

**DAUPHIN COUNTY GAMING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2010, Meeting at 3:00 p.m.**  
**112 Market Street ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17101**

**2010/2011 Local Share Municipal Grant Public Hearings**

**Members Present**

*DCGAC*

George Groves, Chairman

Justin Warren, Vice Chairman

David Craig, Secretary

Lloyd Umberger

Jim Szymborski

Also present were: Mark Stewart, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott; Michael Musser, Community Networking Resources; August Memmi, Dauphin County; George Conner, Dauphin County; and Tim Berard, Dauphin County.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Groves, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Dauphin County Redevelopment Authority**

Ms. Debbie Tollet with Delta Development, Mr. Matt Tunnell, and Mr. August Memmi presented on behalf of the Dauphin County Redevelopment Authority. The request is for \$120,000 to assist with the Dauphin County Comprehensive and Strategic Redevelopment Plan. Ms. Tollett explained that this is a regional project, encompassing all 39 municipalities (and excluding the City of Harrisburg). She noted the reduced request amount is due to additional funds which have been awarded to the project from other sources. Ms. Tollett explained that there will be an opportunity for each municipality to be involved and to include their priority projects; noting this study will identify brownfield sites throughout the County and then prioritize the projects so that the County can ensure planned progression. She stated the plan will focus on the implementation of specific development recommendations for the top two priority sites identified during the plan development. Ms. Tollett noted the study and the resulting projects will increase the tax base in the County, create economic development opportunities, and decrease blight. In regards to criteria for this program, Ms. Tollett stated the application and project targets all four areas. To date, the project has been awarded \$50,000 from the Dauphin County Intergovernmental Grant Program, has applied for a \$50,000 Predevelopment Grant to Loan from the State DCED, and has also applied for County Community Development Block Grant funds. Ms. Tollett remarked that the plan will be done in accordance with County and regional planning initiatives already completed or underway, noting this will strengthen the County housing plan element, will be consistent with local planning efforts and is much needed to better gauge fair-share housing in the County. In moving forward with the study, Ms. Tollett indicated there will be a very organized and transparent process for compiling data, and local representatives/officials' input will be sought and included. The ultimate goal of the Redevelopment Authority and this study is to put together a plan, considering all possible County-wide projects, and strategizing. In regards to the need for additional funds in subsequent years, Mr. Tollett remarked that an attempt is being made to identify other funding sources, and returning before this board is not the intention. It was also noted that the Redevelopment Authority realizes this project also needs private sector participation.

### **Dauphin County Fire Chiefs' Association Presentation**

Mr. Rodney Sonderman presented on behalf of the Dauphin County Fire Chiefs' Association. The request is for \$465,809 for the Fire Reporting Software Upgrade to include the purchase of the National Fire Incident Reporting Software for all Dauphin County Fire Companies and the computer infrastructure to run comprehensive data collection at Dauphin County EMA. He explained that, in 2000, the basic software was purchased for all fire departments. However, due to the time consumption of entering reports, a system that is not user-friendly, departments that do not have the necessary technology, etc, many never input and/or send their data. With the requested upgrade, they will try to merge the 911 calls into the system so that much of the report will auto-populate, thereby reducing the time to complete the form and its complexity. The hope of the association is that this ease will aid in compliance. To have a system in which all precincts report will enable tracking of calls, vehicle usage, etc. It will also aid the various departments when applying for federal funds. The new system will be internet-based, so there will be no hardware issues for the departments and reports could be entered from home. It will also be backed by the County system and County IT staff. Mr. Sonderman noted that, in regards to Right To Know, each municipality/department will be responsible for their own data. He also stated the system would comply with current EMS and police units. Mr. Sonderman stated the Association is asking for the total cost of the system to be funded. Should the project not receive funding, this project/upgrade would be 5 to 10 years away, if it were to ever occur. If partial funding were received, the necessary upgrades could be made from the County side. However, in this scenario, not all fire departments would be able to connect. In regards to annual maintenance fees, Mr. Sonderman advised there is a cost of \$1,700. He added that most companies should be able to support this and advised that they could also apply for grant funds to cover this expense. Mr. Sonderman remarked that there are currently no other identified funding sources for this project. It is, however, a County-wide project that could assist this board when making future decisions for funding requests.

