because there has been a lot of public comment on the libraries, the changing of the hours, staff reductions that are necessary based on the cuts that were made in last year's budget, etc. I think the paper accurately reflected the fact that while there is a 10% increase in this year's budget proposed that is in fact a 10% off the nearly 50% cuts of last year. We're still behind in times in terms of what is being offered and research being available to the community. From what I'm seeing, the response of the library system, they are doing the best job they can to ensure that library services will be available to Dauphin County residents. I for one believe that when we talk about quality of life issues a healthy library system is just part of the life blood of the County. They are taking steps to do the best they can with the money that they have available. I also want to bring to the Board's attention and give credit to because specifically I know that Senator Brightbill and Senator Gordner in the upper end of Dauphin County have stepped up to try to use their offices and some funds that they have available to them to enhance the services that are taking place in the upper end of the County. I think that is important to note. I'm not certain that the community has a sense of all the things that the library does, the services that they provide because I know I didn't have a complete sense when I came into this office. Things like outreach at the Prison, certainly outreach to the community in unorthodox ways. I just wanted to bring it up that I for one will continue to push to keep this issue out in the forefront. I do appreciate what is going on at the State level. They are having the same types of struggles that we're having in terms of budgets. They have to make very difficult decisions. I just hope that the decisions that they are making truly weigh a good sense of priorities in terms of that we cut libraries before we cut maybe some other things in the State budget. I for one am not certain that the amount of money that goes into for instance advertising, I'm seeing a lot more billboard advertising and when it is a program that affects the community, I guess it makes sense to bring awareness to it. But there is some other advertising that goes on and I look at it and say, why are tax dollars paying for this? I guess my message is one that we are doing the best that we can to keep the services available and two, that I think we need to stay on the State to make certain that the priorities are not lost sight of, and that we continue to remind them that there are things that take place. I'm sure

George will have some thoughts as well with money that goes directly to the Human Services programs that just can't get lost in the overall site of the State budget priorities. These are important things that have significant meaning to the community and a lot of the issues that we are dealing with are, yeah, you can cut my money now but in the long run it's going to cost you a lot more money because we're taking resources away from families that may need that money to survive and grow and get out of situations that they are in. I just wanted to bring the Board up to speed as to what is going on. I will continue to notify you in terms of the areas that I have oversight of that continue to be in the press. I think the libraries will continue to be in press for a little while. Thank you.

Mr. Haste: Do you have anything else?

Mr. DiFrancesco: There is one item and I forgot to bring this up last week. We have to appoint an Acting Director for Emergency Management. It would be my recommendation that Greg Kline be appointed as Acting Director until we are able to fill that vacancy with the ultimate hire to replace Director Wertz.

Mr. Haste: I think we need to do that procedurally with the paperwork.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Right, I'm just bringing that up so that you know that. That would be my intent.

Mr. Hartwick: Just two comments. We are monitoring the Human Services side of the proposed Governor's budget and have been pleased by what we have seen so far. We are making sure that no debt scams are being played with federal funds that would put us in a far worse position. We were much pleased early on with the commitment of the Administration. But we will certainly monitor the situation so those essential services are not being cut.

Second question I have is just a procedural one. As it relates to any appointments that we have for any Boards or Commissions, what is the process that we want to be undertaking as the Board in order to take a look at those individuals who we're recommending to be placed on the agenda?

Mr. Haste: I think we had this discussion yesterday. If we each have a list of vacancies, and if you have someone that you think would be appropriate for the vacancy....the reason we have Workshop Meetings one week and Legislative Meetings the next is so we can propose those at a Workshop. Put them out for the rest of the Board and then we will take action the following week.

Mr. Hartwick: So procedurally if we note there are vacancies, get that request to Bob and that would be placed on the Workshop agenda for discussion.

Mr. Haste: Correct.

Mr. Hartwick: Thank you.

Mr. Haste: Is there anything else?

Mr. Hartwick: That's it.

Mr. Haste: I would like to report that on Monday evening I made a surprise visit to the Prison. I was there for the second and third shift. I joked with Jack on the way in here. I said I wished I had thought to have taken him along because the Prison actually surprised me as to how orderly it was. I went there knowing the Warden would not be around. So I did it so it would be without his direction and no one knew I was coming. When I went in, I looked back the hallway to see if there was an officer or a captain that I knew and there happened to be one. So I just went in and said that's who I wanted to see and they wanted to know if I wanted him to come front or if I wanted to go in back. I said I wanted to go in back. So I'm sure within ten minutes everybody in the facility knew I was there but at least they did not know I was there to begin with.

