



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2003

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lowman Henry, Vice Chairman
Anthony Petrucci, Secretary

MEMBER ABSENT

Jeff Haste, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Burns, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff; Julia E. Nace, Assistant Chief Clerk; Marie Rebeck, Controller; Robert Dick, Treasurer; Bill Tully, Esq., Solicitor; Robert Knupp, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Bruce Foreman, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Guy Beneventano, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Phil Spaseff, Recorder of Deeds; Carolyn Thompson, Court Administrator; Gary Serhan, Deputy Controller; Diane McNaughton, Communications; Jennifer Kocher, Communications; Richie Martz, Commissioners' Office; Jane Gordon, Commissioners' Office; Kacey Truax, Commissioners' Office; Jena Woglemuth, Commissioners' Office; Tiva Woods, Chief Court Reporter; Randy Baratucci, Purchasing Director; Kay Sinner, Personnel; Sharon Ludwig, Personnel; David Schreiber, Personnel; John Orr, Director, Dauphin County Conservation District; Bob Christoff, Dauphin County Conservation District; Rick Wynn, Human Services Director; Michaelene Barone, Human Services; Kelly Wolf, Solid Waste Management; Dan Robinson, Director, Economic Development

GUESTS PRESENT

Bill Cluck; Dan Kern, Schaffner Youth Center

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Henry: Vice-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. Henry: We will forward the November 13, 2003 Legislative Meeting Minutes; November 13, 2003 Election Board Meeting Minutes; November 18, 2003 Workshop/Legislative Meeting Minutes; November 18, 2003 Salary Board Meeting Minutes and the November 18, 2003 Election Board Meeting Minutes to the Legislative Meeting next week for approval.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Henry: Do we have any member of the public that would care to address the Board? (There were none.)

SALARY BOARD

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

PERSONNEL

Ms. Sinner: I have several Salary Board requests. At this meeting, we are requesting all items in the Personnel Packet be voted on and approved today for the year end transactions.

Mr. Henry: We have the regular personnel matters in the personnel packet. Do we have a motion to approve the personnel packet?

Mr. Petrucci: Is this also being asked to be voted on today?

Ms. Sinner: Yes, it is.

Mr. Henry: If there are items you disagree with, we can hold it over for next week if necessary.

Mr. Petrucci: I would like a moment to look it over.

Ms. Sinner: Spring Creek is hiring a lot of people. There are a lot of Certified Nurse Assistants starting December 8th.

Mr. Henry: How did we find them? That's gratuitous.

Ms. Sinner: They went through the applications on hand and Barb Spangler helped with the interviewing to get a lot of people on board.

Mr. Henry: Good, that has been an ongoing source of difficulty for us as you are well aware.

Ms. Sinner: Yes.

Mr. Petrucci: I make a motion to accept the personnel packet as presented.

Mr. Henry: I will second. All in favor signify by saying, aye.

All: Aye.

Mr. Henry: Thank you, Kay, I appreciate your help this morning.

PURCHASE ORDERS

Mr. Baratucci: The packet is there for your review. We have talked the last time about the possibility of voting on these, but I think it is best that we hold them over. As Commissioner Haste is out hunting, so is our budget guru out hunting and I guess he didn't get a deer either. He'll be back tomorrow. There are some budget issues that we need to go over. Mike and I will do that between tomorrow and the end of the week. We will vote on this next week at the Legislative Meeting like usual.

There are two that I laid in front of you that did not get in the packet. They will be in the packet next week. The one is pretty cut and dry. It is some printers for two district justices. The other one I want to explain a little bit. There is a memo attached from the Susquehanna Township Police Department. From what I understand is prior to Bill Wenner leaving us there was some money given to the CRT Team members to purchase tactical vests. There was some confusion with the amount that each department was given to buy vests for the police officers that were part of this. According to the memo from the Chief of Police of Susquehanna Township, the amounts got messed up and they were not given enough money out of the CRT money. This \$1,900 that is on this requisition represents the difference from what they should have received from what they did receive. There are seventeen vests total, so it is a

little over \$100. There was some confusion over sizes and who was paying for the shipping costs, etc. But after much discussion and again the memo explains it more in detail, this is the amount of money that is still owed the vendor. It is all coming out of the CRT money not regular general fund. That will be added to the packet and will settle the amount of money that we should have been paying for the police officers CRT Teams vests. That will be added to the packet along with the two printers on the other requisition for district justices. We will resolve all the other budget issues and you will have a final packet for voting next week. Do you have any questions on any of the other items?

