

**PRESENT:** Mario J. Civera, Jr., Chairman; Colleen P. Morrone, Vice Chairman; John P. McBlain, Council Member; David J. White, Council Member; Michael F. Culp, Council Member; Edward O'Lone, Controller; Marianne Grace, Executive Director; Michael L. Maddren, Solicitor; Anne M. Coogan, County Clerk; and other department heads.

Chairman Civera called the regular meeting of March 9, 2016 to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Bill Richards, a member of the Melmark Joybells. Noreen O'Connor, of the Housekeeping Department, gave the invocation.

In observance of March as Intellectual Disability Awareness Month, Chairman Civera announced we would have a special opening to our meeting today by the Melmark Joybells performing the National Anthem under the direction of Sue Graves and Catie Parker and followed by The Media Theatre State Street Miracles singing "God Bless America" under the direction of Roger Ricker.

Chairman Civera called on Mr. McBlain to be "Acting" Chairman of today's County Council Meeting.

Mr. McBlain said it was his privilege to be Acting Chairman of today's meeting. As he has said before, when we recognize Irish American Heritage Month here in Delaware County it is his favorite meeting of the year, but with Joybells and the State Street Miracles it is undoubtedly his favorite meeting of the year. Thank you all for your outstanding performances.

Acting Chairman McBlain called on Mrs. Morrone to start the Agenda Items.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 4, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2016, seconded by Mr. Civera and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to purchase one (1) 2016 Transit-350 WB Wagon on COSTARS Contract No. 026-029 at a cost of \$29,747.00 from Pacifico Marple Ford for Fair Acres Materials Management. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to purchase four (4) Arjo Maxi Move Mechanical Lifts, Model No. KMCLUN-D, for Fair Acres Geriatric Center from ArjoHuntleigh at a cost of \$31,899.26. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Central Tax Collection Department's request for refunds for the years 2008 and 2009 County Real Estate Taxes for 2 property owners due to the overpayment of the amount of taxes due, seconded by Mr. Civera and carried unanimously.

Mr. McBlain called on Judge James Nilon, of the Court of Common Pleas and Chairman of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, to speak on Agenda Item 8, the "Stepping Up" Initiative Resolution.

Judge Nilon said this Stepping Up Initiative is part of a program which has been supported by the American Psychiatric Foundation, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments and the U.S. Department of Justice to reduce the number of persons with mental and co-occurring substance disorders who are currently lodged in jails.

The Delaware County Criminal Justice Advisory Board supports the adoption of this Resolution. Delaware County has been engaged in this for quite a while through some of the following programs: Delaware County Cares, under the leadership of Judge Chad Kenney, which is co-chaired by County Executive Director Marianne Grace; the Re-Entry Subcommittee of the Delaware County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, chaired by Michael Raith, Esq.; the Mental Health and Veterans Court, presided over by the Honorable Michael Coll; the Delaware County Treatment Court, presided over by the Honorable Frank Hazel; the Delaware County Prison Conferencing Restoration Program (a new program that has been quite successful); the Cross Systems Mapping Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, under the direction of Joseph Dougherty and Jonna DiStefano, of the Office of Behavioral Health.

Judge Nilon said they believe this Resolution is good in the sense that it recognizes actions that the County has been involved in for a long time.

In addition, Judge Nilon is happy to report some other rather exciting developments. In August, Michael Raith was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, which is a statewide committee. We are very proud of that. At an upcoming summit to be held in October on Mental Health/Heroin Addiction and the Criminal Justice System, they are currently involved in planning sessions with Widener University to aid and facilitate this all-day summit. The summit will address these very issues this Resolution is aimed at.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board recognizes that these co-occurring mental health disorders and substance abuse disorders have no age boundaries. It involves juveniles as well as adults and because of that, this summit will be an integrated program that is being held in conjunction with Widener University and the Subcommittee of the Delaware County Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Honorable Nat Nichols.

Judge Nilon thanked County Council for supporting this Resolution and for their ongoing support of the Delaware County Criminal Justice Advisory Board and the Criminal Justice System.

