



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Workshop Meeting

March 17, 2004

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; Bill Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Randy Baratucci, Purchasing Director; Tom Guenther, IT Director; Carolyn Thompson, Court Administrator; Jennifer Kocher, Communications; Diane McNaughton, Communications; Edgar Cohen, Facilities Maintenance Director; Steve Chiavetta, Registration & Elections Director; Faye Fisher, Personnel Director; Greg Bush, IT; Dan Robinson, Economic Development Director; Steve Howe, Director of Tax Assessment; Sandy Moore, Human Services Director; Robert Burns, Commissioners' Office; Kay Sinner, Personnel; Sharon Ludwig, Personnel; Noel Falk, County Project Assistant; Barry Wyrick, Director of MH/MR; Elizabeth Nichols, Dauphin County Prison; Dave Schreiber, Personnel; Shari Eagle, Information Technology; Robert Knupp, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Solicitor's Office; M. Eileen Carsen; Kim Starsnic; Marge Ebersole, Children & Youth; Julia Nace, Assistant Chief Clerk; Kelly Wolf, Solid Waste; Melanie McCaffrey, Solicitor's Office; Kacey Truax, Commissioners' Office; Jena Wolgemuth, Commissioners' Office; Richie Martz, Commissioners' Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Jack Sherzer, Patriot-News; Bill Cluck, Esq.; Andrew Giorgione, Esq.; Barry Ramper; Don Schell; Chuck Shughart; Bruce Walter, Esq.; Nicholas Remick; Joe Cathcart; John Dormuth; Allen McCormack

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 number of Minutes that will be approved next week.

ELECTION BOARD

(The Minutes of the Election Board Meeting are on file in the Commissioners' Office.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are at the point in time in the meeting where the microphone is open for people in the audience if they want to address the Board. (There was none.)

PERSONNEL

Ms. Sinner: In the packet, the first item is the Vacancies Listing and I would request that you vote on and approve Item #1 in the Children and Youth Department, so that we can begin the advertisement for that position as soon as possible. The New Hires Listing, Item #1 I would request a vote for approval today also, because the start date is March 22, 2004. The Changes Listing, overtime reports and there is a request from Mr. Guenther to pay Randy Thoman 35 hours of unused leave. He was unable to take vacation because of a project that he is working on. There are two requests for overtime at the Prison for Pay Period #7 and #8.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions of Kay?

Mr. Hartwick: The request for the unpaid leave, is this a union position?

Ms. Sinner: No.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Board approve Item #1 of the New Hires Listing and Item #1 of the Vacancies Listing; motion carried.

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Saylor: We have the Training Packet and it contains 11 items that were pre-approved.

TEFRA HEARING

(The Minutes from the TEFRA Hearing are on file in the Commissioners' Office.)

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: You should have all received your packet yesterday. There are no additions at this point. As usual, there are a number of line items that need budget adjustments and they have been turned over to Mr. Yohe. Mr. Yohe and myself will work on those between now and next week. If you have any questions, I will answer them. Otherwise, it is there for your review and we will have a corrected packet for you next week.

DIRECTORS/GUESTS

COMMISSIONERS

Presentation National Social Services Month Proclamation

Mr. Haste: At this point in time, we, as a Board of Commissioners, would like to proclaim National Social Services Month for this month and Commissioner Hartwick has a Proclamation to present.

Mr. Hartwick: First of all, I would like to, in recognition of the National Social Services Month, I am proud to talk about the great work and accomplishments of our many folks working in health and human services. We have been recently bestowed the honor of a \$500,000 federal grant for some of the work that we have done in family group conferencing. I think this Board of Commissioners, the direction that we have taken, is to ask the leadership to think out of the box, think creatively about the ways that we solve our problems in human services. We also have made it very clear that the individuals who are on the front lines doing the job, the caseworkers and the people who actually see the crisis and are involved, are the ones who really make and break County government. You have to have a passion to serve, not any of you are motivated by money, if you are you would be in the wrong business, being in the health and human services side. But ultimately the passion that you share for serving the people in need in the area of mental health, agency on aging, children and youth, certainly is recognized and today if we could just share two stories before we issue the Proclamation from two folks who have done great work in our human services side.