Mr. Henry: We'll hold it over until next week then.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

A. John Orr, Conservation District Director and Bob Christoff, Resource Planner

1. Status of Stormwater Management Planning in Dauphin County.

Mr. Henry: John, if we could try to make this as brief as possible because we are going to lose our quorum in about ten minutes.

Mr. Orr: We will try to be brief but it is a little bit confusing so I hope we can get through it and if not we'll have to pick it up at a later date perhaps.

Mr. Burns: John, can I interrupt, do you need a vote on this today?

Mr. Orr: Not necessarily today. It is just in relation to the budget. We have an amount budgeted and one of the main questions is do you wish to proceed with some additional contracts?

Mr. Burns: I was only going to suggest there are a couple of items that we need to vote on maybe we could do those first and vote and then go into the presentation if one of the Commissioners needs to exit.

Mr. Henry: The meeting will have to be adjourned at that point because we will not have a quorum. Is this going to have an impact on the budget that is scheduled for approval next week?

Mr. Orr: Yes.

Mr. Henry: Go ahead.

Mr. Orr: Historically the Conservation District has been doing the Act 167 Stormwater Studies for the County Commissioners. Normally, we have one to two studies going at one time. Because of the EPA and PDES regulations the municipal separate storm sewer system, MS4's have come into play. There is a request from the municipalities to

revisit some of the previous stormwater studies. If we do that as part of the Act 167 studies, there are some advantages to the municipalities and to the County in order to pick up funds to cover some of the costs of the required implementation of the MS4. Basically, when Mike Yohe and I got together on the budget, we did not know from DEP what funds were available. We targeted in the budget \$98,000. The \$98,000 would cover for this year the Wiconisco Creek which we have under contract. There is a summary sheet which Bob submitted to you. Do you have this? He has extra copies if you don't. About a week or ten days ago, we sent down a summary sheet. It would be easiest if you would follow that.

Part way back you will find a 8 ½ X14 sheet. If you look at that, we are under contract for the Wiconisco Creek. The County has signed contracts for that. The amount we anticipate would be the cost for this year, which would be \$55,000 for the consultant cost.

We are finishing up the Mid-Dauphin. We anticipate that cost for 2004 to be \$2,128. Paxton Creek, DEP has funds available for that. We do not have the contracts executed. That is the Phase II contracts. That work for 2004 would be anticipated to be \$40,000. The other contract is Spring Creek. Funds are available from DEP for that. The anticipated cost for that for 2004 would be \$75,000. Look over in the middle of the sheet where it says, County budget year, you'll see also not only the consultant cost but the estimated reimbursement cost. Then on the right hand column the net.

If we were to do Wiconisco, Mid-Dauphin and Paxton, we would have expenditures of \$97,128. If we were to add the Spring Creek, there would be an additional expenditure of \$75,000 of which we anticipate getting \$54,000 back. That is in 2004.

Next year there would be a gain of \$12,000. So we would have a net loss of doing Spring Creek of \$7,500.

Historically, Bob Christoff's salary is used as the 25% match. So when we were doing one to two studies a year, his salary would equal the 25% so in fact all of the 100% of the consultant cost would be equaled out. Because he is only one person and there are so many additional studies requested this is a stretch of his time. So there would be a slight deficit there. However, if you go to the far right hand column under the municipal separate storm sewer you can see the County would pick up \$4,200 for the Paxton Creek and \$5,645 for Spring Creek. Also, there would be an advantage to the municipalities of \$15,975 and \$22,725.

When you said to do this briefly, there is a lot of figures to throw at you.

Mr. Henry: The bottom line is that between now and 2005 it is going to cost the County \$7,500?

Mr. Petrucci: To do Spring Creek.

Mr. Henry: Is that just Spring Creek?

Mr. Orr: Yes, but there would be a net gain on Paxton Creek of \$5,815.