Mr. McBlain recognized Judge Nilon's leadership for the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. The Criminal Justice Advisory Board is an advisory board of various representatives from all members of those involved in the criminal justice system - everything from the District Attorney,

County Council, Court of Common Pleas, Public Defender and our Human Services Department in making our criminal justice system more efficient.

He believes Delaware County has been a leader when it comes to the issue of mental illnesses in prison, which in changing national and state policies over the years have allowed less people with mental illnesses to go into state hospitals and those types of facilities and more of those people ending up in prisons.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Resolution 2016-2 adopting the "Stepping Up" Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a five (5) year Lease Agreement with Pitney Bowes for a Digital Mailing System for the County mailroom on COSTARS Contract No. 4400008703 at the cost of \$7,884.00 per year. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a Lease Agreement with ELECTEC Inc. for 130 additional Danaher 1242 Voting Machines for use in the 9<sup>th</sup> Senatorial Special Election in the amount of \$65,000.00. (Reimbursement: State) The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Civera and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving an Agreement with Norristown Recovery Center from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016 in the amount not to exceed \$117,000.00 to complete written psychiatric evaluations as ordered by the Courts. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Mr. McBlain called on Joe Dougherty, Director of Human Services, to speak on Agenda Item 12.

Mr. Dougherty asked for the approval two (2) Drug & Alcohol Providers of Service and one (1) Subsidized Day Care Provider of Service. There are no County dollars associated with the approval of these items.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agreements, Contracts and Amendments with the Human Services Provider of Services. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to appoint Elizabeth McCarrick, of Bethel Township, to the Heritage Commission of Delaware County to a term ending September 2016, seconded by Mr. Civera and carried unanimously.

Mr. McBlain had the privilege to speak on Agenda Item 14, recognizing the Centennial of the 1916 Easter Rising creating a free Ireland.

One-hundred years ago, in April, one of the pivotal events in modern Irish history took place: The Easter Rising. On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a group of Irish nationalists proclaimed the establishment of the Irish Republic and they rebelled against the British government in Ireland, fighting for a free Ireland.

Every year, Mr. McBlain said Delaware County Council declares the month of March as Irish-American Heritage Month and we recognize some of our Irish-American residents who organize the St. Patrick's Day parades in both Springfield and Philadelphia. We are still doing that today, but this year it is fitting that we recognize the centennial of the Irish Easter Rising. Philadelphia and Delaware County both played a role in the Irish Easter Rising. There are several events planned to commemorate the anniversary this year.

Two famous Irishmen, Luke Dillon and Joe McGarrity, were leaders in an Irish group called Clan na Gael. They raised funds and helped plan the uprising. These Irish heroes are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, in Yeadon. Each year on the Sunday after Easter, people visit their graves and read the Irish Proclamation. This year's event will be held at noon on Sunday, April 3. The Proclamation will also be read on Sunday, April 24 at Independence Hall, just as our forefathers read our Declaration of Independence 240 years ago.

Mr. McBlain welcomed the following individuals to this morning's meeting on behalf of Irish-American Heritage Month: Bob Dougherty, of Clifton Heights and co-chairman of the Philadelphia Irish Easter Rising Centennial Commemoration Committee; Michael J. Bradley, of Haverford and parade director of the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade; Steve Burns, chairman of the Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade (which will be the 38<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Saturday, March 12); and Dr. William McCusker, this year's Grand Marshal of the Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This year's theme is "St. Patrick, Bless the Heroes of the 1916 Easter Rising." The Philadelphia parade, which is the second oldest parade in the United States, will take place on Sunday, March 13 at noon.

On Monday, March 21 at Villanova University (4:00 to 6:00 P.M.), the Joe McGarrity papers will be on display where he communicated with the leaders of "The Rising" during the uprising. One of the twelve copies of the Proclamation will be on display at that time also.