We have a representative today from MH/MR, as well as Barry Wyrick, the Director of MH/MR. The representative here today is Syngred Briddell. Crisis Intervention staff are regularly confronted with situations requiring immediate action, evaluation and provision of services. Such was the case recently when two elderly twin sisters who have

psychiatric disabilities suddenly became homeless after they were evicted from their home of nine years. This crisis program paid for temporary lodging for these sisters and along with the staff from Area Agency on Aging worked intensively with these ladies for over a week to secure a mental health case management service and more permanent housing. We would like to thank MH/MR, Barry Wyrick and Syngred for the work that they have done. As you can see working across systems, our human services department noticing that we have aging issues, mental health issues, children and youth issues, drug and alcohol issues and making sure that we tie those agencies together seamlessly in order to provide the services and to get the services that are so desperately needed and we thank you for your service.

Karen Carlton is a social worker in our Children and Youth Services. Through great persistence and initiative on her part, Karen recently succeeded in finding a home for a young teenage boy who was left on his own after his father died and the rest of his family was placed in a shelter for abused women. Karen worked with law enforcement to investigate and ultimately uncover sexual abuse of the siblings. Karen is now working to get this young man's sisters out of foster care and into good homes as well. Karen Carlton, we also applaud you for your services. Please join me in giving these folks a round of applause.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I have an employee in the audience that I would like to recognize. Carol Mohr is an employee at Spring Creek. You have heard me talk often about the employees at Spring Creek and Carol is here today to be honored by this Proclamation. She has worked at Spring Creek for six years and enjoys working with the residents. One of her comments is that you have to have a sense of humor in working around them because they say the funniest things and the interaction is so important. One of the other points noted was the fact that often times to the residents, this is their family. They may or may not have other people and the employees out there tend to be their support unit, their comfort when they need it. These are people that work with a tremendous amount of heart. It is my opinion that you could not survive in a facility like that unless your heart is completely committed to this work. So, we commend you for making people's lives better out there and commend everybody that you work with as well. You have proven yourself very well over the past couple months and I suspect that we will continue to do good things over the year, but it is all about the residents.

Mr. Haste: I too would like to make a comment. When you think of social services we often times think about our human services side of the County in those departments. But, as Nick as indicated, social services crosses many of our different departments in the work that we provide to the residents. The person that I would like to recognize is Deputy Warden Betsy Nichols from the Prison. Betsy and her staff are in charge of the social services at the Prison. That is in a very difficult and tough environment. It is actually an environment in which, unfortunately, the government basically ignores. If you look at the funding of services provided from when the money stream comes in from the federal or the state government, it is provided until you are incarcerated. Once you are incarcerated, the state and federal government basically says that we can't pay for these services any more. So, then those services have to come out of the County's budget. It is very ironic that most of those folks end up there because of a very severe problem that is a social problem in many cases that could be treated elsewhere. So,

Betsy and her staff are challenged every day to try to keep these services going. They basically become a band-aid. Some of these people had services before they got there. They get lost while they are there and then they go back out to the streets and we expect those services to be picked up instantaneously and these people will be taken care of. They do a tremendous amount of work there. One of the things that I have looked at under Betsy's direction, is the educational program. I have started to look at the impact that education has on those inmates. The GED Program and the LASER Program are under Betsy's direction. The thing that we have found is that there is a direct correlation between the level of education and the recidivism rate. The recidivism rate is in the mid 80's for most people that come to the Prison. Those that go in the GED Program that recidivism rate drops down to about 20%. It is a significant drop of those who do not come back based upon the educational level. You think of social services in the human services, but I would be willing to bet that if you pull out any one of our departments the work that is provided to the citizens, there is some sort of social service work being done by our County employees. I am proud to join George and Nick in declaring this Social Services Month.

Mr. Hartwick: I would like to read the Proclamation, but we are also thinking across the systems and thinking differently in human service development and trying to make sure we place money where those needs are in both Spring Creek and the Prison, which is a little different than what has happened in the past. Yesterday, I served all day as a correctional officer. The bad part is I saw some of the real mental health needs that are out there for some of those folks and trying to provide training in order to deal with those individuals is an essential part of the cure. I commend you for bringing that initiative to the floor and we look forward to working across those lines in order to serve all the folks in need.

