



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman
Lowman Henry, Vice Chairman
Anthony Petrucci, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Burns, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff; Julia E. Nace, Assistant Chief Clerk; President Judge Joseph Kleinfelter; Marie Rebuck, Controller; Robert Dick, Treasurer; Bill Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Carolyn Thompson, Court Administrator; Rick Wynn, Human Services Director; Mike Wertz, EMA Director; Roy Hyatt, EMA; Ed Chubb, Parks & Recreation Director; Faye Fisher, Personnel Director; Sharon Ludwig, Personnel; Gary Serhan, Controller's Office; Mike Pries, Security Director; Dan Mosel, Human Services; Anthony White, Fiscal Affairs Officer; Phil Intrieri, Deputy Court Administrator; Edgar Cohen, Facility Maintenance Director; Randy Baratucci, Purchasing Director; Garry Esworthy, Risk Manager; Kacey Truax, Commissioners Office; Diane McNaughton, Communications; Jennifer Kocher, Communications; Bob Knupp, Esq., Solicitor's Office

GUESTS PRESENT

Bill Kluck, Esq.

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 on the Agenda the May 6, 2003 Workshop Meeting Minutes and the May 6, 2003 Salary Board Meeting Minutes to be approved next week.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: We are at the time and place for public participation. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address the Board of Commissioners? Hearing none, we'll move onto the Personnel Packet.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Fisher: Good morning, Commissioners.

All: Good morning.

Ms. Fisher: We have several salary board items in the packet today. The first salary board request item is the creation of two (2) per diem County Casework Intern positions for Children & Youth. The creation of these two positions has been approved by Commissioner Henry.

The second item is for the Conservation District. This is to create a part time Resource Planner Intern position. Approved by Commissioner Petrucci.

The third item is also for the Conservation District. This is to create two (2) part time Agricultural Intern positions. Again approved by Commissioner Petrucci.

The next three items are for Dauphin Manor, reclassifications. The first is to reclassify an Assistant Director of Linen Services position to a Linen Services Manager position. The next is to reclassify a Plant Service Manager position. And the next is to reclassify an Assistant Director of Housekeeping position to a Housekeeping Manager position. All these reclassifications will be done to align more closely with the positions of comparable responsibility and compensation the position appropriately. All three of them have been approved by Commissioner Henry.

Finally, the last two are for Community and Economic Development. The first is to abolish a temporary Department Director position. The last is to abolish a full time Departmental Clerk II position.

That concludes the Salary Board items.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions for Faye?

Ms. Fisher: Moving into the regular Personnel Packet. We have the Workshop Agenda vacancy listing. All these positions have been shared with Mike Yohe.

Mr. Henry: We keep saying that but.....last year we held positions open and only filled them on a quarterly basis in order to make budget. I know this year we had even more positions that were sort of earmarked for being held open in order to make budget. Yet, we seem to be filling them every week. We have twenty-eight positions total on this packet alone. I'm going to ask Mike Yohe to take a look at this because for some reason we didn't have a quarterly budget review this year. I'm just concerned that we are filling these too rapidly to bring about the savings that we need to bring about in order to make budget. I don't want us to get to October or November and be in a position where we don't have the flexibility of holding things open in order to keep budgeting down. I'll send Mike an email.

Mr. Haste: Actually, we each have an email from Mike.

Mr. Henry: I'm sorry Jeff, but I just keep.....last year we didn't fill these positions with this amount of repetitively. This year we seem to be filling them as they come open. It doesn't add up to me that we had the discipline and we only filled them quarterly. We made the budget that we needed to make. Now we are just filling them as they come up that we should be able to achieve the same thing. It doesn't add up.

Mr. Haste: I think Mike is suggesting that we not, on some of these.

Mr. Henry: Okay.

Mr. Haste: Look at his email.

Mr. Henry: We need to take a harder look as these. Not only that, my question is whether in fact some of these may be necessary. We have a week I guess to work that out. Thank you.