### **Harrisburg University Presentation**

Mr. Eric Darr and Mr. Duane Maun presented on behalf of Harrisburg University. This project consists of the creation of an Information Support Center and is requesting funding in the amount of \$306,000. It was explained that the project will be done in partnership with LECG/SMART. The service center would be located at 304 Market Street in Harrisburg. Mr. Darr explained the Center will provide a full-service call center and technical support hub. The Center will offer a range of web design, development and support services utilizing the latest technologies. It will also assist with quality assurance and testing of technology related systems, and will offer a range of flexible front and back office operational functions. In regards to the partnership, Mr. Darr stated it will be 50/50. LECG/SMART will provide much of the marketing effort; Harrisburg University will provide the students, faculty, and expertise in the Center. He added that the creation of this Information Support Center will bring new jobs, new technologies and new economic development opportunities to Dauphin County. It will help to stop the exodus of talented young people from the County and further, the Center will offer low cost IT service alternatives to the businesses and municipalities within the County. The Harrisburg Regional Chamber/CREDC has assisted with the idea of this project and has volunteered to assist in the marketing efforts; the Pennsylvania Chamber also supports the project. The board questioned the possibility of obtaining funds from the Department of Defense. Mr. Darr responded that funds are available upon the demonstration of capabilities, not to establish. The board also questioned the partner, LECG/SMART, being a publicly traded company. Mr. Darr remarked that Harrisburg University is committed to the City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County. If necessary, Mr. Darr stated, partial funding could be used to assist with the professional services and plan for the Center, which would be owned solely by Harrisburg University. Mr. Darr added that the request does include a large leveraging of funds and the University believes it is a very important project and is committed to finding a way to get it completed.

### **Harrisburg Area Community College Presentation**

Ms. Nancy Rockey, Ms. Gretchen Ramsey, and Mr. Bill Mang presented on behalf of Harrisburg Area Community College. The project consists of Facility Improvements to Enhance Training to the Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS Communities at the Shumaker Public Safety Center. The requested funding

amount is \$250,000. Ms. Ramsey thanked the board for their support in the previous year and noted there has been tremendous progress since their presentation last year. She explained they are currently working with the public safety community in the design phase, so that the project can be laid out in a manner best to train the first responders. Mr. Mang provided the board with a brief timeline of the project's progression. He noted that the schematic designs have been submitted for approval. Following this approval, the architects and engineers will be allowed to continue with the construction documents. Mr. Mang stated it is the hope that bidding documents should be completed by the end of the year. Ms. Ramsey stated this year's request, again in the amount of \$250,000, and would still be for Phase I of the project. In regards to other funding sources for the project, Ms. Ramsey advised that fundraising efforts to date have raised approximately \$2 million. Also, RACP funds, in the amount of \$2.5 million, have been appropriated to the project. Ms. Ramsey noted that this project does anticipate returning to the board next year for additional funding; explaining the entire project has been bonded and they anticipate using the funds for repayment.

### **Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority Presentation**

Mr. Tim Edwards presented on behalf of the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority. This project consists of the establishment of a retention and recruitment fund. The funding request is \$375,000 a year for two years. Mr. Edwards stated this fund source would be dedicated to the attraction and retention of new airline services and routes out of Harrisburg International Airport. He added the project would be categorized as an economic development program. Mr. Edwards explained that the airport is currently at a competitive disadvantage. When approaching airlines regarding new services or non-stop routes, Mr. Edwards stated, they are finding the airlines are looking for a revenue guarantee, which takes the barriers of anchoring the services away from the airlines as they are very risk adverse right now. Mr. Edwards highlighted that most airlines right now are only considering routes/airports supported by a commitment from the region, community, etc. and who are committed to the success of the service. He stated most airlines do not currently have a comprehensive understanding of the diversity of this region as a travel destination and noted he is working to educate them. Mr. Edwards also stated much has to do with changing people's habits, which is not easy. This is why airlines are looking for the additional commitments.