**Office of County Commissioner
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania**

Proclamation

We, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners, join communities across the nation in honoring the social workers who have dedicated their lives to helping others, and we welcome this opportunity to applaud their passion for enhancing the welfare of individuals, families and the community;

Whereas, every day, social workers tackle the nation's toughest problems, including poverty, drug addiction, mental illness and prejudice, making the world a better place, one problem at a time;

Whereas, more than one-half million social workers throughout the United States instill hope in people's lives, conquer challenges and empower and enrich individual lives and society as a whole;

Whereas, social workers challenge the system to advocate social and political change, giving voice to those who thought they had none, regardless of race, creed or age;

Whereas, Dauphin County's social workers have increased adoptions in the county by 300 percent, implemented Family Group Conferencing—a first for the state, expanded efforts to address juvenile delinquency and developed intergenerational programs for children and seniors;

Whereas, these often-unsung heroes labor quietly and capably in hospitals, schools, prisons and other sites, yet their healing touch extends far beyond their immediate circles;

Therefore, we join the 251,300 residents of Dauphin County in commending and thanking all of Dauphin County's dedicated social workers; and in their honor, we do hereby formally proclaim March 2004 to be "Professional Social Work Month" in Dauphin County; and we urge all citizens to follow the inspirational lead of our social workers in reaching out to everyone with healing and compassion.

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of the Commissioners of Dauphin County to be affixed this 17th day of March, 2004.

(The Commissioners acknowledged the staff that were present to accept the Proclamation on behalf of the entire social services staff.)

BARRY RAMPER/DON SCHELL

Overview of the HACC Select Medical Health Education Pavilion

Mr. Ramper: I am here to present to you a project by the Harrisburg Area Community College, a Select Medical Health Education Pavilion, to answer any questions that you may have and to also ask for your assistance as this program is greatly needed both from an educational perspective, but is also important from the provider perspective, because there is a great need, not only in Central Pennsylvania, but also throughout the United States for skilled and qualified trained individuals to provide the services needed for all aspects of healthcare. At this time I would like to introduce Don Schell, who is a Trustee of HACC and is also the co-chair for this project.

Mr. Schell: Thank you for the opportunity to come down and speak to you briefly about the capital campaign that is currently going on at the Wildwood Campus. It is the first major campaign that HACC has ever undertaken. I gave you some materials, mostly campaign brochure materials and an overview. I will quickly go through the campaign. As you know there is a crisis in the healthcare area in personnel and folks that can work in these specific areas. Frankly, HACC has simply run out of space. This past year we had to turn applicants away because we had no classroom space to place them. This was the reason why we embarked on this campaign. Our overview was that we launched the campaign in late November of last year. We hope to break ground on the healthcare facility this spring and on the early childhood development center about a month later. Closing the campaign sometime this late summer, in terms of the fund-raising efforts. Hopefully, those two facilities will be open on campus to receive students in 2005. It is a \$12 million project. We hope to raise \$7 million through private fund-raising efforts. The other \$5 million will be matched by the Commonwealth for the bricks and mortar portion of the campaign. Major contributors to the campaign have been the Select Medical Corporation, who has named the healthcare facility, my co-chair, former Governor Leader, who has named the nursing education center of the pavilion, and you may have seen the paper this morning, Grace Pollack has very generously named the childcare and early childhood education center. What many don't realize is that at HACC we provide education in 27 health careers, either certificate or degree programs. The larger programs being nursing and dental hygiene. In order to fill the stock gap right now we entered into a long term lease at the Penn Center for 61,000 square feet. Most of these careers are being taught down there and next year when we get the new building open then nine of those health careers will move back to the main campus. The balance will continue to be taught at the Penn Center location. In the handout, there is a schematic for the first and second floor of the Health Education Pavilion. The first floor is being dedicated to the dental hygiene area, because this particular curriculum has the general public walking in to have their teeth cleaned and it is easy for them to access. The second floor is primarily for the nursing

education programs, EMT, etc. On page 5, is the projected student enrollment, five years after the buildings are up and in place. As you can see, there are significant growth and capacity that we will be able to handle in terms of nursing education and dental hygiene. Most of them would be able to increase by 100%. Several of the limiting factors in the nursing area are in addition to the classroom space, you also need the clinical space that goes hand-in-hand with the nursing education. The availability of clinical space is somewhat limited in our geographic area. The other limitation is recruiting qualified teachers and professionals to teach these areas, as well. Childcare is very important as you saw from the article. The average age of the HACC student is 27 years old. Many of them have children, mostly under 10 years of age. Our new childcare center will be licensed by the State Department of Public Welfare. We are going to be able to increase the capacity of the children that we serve from 63 to 163. In your packet, I have put together a proposal for you to consider making a contribution to the capital campaign of \$25,000; which can be payable over a five year period. We hope that you feel this would be a worthwhile project that Dauphin County could and would contribute to. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Haste: Any questions of Mr. Schell or Mr. Ramper?