Ms. Fisher: Moving on, we have the Workshop Agenda New Hires Listing. I would like to note that there is a new hire #14 for D. J. Shugar's Office. This person has started employment on May 12th. I emailed all of you as an FYI to this effect. Apparently, D. J. Shugar's Office was in dire need for a new hire to start in that department. I have Carolyn Thompson and Phil Intrieri here to answer any questions that you might have of the fact that the new hire has already started employment. This person has filled the position listed on the vacancy listing at the bottom under positions approved by the President Judge.

Mr. Haste: Why didn't it come through a meeting first?

Mr. Intrieri: I submitted the paperwork through the courts a week prior to the next meeting. It would have been in time for the next meeting. However, I think literally that the interoffice mail did not get it to the courts in time. Then there was an individual that was off a week. That is why there is a delayed submission on this. I would also say that in the district justice system we have eight positions that are currently vacant. It is out of those vacancies the only position that we really felt we had a dire need to fill and felt we had to react right away.

Mr. Haste: It still requires Board approval before someone is hired.

Mr. Intrieri: We understand that.

Ms. Fisher: Do you want to vote on that today since the person has started or do you just want it to go through the normal process?

Mr. Haste: I guess if we're going to approve it, I don't see what the difference a week will make.

Mr. Henry: Yes, if they already started.

Ms. Fisher: Okay, we'll just carry that over into next week.

Mr. Petrucci: I have a question in regard to the Changes Listings. Is that where we are headed next?

Ms. Fisher: Yes.

Mr. Petrucci: I see merit increases added in here midyear for #6, #7, #8 & #9. I have no doubt that there are people who deserve merit increases but as I have said in the previous commissioners' meetings, I believe there is a time of the year for merit increases and they shouldn't just crop up at anytime during the year when somebody feels like giving somebody a merit increase. So I would like to see justification for the merit increases and also ask why we aren't following a policy of doing this at a regularized time of the year.

Ms. Fisher: Actually, I just received notice regarding #6 that we can delete that merit increase from the list. It is my understanding that the merit increases for this department were approved by the oversight commissioner. I can certainly get you justification from the department director.

Next we have the overtime report for pay period #9.

We have one overtime request from the Prison.

And finally, we have a request from an employee who would like to enroll in the educational incentive program.

That concludes the personnel packet.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions for Faye?

TRAINING PACKET

Mr. Haste: Bob is there anything that we need to know?

Mr. Burns: I don't think so Mr. Chairman. There are fifteen items and they all can be carried over to next week.

Mr. Haste: Thank you.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Haste: Randy.

Mr. Baratucci: The packet is as you received it yesterday. There are no additions or changes to it. Mike and I went over all the budget issues and they will be corrected before next week. If you have questions, I would be happy to answer them otherwise it is there for you perusal between now and next week.

Mr. Haste: Any questions for Randy?

Mr. Petrucci: Not at this point.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. Michael Wertz, Director of EMA

1. Presentation of a Resolution adopting the Dauphin County 911 Revised Plan Revision 2003 thru 2006.

Mr. Haste: Mike Wertz.

Mr. Wertz: First, let me tell you that I'm not going to read this to you (referring to the Plan).

Mr. Petrucci: Thanks.

Mr. Henry: Thank you, you deserve a merit increase just for that.

Mr. Wertz: This took about four months to put together as the required 911 Plan, to continue our 911 Program and continue the collection under the Emergency Public Safety Telephone Act. You have in front of your or in your packet a resolution to adopt