Mr. McBlain called on members of the MacDade-Cara School of Irish Dance, in Springfield, to perform some Irish dances for us today. The school is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the rich tradition of Irish step and figure dancing. Their instructors, Annmarie Sheehan and Sheila Sweeney, say that being involved in Irish dance develops overall physical abilities in addition to self-esteem as they master the progression of dance steps.

Mr. McBlain called on Mr. White to present a Resolution recognizing March as Intellectual Disability Awareness Month.

Mr. White said every March Delaware County recognizes the contributions of people with intellectual disabilities who are valued co-workers, family members and friends in our Delaware County community.

March is Intellectual Disability Awareness Month in Delaware County. Some groups refer to it as Developmental Disability Awareness Month. Since this observance was started by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, much progress has been made. Working together, we've opened many doors such as the following:

- People with intellectual disabilities are not only included in our public schools, they are now attending college programs.
- Individuals are now employed in a broader segment of the workforce. In the Government Center and Courthouse complex, we are proud of the members of our workforce who have intellectual disabilities and we value their contributions and their amazing enthusiasm and dedication to their work.
- Individuals are finding creative ways to live on their own, or with support, in affordable housing.
- This year, with the presidential election, there is a nationwide initiative to encourage people to learn about the issues that impact their lives and exercise their right to vote.

Mr. White said, as everyone can see from the attendance at today's meeting, we have a very diverse, active community of people with intellectual disabilities, their friends, employers and advocates here in Delaware County. Every March, this is one of our best attended Council meetings.

You can also see that we have a lot of talent in this county, from the Melmark Joybells to the Media Theatre State Street Miracles. Both of these groups are heading to Harrisburg next week to perform in the Grand Rotunda of the Capitol building.

This year we are recognizing two groups who are working to enhance the lives of people who have many abilities, but also have intellectual disabilities.

The first is the County Office of Intellectual Disabilities and its many partners in the community. This office and its team of support coordinators is the main gateway where families access support and services. The Office of Intellectual Disabilities works with many groups including our providers, the Arc of Delaware County and volunteers that form coalitions such as the Employment Forum.

In Delaware County, we work hard to maximize our resources to serve the greatest number of people, a feat we accomplished even during the budget impasse of 2015 that rolled into 2016. We can't accomplish as much as we do in the County without partnerships in the community.

Some of our valued partners include, but are not limited to, the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and our school districts, agencies such as Elwyn, Devereaux, Melmark, Community Interactions, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Integrated Services, the Arc of Delaware County and the creative program like the New Avenue Foundation. We value all of these agencies and we thank them for the work they do in our communities.

The second Resolution we are presenting this morning recognizes the Arc of Delaware County that has advocated for people with disabilities for over 50 years, sometimes being the only voice for individuals who can't always speak for themselves. This organization was started by a group of brave parents over 50 years ago, when children with disabilities were not allowed to attend school or participate in community programs. These parents led the charge to include people of all abilities to belong, to live with their families, to get an education, to be safe and to be included in our lives to the fullest extent possible.

As an advocacy agency, the Arc has worked with county, state and federal officials to help individuals and their families. One of the most pressing challenges for people with intellectual disabilities is isolation or difficulty in building friendships beyond their immediate families. The Arc meets that need with a fun, social recreation programs that includes dances, a bowling league, movie nights, a miniature golf league, a sibling celebration and other activities that allow individuals to interact with their peers on their own. This is an invaluable service that enhances the lives of people with disabilities.

Mr. White called on Dr. Susan Proulx, the County's Deputy Administrator for the Office of Intellectual Disabilities, to say a few words and to introduce members of her team.

Dr. Proulx said they have such a great system of people who work together on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. She introduced the following: Nancy Lowry, Deputy Administrator, Office of Intellectual Disabilities; Benita DiLucido-Saff, Quality Improvement Coordinator, Office of Intellectual Disabilities; Jennifer Kontis, Garnet Valley School District; Rose Downey, Elwyn; Kim Rosati, Delaware County Intermediate Unit; Jim Wurster, New Avenue Foundation; (Key Providers of Service) Elizabeth Herbert, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Anthony Phovilaychit, Community Integrated Services; Donald Szegda and Meg Nielson, Community Interactions; Deborah Sulli, Devereaux; Bill Benson, CADES; Eileen McDonald, Director of the Arc of Delaware County; Joe Dougherty, Director of Human Services; and Jonna DiStefano, Administrator, Office of Behavioral Health.