Mr. DiFrancesco: You are going to be training good long term workers as well, because we have a continuing need for that.

Mr. Schell: Absolutely. Our Director/Dean of Workforce Development has worked in the past with the Commissioners in terms of putting some programs together to increase the CNA's at the County Home. Those services continue to be available. We hold regular job fairs on campus. We would certainly hope that you would send the appropriate personnel to participate in those. There are a host of other partnership opportunities that might be available through the Workforce Development at the campus.

Mr. DiFrancesco: We look forward to exploring all of those.

Mr. Schell: I am sure Nancy Rockey will be in touch.

Mr. Haste: I would favor making a contribution from the County to this program. So, we need to find out where we can get those funds. I believe it is an investment, given the nursing home situation, that could pay off dividends for the County.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Likewise.

Mr. Ramper and Mr. Schell: Thank you for your consideration.

ANDREW GIORGIONE, ESQ./KELLY WOLF
Revised Dauphin County Waste Management Plan

Mr. Giorgione: I am here to discuss the documents that were provided to you last week with regard to the Plan Revision to the County's Waste Plan. There are three documents that are before you. The Plan Revision itself, the Ordinance which the

Board will be approving which approves the Plan Revision and also a draft of the rules and regulations which the Ordinance directs that they be amended consistent with the Plan and the Ordinance. The documents are fairly cumbersome, but I will try to provide a brief summary and then will open it up for questions.

The Plan was most recently substantially revised and approved by this Board in December 2002. That approval and that Plan will continue to be implemented until May 18, 2006. Why that is a trigger date is that the existing contracts with the waste facilities that you have will expire on that date. After that date, what will happen is the retrofit of the incinerator will be complete and pursuant to the bids that we did last year, waste will then be directed to the Harrisburg Incinerator for processing and disposal. The existing facilities will be offered the ability to participate in the Plan for ash that comes from the incinerator; which can be used for daily cover at the landfills and also to provide bypass waste services. What I mean by bypass it can come in a couple of different forms. It could be waste that the incinerator cannot process, because it cannot be incinerated or it could be an instance where there is a short term shut down at the incinerator therefore it has to go to another location. All incinerators have bypass waste facilities as backup. There is a process in the Plan and in the Rules and Regulations that permit other incinerators to participate in the Plan going forward so that there is always a competitive process built into the planning for waste disposal. That is basically the crux of the changes that are in the Plan for what was approved in December 2002.

The Ordinance essentially authorizes in Section 2 what we just discussed in that the Plan will continue to operate as it has until May 2006 and then pursuant to the Disposal Agreement between the Harrisburg Authority and the County signed September 23, 2003, after May 18, 2006 waste will go to the Incinerator. It also discusses the bypass waste process that we just discussed. Section 3 of the Ordinance just discusses the license of haulers; which we have done for over a decade. Section 4 talks about amending the County Rules and Regulations consistent with the Plan and the Ordinance.

I wanted to give you a brief update of the public participation that has gone into this Planning Process. In April 2003, the County provided notices to all the municipalities that we were going to look at amending the Plan again and go out for bid for municipal waste combustion capacity. We did that bid in June and the bids were received in August and evaluated by an independent engineer and the Harrisburg Authority's bid was selected. We had several public meetings, as Commissioner Haste recalls, with regard to the contract with the Authority and notices were sent to the municipalities regarding the contract and ultimately, as I stated earlier, that contract was approved on September 23, 2003. We then went into the Plan Revision drafting process. On October 30th, we met with the County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee and advised them that we were working on the Plan and how we were envisioning the Plan would be amended. We then, in December, provided a draft of the Plan to the members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and we met with them again. As I recall, it was February 2nd and we took their comments on the Plan and incorporated a lot of the comments although there were a substantial amount of comments with regard to the Plan that sort of went beyond the scope of what we envisioned this revision doing, which was implementing the Plan with the Authority. There are certain issues that we