this plan for the three year cycle that is due which is 2003 through 2006. What this plan does is it outlines where we are within the program now, where we expect to go and how we expect to spend that \$1.25 that is on the phone lines. Let me tell you that with the communications project that we had been discussing we continually put that into this plan. So that we don't have to go back to do revisions to the plan. If we could take the amount of money from each telephone line that we are spending it would be \$6.52 per line. The \$1.25 as you can see maintains our program. It doesn't give us any place to go with the changes. The plan is pretty basic in the fact that it covers the county's 911 system. It includes the 911 that is in the City that is the county system. We own that system. The City provides the people to answer the phones because they do their own police dispatch. Right now we back each other up. We have on occasion had the requirement to transfer the City's to us and answer their calls for them because of some mechanical problems in the system. The only time that we have done that to the City going the other way was in a test mode. So we have been a little more fortunate on the physical side of our plan. Again what is included is all the technical information that is needed by the state. PEMA has reviewed this draft and blessed it if we pass the resolution. It will have to go before the Public Utility Commission. What they do is sit down and crunch the numbers to insure that we met the \$1.25 requirement. We do not have to do a public meeting because we are not requesting a change. From the very beginning we went to the maximum allowable. We can't request a change. We sure know we don't want to go down. So there is no requirement for a public meeting. We have about 220,000 phone lines that are charged under the Emergency Public Safety Telephone Act. Everyone is \$1.25 depending upon the numbers for example, governments, large businesses, they are prorated down as far as I think 30% on a certain amount of numbers. We can't just say a \$1.25 times 220,000. We have been holding fairly steady. Last year, 2002 we budgeted for 3.2 million dollars revenue but we actually took in about 3.4 million. A lot of that was because of a lot of Internet connections offset the hard line costs where people are going to wireless. We've pretty well reached static level. We feel that we're going to see some drop offs as more wireless becomes more available. Wireless is not addressed in this plan. That is a separate issue. This addresses the hard line although we did mention from a technical aspect we are prepared to handle phase one of wireless. That talks to the technical specifications. The wireless issue is a separate issue and technically is not addressed in this plan.

Mr. Haste: Will we have to amend that if the law passes?

Mr. Wertz: Probably not because this is tariff and PUC based, wireless is FCC based. They could ask us for an amendment in regards to how we are going to proceed with wireless. We had been very fortunate in the fact that Mr. Hyatt has had the lead for the National Emergency Number Association, Pennsylvania's Chapter and the Associated Public Safety Communications Officer's Pennsylvania's Chapter, has chaired their committees in regards to wireless legislation. In fact, worked on a House and Senate committee to put the bill together. So we are fairly eminent and in fact are prepared for phase one of wireless. I think we are only a step or two away from being phase two

compliant for wireless which will allow us to start collecting revenues to install the automatic number and automatic location capabilities for wireless.

Mr. Haste: Are there any questions? Thanks for not reading the Plan. Do we need to adopt the resolution this week or can that wait until next week?

Mr. Wertz: Next week is fine. Then I'll take the original and get it over to PEMA.

Mr. Haste: Very good.

Mr. Henry: I do have one question. Did you mug Dan Mosel for that tie? That looks like one of his. That's pretty sharp.

Mr. Wertz: Thank you.

Mr. Henry: No matching socks?

Mr. Wertz: No.

Mr. Henry: We ask no more questions past that.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Haste: We have items A thru H for discussion. I see that Item A needs a vote today. That is the plan right here. That is to move forward with the bids for the Henninger Farm Covered Bridge project in Washington Township. Are there any other discussions, comments or questions to be raised on A thru H?

- A. Authorize the execution of the final plans for the rehabilitation of County Bridge No. 43A Henninger Farm Covered Bridge, located in Washington Township, Dauphin County.
- B. Proposed Resolution to contingently exempt real property taxes within a specific geographic area in the City of Harrisburg designated as a proposed Keystone Opportunity Enhancement Zone.
- C. Request from Bright Hope Ministries for exoneration of real estate taxes for 2001 and 2002.
- D. Proposed creation of "Tax Assessment Technology Committee" to consist of six members:
 - 1. Guy P. Beneventano, Esq.
 - 2. W. Douglas Mehaffie

3. Robert G. Radebach, Esq.
 4. William Sturges
 5. Richard Gibney
 6. Thomas Guenther
-
- E. Consent to proposed Stipulation of settlement for tax parcel #04-031-007, 130 Walnut Street and #04-032-005, 132 Walnut Street, Harrisburg.
 - F. Reappoint Marlin Zimmerman to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Term will expire August 26, 2007.
 - G. Appoint August "Skip" Memmi to the South Central Work Force Investment Board.
 - H. Correct May 6, 2003 appointment of Albert C. Mauldin to serve on the Youth Council Board affiliated with the Southcentral Workforce Investment Board with term to expire September 30, 2005.