Mr. Edwards stated that the issue is putting together a package that is substantial, and therefore attractive enough, for the airlines. Airline operations and equipment are extremely expensive. Mr. Edwards said they are asking for the assistance from the gaming funds to lay the groundwork for the retention and recruitment fund, from which they intend to build upon it using airport revenue, matching funds, and, eventually, public/private partnerships. Mr. Edwards stated CREDC does support the initiative and has been helpful in the outreach. Mr. Edwards noted that the plan is to not come back to the board every year for support, though they would be back next year to fulfill the full request. The request is just the seed money for the fund, from which they hope will lead to a larger commitment from the business community.

Mr. Edwards advised that the protections of the guaranteed revenue will come in the form of a contract. Currently, he stated, the structure of this agreement is envisioned as having the DC IDA serve as the 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrator; funds will be deposited with the Authority. The IDA would then enter into the incentive contract with the carrier. Mr. Edwards highlighted that this is an economic development opportunity for better transportation services to the region and the County, supporting the regional economy.

### **Borough of Steelton Presentation**

Ms. Dennise Hill and Mr. Steve Shaver presented on behalf of Steelton Borough. The project, the Mohn Street Intergenerational Facility, includes taking an existing playground/tennis facility and turning it into an intergenerational recreation facility. Ms. Hill explained that the park sits on the Swatara Township/Steelton Borough line and folks from both Hoy and Latsha Towers will have access to the facility. Ms. Hill advised that the project is also a recipient of grant funds from DCNR. Mr. Shaver explained that this is the final park in the Borough's parks project and noted that, so far, they have been able to leverage funds to complete the other parks. If the board was to provide funding at a lower dollar amount, Mr. Shaver explained, the Borough would have to dedicate monies from their CDBG allocation (most of which is currently going towards the Adams Street

revitalization project). In regards to community involvement, Ms. Hill explained that two Borough parks were completed through the Kaboom program. This project, however, will be done using contractors. She also noted that if the Borough were to allocate CDBG funds to this project, they would be subject to Davis-Bacon wage rates, causing an increase in project cost. The board inquired how the park will be maintained; Mr. Shaver responded there is a line item within the general fund budget. Ms. Hill explained that this park was built in the 1970's. There is now a mixed-age base in the Borough and a need now exists for a facility in which all can share in recreation. This new plan allows for this intergenerational use and will also coexist nicely with the handicap accessible housing units that are located nearby.

### **Middle Paxton Township Presentation**

Ms. Julie Seeds and Mr. Joseph Wynn presented on behalf of Middle Paxton Township. The request is for two projects: continued support for the new Municipal Services/Fire Company building (for debt service and final landscaping) and Potato Valley Road Bridge Repair. The total funding request is \$382,940. Ms. Seeds provided the board with an update on the building project. She stated they will be able to begin occupancy in about three weeks. As was last year's request, Ms. Seeds stated they are again asking to receive funds to assist them with debt service on this project.

Ms. Seeds stated the second request of the Township is for the Potato Valley Road bridge. She explained that this is a one lane bridge, located off of Fishing Creek Valley Road, that dates back to the 1920's and currently serves approximately 100 residents. HRG, the County's engineer, brought to the Township's attention that the bridge is in bad shape. The painting alone will cost approximately \$208,000.00. If an accident occurs, Ms. Seeds stated, Potato Valley Road is used as a detour to East Hanover Township. The load capacity had to be reduced, which can be problematic for a primary detour route. Ms. Seeds added that the reduced load capacity also hampers fire access to the houses directly across the bridge. If the Township is unable to repair, Ms. Seeds stated, the bridge may need to be closed as the main supports are deteriorating. The board began to discuss the funding request and the total cost to repair the bridge. The Township did not have final numbers for the bridge repair, though it is anticipated that the total cost to repair the bridge will be \$275,000.00. Ms. Seeds stated the Townships total request as; \$125,000 for debt service for the building, \$49,000 for final landscaping for the building, and \$100,000 for the bridge repair. If the Township was not granted the funds for the bridge this year Ms. Seeds advised the Township would likely proceed with the project and come before the board next year requesting additional funds.

Ms. Seeds began to discuss funding for six dry hydrants in the Borough. The board advised that, because it is not specifically outlined in the application, the Township would have to seek funds for this project in the next funding round.