may have to address in the future and will continue to talk to you about that as we continue to meet with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Shortly after our meeting with SWAC, we then provided a draft of the plan to all the municipalities in the County and provided them until March 10th to provide comments. We received written comments from Washington Township. They raised similar concerns that they raised before that they were just concerned being the upper part of the County having waste coming down to the incinerator. We also, yesterday, met with Upper Paxton Township. They requested a meeting. Their major concern was if the Dauphin Meadows Landfill did open and it is in their municipality what would happen going forward in using the incinerator. We have to work through a couple of those issues and I am meeting with Commissioner Haste about some of those issues. Otherwise, we didn't receive any comments from any other municipalities. The process going forward would be we would ask the Commissioners to consider the Ordinance and approving the Plan at the next meeting on the 24th. We would then submit it to DEP for approval and then hopefully by the end of April, the DEP will provide their approval. A couple of side notes. The first is that we were just recently awarded a grant for our work in putting the Plan revision together, which covers not only consultant time, my time plus staff time.

I also wanted to provide an update, your Chief Clerk asked if I could provide an quick update on the status of the retrofit project. We are in the early stages of the project. The first thing that had to occur is the removal of any asbestos from the site before any work could begin. The asbestos contract was awarded in February. It actually came in almost 30% under budget; which was good. The work is proceeding and it is almost complete. The next step is the demolition. Those bids were just opened on the 12th. They should be awarded shortly and that work should begin and should only last about 45 days. The actual meat of the construction would then begin. The bids received for the construction met the timeframe that the Authority was requesting and are over 20% under budget. Bids are coming in on time and they are under budget. Any questions?

Mr. Haste: I am very familiar with this one.

Mr. Hartwick: Could I be included in that meeting to hear about some of the updates, etc.? I have heard some comments from the upper end as well.

Mr. Giorgione: We are meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Commissioner.

Mr. Hartwick: One other thing while Kelly is here. I heard from Halifax yesterday about the recycling center being continually overflowed and not being able to place the recyclables in, because it is always packed. This is a good thing, but I just wanted to know what the schedule is. If we are using it that much we need to make sure that it is not full all the time.

Ms. Wolf: Our guys currently go to every site throughout the County from Gratz, Lykens, down to Conewago on a daily basis to pick up the material. What we are finding that is happening is that a lot of businesses use the facility as well so the bins fill up quickly. What we can do to resolve the problem is that we can apply for additional bins through a DEP grant for 90% reimbursement and hopefully that would alleviate the overflow.

Mr. Haste: Are the guys keeping track of the volume that they are picking up at each place and if so does it indicate the same thing that Mr. Hartwick has heard?

Ms. Wolf: Every day they have a daily activity sheet at each site and they are to eyeball and estimate, from one to five, five being completely full at each site. They do, as well, clean up at the site. Example, yesterday when Mr. Giorgione and I were in Upper Paxton Township, the gentleman said that the Millersburg site is always full and it looked like a dump. I was not aware of that and I keep in contact with Skip in Millersburg and we haven't had any complaints from them. In fact, we added bins, because it is constantly full. So, Mr. Giorgione and I stopped by the Millersburg site yesterday on the way back and it was clean. There was not a spot of litter. The guys are very thorough.

Mr. Giorgione: This program, which started in 2001, has exceeded expectations, almost ten fold. We originally envisioned one driver, one truck and eight different sites. We went with eight sites almost immediately. The volume was excessive. We went to another driver and another truck; which we got a grant for. On our drive back yesterday, we said we may have to go back for more drivers, trucks and bins. The fact that commercial entities are using the sites is not necessarily a bad thing, because we are recycling. We get grants for volume. One of the things that we are finding is that where we went after a certain amount of cardboard bins figuring that residents wouldn't necessarily use those, but the businesses are. I live near the uptown plaza and the Save-a-Lot and the markets are just loading them up with cardboard, but that is what we are supposed to be doing.

DAN ROBINSON

Harrisburg East Mall Tax Increment Financing

Mr. Robinson: Our Chief Clerk met with the IDA Solicitor and asked me to speak this morning about the TIF Project in Swatara Township. A little bit of background – after several years of serious decline the East Mall is at a crisis point and we feel the survival of the Mall is crucial to the economic well-being of Swatara Township, Central Dauphin and Dauphin County. A unique major development undertaking proposed in the Plan, which will be presented next week, will move the East Mall into a new retail concept; which incorporates a major tourist destination. The Dauphin County IDA is proposing the establishment of a tax incremental district; which will encompass the East Mall designating the East Mall Incremental District for consideration next week. There won't be an active vote that will need to be taken. The law requires the County to hold a public hearing 30 days after notice is published. That was published February 16th so next week will be after the 30 day waiting period. The adoption of the plan will occur later this summer, but the purpose next week will just be to hold a public hearing and to entertain any public comments from the local municipality, school district or the county.