Mr. Henry: Is it bids, it says execution of the final plans.

Mr. Haste: My understanding was it was ready to go to bid.

Mr. Henry: Is that encompassed in the execution of the final plans?

Mr. Haste: Yes, it says these are the final plans in anticipation of publicly bidding this project very soon. I have included the original Mylar cover sheet for the County's signature.

Mr. Henry: So we will be accepting the final plan and also authorizing to go out for bids.

Mr. Haste: Right. Anything else on A thru H? Is there a motion to accept the Final Plan and to authorize the bidding for the Henninger Farm Covered Bridge?

Mr. Henry: So moved.

Mr. Haste: Is there a second?

Mr. Petrucci: Second.

Mr. Haste: All those in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mr. Haste: Motion carries.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Haste: Is there anything under Commissioners' Comments?

Mr. Henry: I have one. I think that we should recognize, congratulate or offer our condolences depending upon how you want to look at it, Garry Esworthy, our Risk Manager, was successful yesterday in winning both nominations the Democratic and Republican for a seat on the Central Dauphin School Board. God Bless you, Garry. I think it's just great to have someone of your quality who is willing to step forward and take on what is a difficult role with pressing issues out in Central Dauphin. So congratulations on your win!

Mr. Esworthy: Thank you.

Mr. Haste: That must be the toughest public servant job in the County.

Mr. Henry: That is tough. My hat's off to you.

Mr. Haste: The school district always sees eye to eye out there....pay is very good! Anything else under Commissioners' comments?

Mr. Petrucci: Mr. Chairman if I might. Since we are talking about Garry for a moment I wanted to mention the receiving a memorandum from CCAP Insurance Programs in regard to embezzlement loss control. There is quite a list of counties and some of the incidences of theft from some of the departments. This is sort of an alert to the possibility of an awful lot of potential bad behavior on behalf of employees. This is from the insurance program that CCAP runs. I know that we are not a participant in that program. Garry is very aware of all that they do and how they do it. There is a mention of a long list of procedures that can help alleviate the risk of theft by employees from our multiple cash receiving departments. They appear to be all very good ideas. One of the things that we haven't done in my opinion to an extent that would be sufficient to be a careful monitor of some of our cash would be a selected and modified auditing of a very specific nature onto some of these cash departments. I point this out for Garry's perusal and I'll see that you get a copy to look at it.

Mr. Haste: Garry has it. When I received a copy I gave it to him. I think he is going to be pursuing that.

Mr. Petrucci: Great. Along the same lines I would like to ask our solicitor to sort of check out....there was this week in the local newspaper on Thursday, May 15, 2003, an article about an attorney making a plea of guilty in a fraud scheme to cheat a federal agency out of a lot of money. It is an attorney who has done some work for the county. I would suggest that he might want to check over some of those dealings to make sure that we are not in some kind of jeopardy there.

I would also like to spend just a moment to counter some of the comments that were made by my colleague, Mr. Henry, in regard to the Dauphin County Golf Course. Comments that I felt were well, probably bordering on slander in the sense that my reputation was called into question and also the truth of some of the information in regard to the Golf Course.

Yes, I did vote for the Golf Course and I did sign the contracts for them. That is true. What is not true is that this was not just a golf course. When Mr. Henry alludes to the fact that there are no buyers for the golf course because we paid more than we should have is to fail to understand that we bought more than a golf course. What we bought was a large tract of land that was ideally suited for a golf course along with an existing park and recreation facility, along with a Lion's Club building that is used. And so it is far more than just a golf course. So obviously, if you are trying to sell it as a golf course when it is a golf course and park and recreation facility with probably close to 25 to 30 acres that are in a park and recreation operation, you are not going to find someone willing to buy it. So to argue that we spent more than we should really begs the question what did we buy? And it certainly was more than a golf course. And it also is to stipulate that this is indeed an asset that should be considered a park and recreation facility. And it should indeed be run by our park and recreation facility. Right now it is not. I think that is a failure and that we need to address it. I just bring up this to correct the image that we just bought a golf course. We didn't just buy a golf course. We bought much more than that.