I walked through every single section of the Prison. I actually went through the coolers, the kitchen, and the dry storage area. There were a couple of things I was looking for in particular where I heard complaints of rodents and roaches. I found absolutely not a single roach. I found no clear evidence of rodents. I'm sure there are rodents there because there were traps. But there were no places where I found rodent droppings, and there were no bags of food torn open and eaten by rodents. I went into the walk-in coolers to make sure that the food that was stored was stored properly and everything had saran wrap over it. It was stored and labeled as it is supposed to be done. There were no dirty dishes sitting around. There was no slop on the floor. There was no water lying around. I was actually surprised.

The other thing that surprised me, I can remember years gone by taking tours out there in the evening and having the population being rather disruptive and rather rude as people walked around. At 10:00 p.m. it's sort of lights out in the Prison and people are in their bunks. At 10:00 it was quiet. When I walked through there I was really surprised how quiet and orderly everything was.

I did talk to folks about the food. Some people said and for some who don't know the guards also have the opportunity to eat the same food that the inmates eat. Some of the guards said it was lousy food, other guards said it was good food, and others would talk and say about how....I remember one guys comment...that he really didn't see the food any different than hospital food. He's been in the hospital and he can't say that when he left he thought the food was great. He would never say boy their food was good while I stayed there. It's institutional food so I think that is part of the problem.

But I also think that it's good that the District Attorney is looking to see if there are any unethical or illegal things being done at the Prison. I think food is one of those items that you put ten people in a room and you're going to get ten different impressions on how the meal was. Some will like it and some won't, some will think it's to spicy, some

will think it is to bland. The key is that we make sure that we meet the nutritional value. And if in fact, that's being shortcut I want to know.

I was pleasantly surprised on how well run that facility was and done so without the Warden being there. The Warden had been away for about four days visiting his ill father-in-law. That's why I picked the time that I did to go there because I knew he would not be there and have influence on anybody. The staff did an excellent job. Sorry I didn't have you there, Jack, that would have been a good story to tell. I purposely went looking for problems and really did not find any.

I went to the showers and you hear stories about showers. I said you know they're not showers that we would have in our homes. They're not ceramic tile. They're not the industrial showers. Those showers were nicer than any visitors' locker room in football or wrestling that I was ever in. You know how visitors are treated.

Mr. Hartwick: Are you referring to people not from Steelton?

Mr. Haste: You guys don't even have them for the home team, do you!

Mr. Hartwick: We've kept costs down.

Mr. Haste: I will continue to do that at times when it is least expected I will show up out there. It was a pleasant surprise. I expected things to be in good shape but they were better than I expected. Is there anything else? (There was none.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are again at the point in time for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board at this time?

Mr. Williams: My name is Darnell Williams. I live at 2402 Magnolia Drive, Harrisburg, 17104. The reason why I'm in front of you Commissioners is I have a plan to bring jobs to Dauphin County. But, I need help from the local administrators, our state people, and definitely our U.S. Congressmen and Senators.

What I need from the Commissioners and from the municipalities is to talk to our Pennsylvania Congressional delegation and our two Senators.

What am I talking about? The President has made it clear that he wants us to go to Mars and the moon. You might say, what does that have to do with us? Well, it takes money to do that. No bucks, no buck rodders. We hold several votes in the Senate and Congress to make that happen. What I want our Senators and Congressmen to do is tell the President and tell the rest of Congress that we want some of the jobs because they are going to reorganize NASA and take eleven billion dollars and do something else with it. I would like one billion dollars to come to central Pennsylvania.

We can't have large complexes here because we are so far away from the equator. It takes too much fuel to have a rocket leave central Pennsylvania and go into orbit around the equator. I'm not about to ask you to help me get that. As far as building rockets here in Pennsylvania, we may have a steel mill in Steelton but we would have to build a large complex to turn out rockets and somehow ship them to Cape Canaveral. I'm not for that but what we can do, we can do a lot of administrative work here in central Pennsylvania. We could do a lot of medical work here in central Pennsylvania. We could do a lot of research here in central Pennsylvania. So we can get over a 1,000 jobs here or 10,000 jobs really here in central Pennsylvania. That's what I'm talking about \$1 billion. I would like to see NASA here. A lot of that money NASA doesn't oversee itself. They bring in contractors. I want our Congressmen and Senators to say, if this program goes forward, we would like to see contractors set up NASA work here in central Pennsylvania. Now, where would they set it up? Mr. DiFrancesco, I believe you are from Swatara?