Mr. Haste: In this TIF area is there any other businesses, other than the East Mall, included in that area?

Mr. Robinson: The initial plan that was presented to you and even myself last fall included part of Tech Port and Crossgates. That has been taken out. It only encompasses the East Mall. I would entertain any questions. The period of time for the incremental financing is not to exceed 15 years and there will be a provision in the TIF Agreement that will ensure that should any of the tax structure change in the next ten years, whether that be due to legislative action at the State level, that there would be a structuring to collect the property tax in lieu of any changes.

Mr. Hartwick: I believe Swatara Township has given approval. There was an issue with Central Dauphin School District. Can you give us an update?

Mr. Robinson: An update is that Swatara Township has given a resolution endorsing the project. They have not officially adopted it. Central Dauphin, as of March 9th, sent a letter to Chairman Haste advising that their Board of Directors has also endorsed the project. From the School District level, obviously our end would be the last to come in, but it appears that everything is in order.

Mr. DiFrancesco: I am probably one of the hardest sales job you can get in terms of providing tax incentives for businesses to come into particular areas, as a general philosophy. This particular project, what we would be giving in terms of tax relief will be more than brought back to us with what this particular project will generate. We are turning a facility that was really in decline into a very viable commerce center. We are making it through our agreements a building that is worth something again. Whereas, it was very quickly heading into a building that was going to be demolished. From the first time I learned of this project, I was very excited about it and I think this is an appropriate use of tax relief or tax agreement to bring this type of facility into the area.

Mr. Robinson: Through Tax Assessment in 1998, the property was based on \$67 million. The company that is buying the East Mall has agreed not to appeal the current assessment at \$35.6 million. They purchased the East Mall for about \$18 million. By freezing that and the actions that you take this summer that will ensure the viability of that entity.

Mr. Haste: That is important to know, they are being frozen at today's tax rate. They are not actually getting a tax cut, but they agreed and there is probably a legitimate reason for them to go in and ask for an appeal since it's valued at \$35 million and they bought it for \$18 million and they agreed not to do that because I think they see that it will be valued even more once the project is completed. It was a good trade-off.

Mr. DiFrancesco: They are going to put quite a bit of money into it.

Mr. Robinson: If you have driven by that location, the Bass Pro Shop is underway, in terms of renovations of the old Lord and Taylor space. There is a new sign in the back going up about Boscovs. Things are happening.

At least one Commissioner has expressed some concern about the road and that asset, which will be great for tourism and bringing new cars and businesses in to I83. In the overall revitalization cost, there is some public improvement money set aside for a new

signal improvement at Paxton Street and Route 441. There are also some upgrades to the whole interchange where Wendy's and East Mall meet. We are hopeful that will alleviate some of the concerns to some degree.

Mr. DiFrancesco: We need to keep pushing to make sure that interchange remains a priority and gets stepped up in the overall plan. While this is a great project and should be urged to move forward in every way, we need to make sure that the infrastructure is there to support it. Right now, I am concerned that the infrastructure is not there. If you use the Cabellas as an example down in Berks County, when the crowds come in and the crowds do come in, it's virtual gridlock around there. We have to make sure that we are not gridlocking such a key corridor through our area. We just can't allow that to happen. We have to keep pushing PennDOT and our Federal legislators that in fact we may need some special consideration because that road is not just a link or pathway through our community, it is a major network that connects portions of the entire Northeast. We will continue to push that message with our elected representatives above us.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Haste: We have Items A through D. I see Item A needs a vote.

It was moved by Mr. DiFrancesco and seconded by Mr. Hartwick that the Board approve an Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement with PEMA for reimbursement of half of the salary of an approved staff position (salary and benefits for Fiscal Year 2004 (10/2003 thru 9/2004); motion carried.

Mr. Haste: Items B, C and D (listed below) will be on next week's Agenda for approval.