Eileen McDonald said the Arc of Delaware County is dedicated and proud to continue their mission to advocate on behalf of individuals with intellectual disabilities as they enter into their 60<sup>th</sup> year and set their sights on what they can achieve in the next 60 years.

Mr. McBlain called on Mrs. Morrone to continue with the Agenda Items.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 16, the request by the Controller's Office for payment of current bills, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

**SOLICITOR:** Mr. Maddren asked for Council's authorization to file three (3) Petitions for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights with the Orphans Court.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to file three (3) Petitions for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights with the Orphans Court, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL:** Mr. Culp thanked the Melmark Joybells and the State Street Miracles for their excellent performances, as it makes these meetings very enjoyable. He also thanked the MacDade-Cara School of Irish Dance who also did an excellent job. He said how proud and thankful County Council is of the County's Office of Intellectual Disabilities and their staff, Joe Dougherty and the Office of Behavioral Health and the Arc of Delaware County. Lastly, he looks forward to seeing many of you at this weekend's St. Patrick Day Parades.

Mr. White wished everyone a great St. Patrick's Day and he looks forward to Springfield's St. Patty's Day Parade on Saturday, which is a lot of fun marching in the parade. As Mr. Culp stated, we have an incredible staff that does an incredible job across our county working with the intellectual disability community. County Council will always be in the forefront working with our partners and staff to complete that mission.

Mrs. Morrone said this has been a fantastic meeting to recognize not only Disability Awareness Month but also the Irish heritage. We have a wonderful staff in the County Office of Human Services, but it also takes a lot of work from the providers that work in the county. Thank you for your turnout (year after year) at this meeting and for the work you do every single day. She also thanked the parents, family and friends for their support that goes into working with individuals with disabilities. She will be in the parade on Saturday and hopes everyone will come out.

There is no question about it, Mr. Civera said "this is one of our highlights of County Council meeting." To the people in the audience and those who represent the Intellectual Disability Awareness Month in Delaware County for the month of March, he wanted to let them know that government has a priority and the priority is in the room today. This is what government has to focus on for what we see each and every day.

Mr. Civera congratulated Bill Benson, of CADES, who will be retiring at the end of the year after 38 years at CADES. He has done a great job and will be missed.

Mr. Civera said when he didn't really understand what the priorities of government was, Bill Benson helped him to understand. Many times they went down and toured the building and

interacted with the students.

Mr. Civera thanked Mr. McBlain for the good job he did today as “acting” chairman for today’s Council meeting. John is a very proud Irishman and carries the Irish heritage with him every day.

Delaware County is all about the different ethnic groups throughout the county and what made this county such a great place to live in and to raise a family. Thanks for coming today and happy St. Patrick’s Day to everyone.

Acting Chairman McBlain thanked Mr. Civera for the privilege to chair this meeting; he indulges us so much this one time each year. Of course with four Irish Council members, he doesn’t have much of a choice.

The business portion of today’s meeting was rather short, passing a resolution and approving contracts, etc., but they believe this part of the meeting is just as important as we celebrate the different segments of Delaware County.

He congratulated Dr. McCusker, the Grand Marshal of the Springfield St. Patrick’s Day Parade, who has helped to form the lives of thousands of Delaware County residents. It is right and correct to celebrate and to honor him this Saturday.

He thanked Mike Bradley for all his efforts and work in organizing the Philadelphia St. Patrick’s Day Parade and to the Centennial Committee for their efforts.

**DISCUSSION:** No public comment(s).

There being no further County business, nor public discussion, motion made by Chairman Civera to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

The Melmark Joybells closed the meeting by playing “When You Wish Upon A Star” on the bells.

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ANNE M. COOGAN, County Clerk

RECORDED BY: N. J. Scallan