Mr. Henry: Mr. Chairman, in response I will note that the park and Lion's Club building are not worth five million dollars which is the amount of overpayment. It maybe worth a million. But the fact of the matter is, it was still grossly overpaid for. Only two commissioners voted for it so the action could not have happened. This is one place where Commissioner Petrucci cannot use his so called minority status as an excuse for evading his responsibility for his record. The fact of the matter is, you paid too much for that. The fact of the matter is, you were here when Forum Place happened and you were not a very effective watchdog on that either. All these things happened on your watch. And you cannot evade responsibility for them. If you thought it should be part of parks and recreation when you bought the course, you should have bought at the county instead of the General Authority and made it parks and recreation. To sit here and criticize that fact that it isn't now when you're the one who did it sort of begs the issue of what were you doing then.

Also, I will point out in talking to the pro out at the golf course the other day, that Dauphin Highlands is now the only four star, most highly rated golf course in Dauphin County. In terms of our entire region it had the second highest number of rounds played of any golf course in our region last season. The only one that had a higher number of rounds was Armitage which that was a course that was given to the township over there and basically their fees are almost nonexistent particularly for township residents. The course is doing quite well under current management and the fact of the matter is too much was paid. It is a fact and you can try to spin it as much as you like. But it is a fact.

Mr. Haste: Are there any other items under Commissioners' Comments? Hearing none, is there anything from the public that would like to be brought before the Board at this time?

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Haste: Please come to the table and state your name.

Mr. Kluck: I don't know how to follow that. I'm Bill Kluck. I'm an environmental attorney. I live at 587 Shower Street, in Shipoke.

I was going to comment about an advertisement in the paper but I just sat here and listened to that...this is a second week in a row. I think we should have these meetings televised. I think now that Comcast is going to have a public access station, I think it should be utilized so the public gets to observe this behavior.

Today in the Harrisburg Patriot there is a public notice that the Harrisburg Authority and the City of Harrisburg are seeking a renewal of a waste permit for the ash landfill and construction demolition waste landfill. According to the advertisement, Dauphin County is a host county. Under environmental law, typically the municipality where a facility is located is the host municipality that gets certain benefits under state statute. Such as fees, the ability to receive inspection reports and emissions data. But when the government runs the facility, in this case, the City of Harrisburg, the host responsibility and duty falls to the County. The County has an opportunity to comment within 60 days of receipt of the application. It's not clear to me from the ad when the application was received from the DEP so I can't tell you how much time you have to comment. My question is, will Dauphin County comment? Will Dauphin County submit recommendations for permit conditions, revisions, will you recommend approval or disapproval? The reason I raise the issue is I think Dauphin County has a conflict of interest. Dauphin County in 1999 or maybe it was 2000 entered into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Act with the City of Harrisburg. There were probably legitimate reasons at the time with respect to efficiencies and cost savings and utilizing the expertise of certain individuals. But the time has come to reevaluate. I think Dauphin County and the City of Harrisburg need to have an amicable divorce. Such that Dauphin County acts as independent oversight body for the facility in south Harrisburg. I hope you take that into consideration. I thank you for your time and have a great weekend.

Mr. Haste: Mr. Tully could you, I'm not aware of the timing of this permit application, could you make sure you or someone in the Solicitor's Office takes a look at that and brings the issue before us?

Mr. Tully: Yes.

Mr. Haste: Thank you. Anything else before the Board?

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Haste: Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Henry: So moved.

Mr. Haste: Is there a second?

Mr. Petrucci: Second.

Mr. Haste: All those in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mr. Haste: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Burns, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff

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