- B. Exoneration of 2003 Delinquent County Taxes for the Calvary Independent Church property located at 6300 State Route 209, Lykens, PA, parcel #69-014-020 in the amt. of \$844.67.
- C. Union Contracts:
 - 1. Teamsters Local 776 – Court Appointed Professionals (Adult/Juvenile Probation and Domestic Relations- Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2006)
 - 2. Dauphin County Detectives Association (Jan. 1, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2006)
- D. Reappoint Daniel R. Tunnell to the Dauphin County Planning Commission.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tully: There are no additions or changes to the Solicitor's Report that was provided yesterday.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. DiFrancesco: I have two issues that I would like to talk about. First, I had the pleasure of going to the State Convention Visitor's Bureau Dinner last evening where the Governor presented some works in progress in terms of where the Commonwealth is going with their advertising campaign. I have to say that I was pretty impressed by what I saw. It was an intelligent campaign and a lot of the materials were presented to the group as well, in terms of the first exposure that these were getting to the general public. My feeling is that as we move forward, if the Commonwealth is going to be spending a lot of money promoting Pennsylvania, this would be a great time for us to get our people involved and piggyback on what they are doing. We have a tremendous pot of money in terms of tourism dollars that I think is very important that we use wisely. If the Commonwealth is going to be promoting all of Pennsylvania or various regions of Pennsylvania through their ad campaign, I think it would be a good idea for us to reach out to them and find out how we can piggyback, possibly share some of the expertise that has already been provided to the Commonwealth in terms of having brochures made up for Dauphin County. This Board has talked about making it a very high priority promoting the fishing and gaming that we have to offer and the outdoor activities that we have to offer and I think it would be a good opportunity to piggyback on that. I have asked Jenn to reach out to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Hartwick: I have already had some discussions with Tim Reeves and David Black about this exact topic.

Mr. DiFrancesco: Also the tourism grants that we have traditionally given out to the communities and various agencies, as a Board I would like us to sit down and maybe come to terms as to whether or not we continue that. I know I have some grant requests sitting on my desk right now, as I think you all do as well. We need to figure out how we use this money most efficiently in our community. We have some real potential and I think this Board has a genuine strong commitment to promoting this area like it has never been before. I think we need to take a look and reevaluate how that money is being spent.

Second point, we are arguably three to five months away from the heart of the budget process where we really get down to carving numbers. I have put a memo out to all department heads requesting a briefing. I really want to get a firm grip on what we are mandated to provide in terms of services and what is our discretion to provide in terms of services. It is very important to me, when we move forward in this budget process, we all know that we have talked about this and it is not going to be an easy year. We are going to have a very difficult decision facing us at the end of the year. I want to make certain that we know exactly what we have discretion over and I want to be able to present an image to the public that says if in fact, even if it is possible to do away with the deficit that we are looking at, what would it mean to this area? Would it mean eliminating all parks and recreation, eliminating services to the elderly in terms of the senior centers and so forth. It is important that we get a firm grip. In light of that and what I am asking is that Chad and Mike Yohe pick up the ball and work with the department heads and directors. Just my opinion and I welcome comments from my colleagues, I want to know that every position in the County is justified. I want every

director to have to take a look at their office and decide even within the comment of whether it is a mandated or discretionary item, I want to know that every position in that office is justified. Because, obviously we have, as we mentioned a very serious deficit looming, we go into this discussion talking about another 20% tax increase at the end of this year. I think it is each one of our goals to try to eliminate that as best we can. In order to do that we are going to have to make hard decisions and that cannot be done by waiting until the October or November timeframe and saying to all department heads go and cut 10 or 20% more, whatever it would take. I want to go on record right now to the department heads saying that this is the time, the next three months is the time, to look at your department operations and figure out where the cuts are going to be made, because the cuts are going to be required. I want to start getting that message out now, before we are down to the wire and that is why I have asked Chad and Mike to work with those department heads and row officers. I can see where a department head will come back and say this is justified, but I want to know if we are fat in any areas, if we have too much staff, not enough staff. I want to know that early on so we can make wise decisions, not last minute "have to" decisions.

Mr. Haste: I agree with all of that. I think also one thing should be made clear when we plan this year's budget we need to allow a couple of days for budget reviews, not just one day and it will be a line item by line item review, like I was used to in the past, not just a cursory review. Everybody needs to be in a position to justify every single line item in their budget and that includes the revenue side of the budget. We often times talk about the expenditure side and forget about the revenue side, but that is equally important.

Mr. DiFrancesco: If I could give the directors a sense of where I would like to go, I would like them to be thinking that this Board is going to eliminate the \$12 million deficit that we have projected. That is how I would like them to look at their operation. If it was given to me that I had to eliminate a \$12 million deficit, how would I do that? They need to be thinking in their minds how do I make those hard cuts. Not to say, that we would choose to get rid of our Parks & Recreation, but at least we need to know where we would go if that would be our only option.