Mr. Henry: That is a lose on Mid-Dauphin of \$393 and a net gain on the Wiconisco of \$991.

Mr. Orr: Correct.

Mr. Henry: So you're talking about overall a couple thousand dollars.

Mr. Orr: We're talking money going out in this year's budget but most of it will come back.

Mr. Henry: So it is a cash flow issue.

Mr. Orr: It is a cash flow issue by and large. But there are definite advantages to doing that for the municipalities. There is \$37,000-\$38,000 advantage to the municipalities.

Mr. Henry: It is difficult for municipalities to deal with something like this because obviously the streams flow through more than one.

Mr. Christoff: Another thing that you need to be aware of, the County is a regulated MS4. Those figures John gave you earlier \$4,200 and \$5,600, the MS4 is a five year permit cycle. Those figures are for the first two years of the permit cycle. There will be additional funding for year 3, 4 & 5 while we are working through these plans. That applies to the municipalities as well. So what you see there for the MS4's, there is going to be additional funding if we do the plans.

Mr. Orr: If you flip to the next page, you would see the financial benefit to each of the individual municipalities. We haven't talked about multi-creek. There is no DEP funding currently available for that.

Mr. Petrucci: Of all of our departments, the Conservation District has been the one that has been in contact with our municipal officials on a wide range of issues. This is only one of several. Spring Creek also goes through much of our Dauphin County property such as the Prison, Rutherford House, and the Green Belt, etc. I consider it rather important that we not miss the opportunity to join in and work with Spring Creek as well as the others. John, I don't see any problem myself in having you work up with Mike Yohe the addition to your budget and perhaps show him the revenue picture as well as the cost picture and put that into our consideration for the budget coming up.

Mr. Henry: The plans seems very sound and logical.

Mr Orr: Bob has done a lot of work on it.

Mr. Henry: Shows an excellent plan and I would only suggest as the Commissioner said that you work with Mike Yohe to get the appropriate cash flows built into the budget as we approach next week's budget vote.

Mr. Christoff: We had some other questions and looking for some guidance from the Commissioners. Given your timeframe, do you want to address these now?

Mr. Henry: Are they involving the budget for next week?

Mr. Christoff: No.

Mr. Henry: Why don't we do that at another time?

Mr. Christoff: Okay.

Mr. Henry: Thank you very much. I appreciate your brevity today.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Henry: We have a number of matters that require action today. Items A, B & C. Commissioner do you have any objections to A, B, or C? Do we need to take them individually or can we do them as a group?

Mr. Petrucci: I'm fine. I move the approval of Items A, B, & C.

- A. Amendment to PPO Blue Insurance Renewal.
- B. Amendment to the Harleysville Life Insurance Company Group Master Application.
- C. Appointment/Reappointments to the Dauphin County Library Board of Trustees: (one year term appointments)
 - 1. Sara Jane Cate
 - 2. Linda Ruff
 - 3. Joan Leopold
 - 4. J. Bruce Water
 - 5. Melissa McCoy-Vera

Mr. Henry: I will second that motion. All in favor signify by saying, aye.

All: Aye.

Mr. Henry: The other items will be carried forward to the next week's agenda.

- D. Renewal of Contract between Dauphin County and Harrisburg Parking Authority for juror parking spaces at the Market Square Parking Garage.
- E. Rates for Schaffner Youth Center for FY03/04:
 - 1. Secure Detention \$274.58
 - 2. Shelter Care \$204.12
- F. Exoneration of all County taxes owed on the following two properties in the Borough of Highspire if the Borough obtains ownership:
 - 1. Parcel – 213 Market Street, Highspire
 - 2. Parcel – 478 Willow Street, Highspire

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Tully: No changes to the final report that was submitted. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Mr. Henry: Did I miss Mr. Burns? You’re not on here today. Bob has clarified the issue relative to the Election Board. Final signatures had to be done last week in order to comply with state law; however, it is necessary for us to take a formal vote to ratify the signatures that were placed on the document. So for the purpose of that ratification we’ll convene into the Election Board Meeting.

ELECTION BOARD

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

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Henry: Commissioner Petrucci do you have anything you would like to add at this point?