### **Upper Paxton Township Presentation**

Mr. Tom Shaffer, Mr. Ron Hepner and Ms. Betty Warfel presented on behalf of Upper Paxton Township. The project, Landis Drive Intersection, consists of the relocation of a structure located at the intersection of Landis Drive and State Route 209 in order to improve motorists' line of sight and prevent accidents. The funding request is \$200,000. Mr. Shaffer stated the intersection of Landis Drive and State Route 209 is very dangerous. There is currently a house that sits at the intersection, approximately 9 feet from the paved section of the road, blocking the view from the East. The current sight distance to the East is about 220 feet, though it is recommended to be approximately 500 feet. Mr. Shaffer explained that attempts have been made to have the owners contribute to the project; however it seems they feel it is not their problem. From the Township's perspective, this is a public safety issue. In the last five years, Mr. Shaffer stated, 13 accidents have been reported at this intersection, including 1 fatality. Since this report was provided to Mr. Shaffer from the Pennsylvania State Police, two more accidents have occurred. Mr. Shaffer remarked that the Township has been working to fix the dangerous intersections in their Township as they are able. To date, they have completed four - this would be the fifth. It was explained that the house sits on the northeast corner of the intersection. Signs are up for recommended speeds, but there is not much enforcement. Mr. Shaffer stated if the Township were to consider moving the road they would encounter wetland and bridge issues. The board questioned the tree line. Mr. Shaffer responded that if the trees were removed, sight distance would be slightly better. However, the house

would then have little protection from the road. He added that they did approach Penn DOT in regards to removing the trees and installing guardrails; but Penn DOT responded that the location did not fit the criteria for such. Mr. Shaffer explained the house is a family homestead and is not for sale. He added that, in the past intersection projects, the Township put aside monies in their capital fund. Additionally, they were the recipient of two grants, \$25,000 from Senator Gordner's office and \$5,000 from Representative Helm's office. Mr. Shaffer explained that the Township does not currently have the funds to move forward with this project. Additionally, this project does not lend itself to be phased. If funds are not awarded to this project, Mr. Shaffer explained, it would probably be put on hold until monies are made available as the Township is hesitant to incur debt.

### **Conewago Township/Lower Dauphin School District Presentation**

Mr. Joel Buckley, Mr. Jay Brandt, Ms. Sherri Smith, Mr. Terrance Grove, and Mr. Rod Nissel presented on behalf of Conewago Township and Lower Dauphin School District. The request is for the Conewago Township Route 743 and Schoolhouse Road Traffic Light project in the amount of \$400,000. This project includes traffic light and roadway work based on findings of a traffic study recently conducted due to the construction of the Conewago Elementary School expansion. Mr. Brandt stated the study indicated a need for signals in the north and south bound left turn lanes and south bound right turn lanes, necessary to provide a safe corridor for all traffic. Lower Dauphin School District serves residents of Conewago Township, East Hanover Township, Londonderry Township, South Hanover Township and the Borough of Hummelstown. Ms. Smith remarked that they continue to see growth and new housing developments in the district, particularly in Londonderry and Conewago Townships. Two new developments are currently in design phase in Londonderry Township. These developments could result in an additional 2,000 homes and an obvious need for space in the school. Currently, the Elementary School has a trailer outside to host students because there is not enough space. The building needs to be renovated and expanded. The board questioned why the traffic light work was not included in the cost of expansion. Ms. Smith responded that the School District was in a hurry to get the project bids out and the Township allowed them to separate the issue for the time being so the bidding goals could be reached. Unfortunately, until the traffic study was done, the need for this work was not fully recognized. Ms. Smith added that the expansion project bid is out. Currently, the project is right on budget and she is not yet sure if any funding will be available to move forward with this traffic light project should grant funds not be awarded.

### **American Red Cross Presentation**

Mr. Stephen Barnett and Mr. George Zimmerman presented on behalf of The American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley. The request is for the American Red Cross Safe Community project in the amount of \$283,638. The American Red Cross Safe Community project consists of two initiatives. The first initiative is for placement of automatic external defibrillators in locations open to the general public and training to operate an AED. The second initiatives to provide financial awards to subscribers and perspective clients of Lifeline who are senior citizens or at-risk populations with physical limitations. Lifeline is a service provided to activate help with a simple push of a button. The benefits of these initiatives are that it will provide the quality and safety of life for all Dauphin County residents and volunteers; it will enhance Dauphin County's visibility as a leader in expanding health resources for the community; it will demonstrate Dauphin County's commitment to its most vulnerable residents; and it will empower Dauphin County residents to respond in emergency situations.