Mr. Saylor: Would a meeting of the directors be in order?

Mr. Haste: At the next department heads meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board?

Mr. Cluck: I am an Environmental Lawyer and live in Shipoke and am a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. I appear before you today as a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee just to put on the record that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee did not vote to approve the proposed Non-substantial Plan Revision. The SWAC was not asked to approve or disapprove, they were just merely presented with a copy of the plan. I prepared almost ten pages of typed written comments. I have not received a response to those comments. I heard what Attorney Giorgione said today

with respect to some things that were changed in the Plan and most of the comments apparently weren't consistent to this particular revision. I would be interested to know which ones were adopted and which ones were not. In December 2002, the prior set of Commissioners approved an Ordinance in the last plan revision that in essence made the decision to switch from the use of landfills to incinerators. This whole process, over the past year, has been to justify that decision that was made two years ago. Accordingly, in Chapter 8 of the proposed plan revision, it is called public function and county ownership – in 2002 on December 27, the plan that was approved by the Commissioners said that the public function is best served through the use of privately owned facilities. Two years later the draft revision that is pending before you, that you will approve next week says that now the public function is best served by contract with the Harrisburg Incinerator. I want to know what the basis and justification for the public function two years ago being best served by private landfills and now being served by an incinerator. I raise the issue because obviously there will be a legal challenge by the landfill industry to the County's switch from a landfill to an incinerator. That will be a legal challenge brought under the Commerce clause. The concern I have as a taxpayer living in the City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County is giving additional grounds to a legal challenge based on failure to follow the Act 101 Planning Guidelines. That was the purpose of most of my written comments is that there is a strong disagreement between the County's consultants and myself over what is supposed to be included in the plan revision. I am not here today to convey that my point of view is right, what I am saying is that the public has never had an opportunity to comment. What Mr. Giorgione talked about today was the process where the municipalities were provided an opportunity to see how will this affect them. When was the public involved? When did the public get an opportunity to say I would like my garbage to go Harrisburg? I don't believe that has yet to occur and yet you are about to enact an ordinance next week, rules and regulations that I haven't seen yet and I am a member of SWAC. I have seen the plan, but I haven't seen the ordinance or the rules and regulations. My last point, according to the plan revision, section 12.1, it says during plan development "numerous methods were used to provide public participation to ensure a full, fair and open discussion of alternative methods of municipal waste processing and disposal". I didn't hear that presentation today. I heard Harrisburg Incinerator and we gave the municipalities a chance to comment. Where was the full, fair and open discussion among the public on that issue. Lastly, there is no mention of enforcement. My understanding is that your office of Solid Waste does not have the power to enforce the plan. It is up to you, the Commissioners, to empower them. If there are municipalities that are failing to recycle and they are required to recycle by law, isn't it the County's roll to step up and provide technical assistance and for those who don't accept that technical assistance and continue to flout the law then you have to take enforcement. I would like to see the County step up, because clearly the State DEP is not going to enforce Act 101. I thank you for your time.

All: Thank you, Bill.

TOM GUENTHER

Assistance for Windows XP Professional and/or Office XP or Office 2003 Deployment

Mr. Haste: Tom has found a way for the County to get some money.

Mr. Guenther: We like getting added to the Agenda when it is good news. About a year ago, we entered into an Enterprise Agreement for our Microsoft Desktop Software and that covers all the software for all the computers throughout the County. Late yesterday afternoon, I received word from Microsoft that we are eligible for \$20,000 in funding to help deploy Office 2003 to our Desktops. This is what we have planned as new computers are rolled in. It is part of our process. The \$20,000 that we are eligible for really would just go to offset our employee cost to do that. There are no other conditions. It is all part of our enterprise system. In essence it is a refund or credit for our agreement. I bring this to you today, because they are looking for a quick response and they would like something back today indicating that we have an interest in the \$20,000.

Mr. Haste: There is a document that I need to sign so I would like to have Board approval.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. DiFrancesco that the Chairman of the Board be authorized to execute a letter in which the County is eligible to receive \$20,000 in funding to help deploy Office 2003 to the desktops; motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Saylor: Just to remind everyone that next week is the County Commissioners Association Conference at the Harrisburg Hilton. There are many good topics that are being addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.

Transcribed by: Richie Martz

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Saylor, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff
printed 6/29/04