Mr. Petrucci: Yes, if I could. Some comments in regard to the budget, it has been a week since it has been put on the table. I haven’t had any input from the public at this point but certainly still checking over what options might be available for reducing the size of the anticipated tax increase. I have felt that things that I would agree with would be a reduction in the percentage of the salary increases. We’ve been doing 4% but in actuality if we took a look at some of our labor contracts some of them were 4% and then moved into 3% and other kinds of numbers down the line. I think that the one salary group that we can play around with of course is the nonunion employees. We could save about \$200,000 if we gave a 3% salary increase instead of a 4%. Actually, we have been doing much larger increases in those numbers entailed because of the weekly practice of promotions, transfers, and job increments, etc. Secondly, we still need to get real in the regard to our benefits. I know it has been nice to have the \$2.00

co-pay on pharmaceuticals but we should move to \$10.00. We should also do some additional co-pay in medical care which would save another \$300,000. Those are things that I would vote for if they were presented for the budget next week.

One other one that needs justification for the enormous budget that we have as I look over things, one that I have looked at before and will bring up again, is the need to look at the Rutherford House. This is property owned by the County for which we get \$1.00 each year for the running of the senior center. To me this is an extraordinary contribution in one of our lowest needed areas. I think this property needs to be looked at for its true value. I think the County could make a great deal more money with greater utilization of that facility besides the service that is being rendered there. That would be on my list of things to find a new source of revenue to help reduce taxes. So I just throw those out as potential thoughts for our deliberations coming up.

Mr. Henry: I'm sure we'll have extensive deliberation on these issues next week. Thank you, Commissioner. I have no further comments.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Henry: Please come forward.

Mr. Cluck: I'm Bill Cluck from Shipoke. For the record for whoever is reading the minutes of this meeting, I as a member of the public am disappointed that the full commission is not here. I think the stormwater management planning is a critical issue. As someone who lives in Shipoke, I contend flooding. I think it is critical that we deal with this. The question that I raise just from listening to a very quick presentation, is there a guarantee that DEP is reimbursing whatever this amount of money is that has not been made public yet. My understanding as an environmental attorney is that DEP doesn't have anywhere near enough money to reimburse counties for Act 167 planning. Now if something has changed in the state budget, I don't know about that. The reason I raise the issue is that it is important that the County Commissioners have an environmental advisory board. The City of Harrisburg has a pending ordinance to enact an environmental advisory committee. I think that is something the Commissioners should consider. There is a hearing on the Harrisburg proposed legislation next Monday night the 8th where I'll be testifying and if you have the time I would appreciate your presence and we can talk about how to make this a better place.

For the record, I'm opposed to a 20% tax increase. That's outrageous given the City is proposing a 10% increase, as a self-employed businessman, I don't understand the need for raises at a time when you are raising taxes.

Mr. Henry: Thank you, I would concur with your comments about the tax hike.

Let me say relative to DEP, I think probably a good operating procedure at this point is when it comes to the state, the Commonwealth, nothing is guaranteed. They don't really have their budget completed for the fiscal year that began in July. Basically, any

planning that is relative to state dollars is all you can really do is take on a face what they're saying right now and plan accordingly and then deal with it as they make changes. Certainly, anything is subject to either under funding or it is not unheard of, as matter fact it is rather routine, for the Commonwealth to promise programs, not deliver and then dump the costs on the counties. That to a large degree is what does drive a lot of county tax hikes is because of the unfunded mandates that get kicked down to the counties from the state. Your concern is very justified.

Relative to the environmental advisory panel, you may want to bring that idea back in January. The two commissioners sitting here would not be the ones to consider forming any new county panels at this particular point in time.

Mr. Petrucci: I would add to that, Mr. Cluck, that the Conservation District is directed by a board. We do appoint members. They do have quite a few citizens that operate and make recommendations to the Commissioners. That's what they are talking about. So it is not a director actually speaking to us. It is a director reflecting a board consideration over these issues and we will deal into them.

Mr. Henry: Do we have any other members of the public who wish to address the Board? (There were none.) Thank you all for attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Henry: Is there a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Petrucci: So moved.

Mr. Henry: I'll second. All in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Transcribed: Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Burns, Chief Clerk/Chief of Staff
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