Mr. DiFrancesco: Lower Swatara.

Mr. Williams: We have several office complexes in that area and I think most of the buildings are really half vacant. We need businesses to come in there. Harrisburg has several offices that are vacant. We could use businesses here.

The Earthlink's organization will be leaving soon. They're at the corner of Routes 81 & 83 that's a big building there and will be vacant soon. That could be used as administration headquarters.

Lower Paxton sporadically throughout there are office complexes and a lot of those offices are vacant. We have the capacity for administrative purposes to bring NASA here and do work here. If we could get work here, we could get people back to work and we could get our taxes paid and solve a lot of your problems. So basically that is why I'm in front of you with this. I would like you to contact our Congressmen and Senators and explain this to them.

Now I don't agree and you have a letter in front of you from Mayor Reed, he says well it's just in discussion. That's why I'm coming to you now because the U.S. Congress Science Committee have already started discussing what they are going to do and how it's going to get what. Basically at the committee meeting about two weeks ago, it's mostly southern states that are divvying this up. I think that Pennsylvania as being one of the states in the union should get some of that money. If we wait until it gets to the floor of Congress or gets to the floor of the Senate, all the deals will be cut and dry. So what I want to happen is I want our Congressmen and Senators to get in on the ground floor to discuss getting these jobs in Pennsylvania before it is too late. Do you have any questions?

Mr. Haste: I have a suggestion. When you talk about the medical, right away I thought about Hershey and the BioMed. I would suggest and I looked at your list, I see you didn't send it to anybody at Hershey or Representative Payne. I would suggest you

send this out to Hershey Med as well as Representative Payne. Again when you think of medicine and research, the first thing that pops into my mind is Hershey and the BioMed efforts they are trying to do.

Mr. Williams: I agree. I'll tell you Commissioner the one reason why I haven't sent it to all the politicians outside of my realm is because a lot of times a U.S. Senator or a State Senator or Representative will not look at mail outside of their constituency. That's another reason why I'm coming to you because they will talk to you where they will not talk to me most of the time.

Mr. Haste: With the BioMedical research, we would want Hershey and logically they should be stepping up to the plate and say that's something that I have interest in or they say that doesn't fit into our realm. I wouldn't want to advocate putting something there if they don't want or it's not with their program.

Mr. Williams: I agree. I agree with you 100%. NASA may have contractors in the medical realm who would want to put a center here where it is in their realm and employ us. What I'm after is getting employment to our people. That is the objective.

Mr. Haste: Those are usually nice paying jobs.

Mr. Hartwick: You are just simply asking us as a request from this Board of Commissioners to send forth a letter trying to at least allow our Congressmen and Senators to take a look and lobby to try to bring these NASA jobs here?

Mr. Williams: Exactly.

Mr. Hartwick: I don't have a problem with that. While you are here, it reminded me, did we have an opportunity to do any dry running of any of the TV stuff yet for WHGB?

Mrs. Kocher: No-no meetings have been held in the hearing room. We should have an appointment in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Hartwick: Thank you.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I just wanted to commend you for coming forward with this because often times proposals like that.....this may go somewhere or may not go anywhere but the bottom line is to show the initiative to get attention to central Pennsylvania. This is what this Board has been about all along. We know all the positive things we have to offer. We know the resources that are here. The Hershey Medical Center is a huge resource. Arguably it is probably one of the best research institutions in the nation. It may very well be a draw for NASA to come here. Often times these types of areas are overlooked by them. So, I want to commend you and I think we absolutely should as a Board contact our officials and say, hey, take a look at us. It would look pretty lock key goal for the President and it was a pretty bold move for him to come out and even bring this proposal forward because this will not be an easy task to achieve. He's going to

need people with energy. He's going to need people with commitment. He's going to need people who share positive vision and have some hope that we can achieve it. I think we have a lot of positive energy in central Pennsylvania. I appreciate your coming forward. I would hope that we would act on it as a Board. We're going to promote central Pennsylvania as much as we can everywhere. This would be a get avenue.

Mr. Williams: I'm a citizen and I grew up in an area where government worked both ways. President Kennedy once said, "What can you do for your country?" That's how I grew up. If a person has an idea they go through officials and discuss it with their officials. They don't sit at home and wait for their officials to come up with all the ideas.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Please keep on coming.

Mr. Haste: Is there anybody else? (There were none.)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Haste: Is there a motion to adjourn?

It was moved by moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick to adjourn the meeting; motion carries.

Transcribed by: Julia E. Nace
Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Burns, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff

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