### **Borough of Hummelstown Presentation**

Mr. Michael O'Keefe, Mayor Brad Miller, and Mr. Joe Guagno presented on behalf of the Borough of Hummelstown. The project, the East Main St. Sewage Pump Station Renovation - Phase II, consists of renovating/upgrading the East Main Street Pump Station to meet current environmental/code requirements and to provide capability to support anticipated small business/residential development growth in the East end of the Borough. The request is for \$250,000. Mr. O'Keefe explained this project consists of two phases. Phase One, pump replacement and installation and engineering design, is being paid for by the Borough. Phase II, for which grant funds are being sought, includes additional renovations such as; auxiliary generator, by-pas pumping capability, replacement of controls, ventilation equipment, valves, lighting, fencing and driveway. The Borough is currently installing a new storm sewer system and improving the intersection of Walton Ave. and East Main Street, adjacent to the pump station. The Borough has invested approximately \$250,000 of its own funds in this

project and has leveraged approximately \$2.3 million in federal funds. By receiving the requested grant funds, the Borough of Hummelstown can eliminate the risk of disruption and/or lack of sanitary sewage facilities to existing users, continue investment to Borough infrastructure in the eastern part of the community to encourage commercial and/or residential development, eliminate safety/environmental/operational issues at the E. Main St. sewage pumping station, supplement existing Borough funds to insure renovations/repairs can be made to all three sewer pump stations; and a project completed on time and on budget.

### **Swatara Township Presentation**

Mr. Paul Cornell, Commissioner Andy Moyer and Mr. Darren Robinson presented on behalf of Swatara Township. The first request is for the Swatara Township Recreation Expansion project in the amount of \$450,000. This project will enhance and expand the existing grounds and facilities of Shiavoni and McNaughton Parks to meet the expectations and demands of residents and visitors. Shiavoni Park was purchased by the Township in August 2009, is comprised of 15 acres, and is bordered by the Swatara Creek. The intent is to develop this park as a dedicated nature and picnic area with walking trails. Additionally, a walking trail will lead across Bridge Road and beneath the Paxton Street bridge spanning Swatara Creek ending at McNaughton Park. It will have 27 dedicated parking spaces and 21 spaces for future overflow parking.

McNaughton Park is comprised of 33 acres and was donated by Mr. Mark McNaughton to the Township in November 2009. The tract is bordered to the North by Paxton Street and the East by Swatara Creek. This area will be home to a dedicated baseball field, two youth soccer fields, and a third multi-purpose soccer/baseball field. Two basketball courts will also be developed as well as a play area and large pavilion. There will be 56 dedicated parking spaces and 40 overflow spaces. There is an area designed to remain as open, either for non-dedicated use currently or future dedicated-use improvement. Also, an old lock has been discovered on site and will be refurbished for display, complete with a landmark posting explaining the significant and historical value of the lock.

This project will be completed in five phases. The grant funds being requested will be used for Phase I, which includes necessary improvements and implementation of the roads, parking and trails. This phase is shovel ready and is anticipated to be completed in July 2011. The project also has a significant leveraging of funds with \$1.5 million in local funds being dedicated to the project.

Mr. Robinson presented on the second grant request from the Township, the Lawnton Fire Station Debt project in the amount of \$45,542.05. The project would pay-off the existing mortgage of \$45,542.50 in fire station debt to facilitate a merger with Company 49. He explained a municipal fire protection study was undertaken by Swatara Township in 2005. The merger is the second step to combining the previously six fire companies into one township department. This merger, anticipated to occur in the summer of 2011, could be postponed if the current debt of Lawnton Fire Company is not retired. Mr. Robinson stated the Fire Company does currently receive \$35,000 from Swatara Township for necessary expenses. The fire company also conducts BBQ's, fund drives and applies for State and Federal grants at every opportunity. However, rising costs and a declining economy have put a strain on the fire company, necessitating the consolidation.

### **Close**

Mr. Groves, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.