

PRESENT: John P. McBlain, Chairman; Colleen P. Morrone, Vice Chairman; Michael F. Culp, Council Member; Kevin M. Madden, Council Member; Brian P. Zidek, Council Member; Joanne Phillips, Controller; Marianne Grace, Executive Director; Michael L. Maddren, Solicitor; Anne M. Coogan, County Clerk; and other department heads.

Chairman McBlain called the regular meeting of January 17, 2018 to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Chairman McBlain. Katherine Morrone, of the Public Relations Office, gave the invocation.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2018, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried with a nay vote registered by Mr. Zidek. (Votes: 4 Yeas/1 Nay)

Mr. Zidek had questions about the minutes and the process for keeping the minutes. Unlike many of our neighboring counties, Delaware County does not tape or stream our meetings. So, the only way for citizens who work during the day to keep track of what we do here is to review the minutes and these minutes are not accurate.

For instance, during the Organization Meeting of January 2, there was a motion to appoint three Republican members from Council to the Retirement Board, that is the Pension Board that oversees the \$500 million pension plan. During the discussion on the motion, he noted he did not have enough information about the financial acumen of his Republican colleagues so that he could make an informed vote. Maybe they are the best three people for the job and, if so, God speed, they should absolutely have the job to oversee our pension. But he did not know enough to cast his vote, so he voted no on that motion. But when you review the minutes from that meeting all it says is that there was a motion and there were 3 Yays and 2 Nays and no mention is made of the discussion about the motion. And even when you look at the minutes that are included from last week's meeting, they don't accurately represent the closing remarks that he made or the closing remarks that Mr. Madden made.

So, yesterday we were here at the meeting and Council lectured one of our residents about the responsibility of our citizens to be informed about what goes on here in County government. But he does not understand how our citizens who work during the day can be expected to be informed if the minutes that we keep are not accurate.

So, I guess I have a question as to (1) Can we not video tape these so we don't have to rely on transcribed minutes? and (2) Why aren't the minutes' verbatim explanation of what actually happens at the meetings so that people who couldn't attend can find out what happened? Chairman McBlain offered a response to Councilman Zidek. First of all, you mean to say the minutes are incorrect in some way? I welcome you to make a motion to amend the minutes (correct the minutes).

We had an Agenda Meeting yesterday and we discussed this item when it came up and I (McBlain) invited any member of Council that had any sort of correction or amendment to make that. You (Zidek) did not have that. I believe you voted on the approval of the minutes of the Organization Meeting previously and you voted in the affirmative. So, I would ask you what is inaccurate or incorrect?

I would invite you to study the PA Sunshine Law and Roberts Rule of Order, which (generally speaking) would govern what should be contained in minutes of meetings. I think you would discover that minutes of meetings are not a verbatim transcript of what occurred.

I have read the minutes and have looked at what Mr. Zidek's comments were and if you would like to make a motion to add verbiage as to what your comments were or what Mr. Madden's comments were, now would be the appropriate time to do that.

Chairman McBlain welcomes any member of Council, as we have in the past, that if they review a draft of the meeting minutes, and generally speaking our Clerk's Office gets those to the members of Council by typically the end of the week or the first business day of the week, to review those and if you have additions/corrections so please suggest those to the County Clerk. I think that is the way to do it. I think we want to accurately capture what occurred but the minutes of the meeting per both the Sunshine Act and per Robert's Rules of Order are not a verbatim transcript of what occurs.

I think if you look at our minutes, and I have compared to other counties, we are as descriptive or more descriptive of what the discussion is at Council Meetings than other counties.

So, once again, I will turn it back over to you (Zidek) if you want to respond but this is certainly the time to correct something that you think is inaccurate or you want to amend the minutes by including additional verbiage, now is the time to do that.

Mr. Zidek said he appreciates the opportunity. He did not raise the issue during yesterday's meeting because yesterday's meeting there is no record kept of the Agenda Meetings. I thought it was more appropriate to bring up at today's meeting where this discussion would be kept on the record and for others to see. I guess going forward, I could (either myself) tape the meetings and then go back and review the minutes and have someone transcribe the meetings for me to find out if there are any inaccuracies. But that seems to be an inefficient way. While we may maintain that Robert's Rules of Order and the Sunshine Law don't require us to keep a verbatim recording of what transpired during the meetings, neither do either of those tools suggest that we can't do so. They are a minimum not a maximum. While you may say that we may be more descriptive than some of our neighboring counties in keeping our minutes, I would dare say that a video tape, an archived videotaped record of what we do here, as they do in Montgomery County, would be far more descriptive than any minutes could be. But I appreciate the opportunity to review the minutes and I guess going forward I will (until such time that

County Council itself records the minutes) I will record them myself and then ask that they be amended to be more accurate.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 5 to Advertise for Bids to furnish and deliver Copy Paper for the County of Delaware, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to Advertise for Bids to furnish and deliver Office Supplies for the Delaware County Courthouse Complex (Media) and Fair Acres (Lima), County of Delaware for a period of two (2) years, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

George Troilo, Director of Administrative Services/Central Purchases, was asked by Mr. Zidek to explain the bidding process of the county.

Mr. Troilo said an ad is placed in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks requesting bids from vendors and it is also placed on the County website. Approximately one month is given to receive the sealed bids. Once that process occurs, we have a Bid Opening Committee that is comprised of a Solicitor, the County Clerk and himself and a Bid Opening Meeting, held prior to the County Council Meeting, that is held in this County Council Room where the bids are opened. This meeting is open to the public. Typically, some of the bidding vendors attend the meeting where the sealed bids are opened and the the actual bid amounts are read aloud.

Chairman McBlain called on Sue Cordes, County Recycling Coordinator, to speak on Agenda Item 7.

As Delaware County's Recycling Coordinator, Mrs. Cordes asked for approval of reimbursement of her salary, benefits and expenses for 2017 through a grant that is submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection annually. This is a pass-through grant with the Solid Waste Authority paying all her expenses. This money is only granted to counties. Some county recycling coordinators are consultants; some are Solid Waste Authority employees while others are county employees. The PA DEP will only give money to counties.

Mrs. Cordes made available copies of the 2018 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events that includes dates and locations of this year's events. Delaware County has an

Intergovernmental Agreement with Chester, Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties which allows us to participate in all these counties events. This Intergovernmental Agreement runs through 2020.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to submit and accept a PA DEP Section 903 Grant for Delaware County's Recycling Coordinator's salary, benefits and expenses for 2017 in the amount of \$64,235.00. The Grant is reimbursed at a rate of 50% from the Commonwealth of PA. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 8, a contract with MTS Software Solutions for maintenance of Client Unity application for the annual cost of \$43,097.93. (Funding: \$28,444.63/Federal and \$14,653.30/County) The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval and seconded by Mr. Culp.

Chairman McBlain recognized Mr. Madden who had additional questions on the motion.

Mr. Madden made a motion to "table" this item. One thing that they heard at the Agenda Meeting yesterday was that it had been twenty years since the last RFP went out on this particular service. While we may very well in the course of doing more research on what the other alternatives are, we may come back to the same conclusion that MTS is the right provider going forward. He thinks it is in our best interest given the fact that this is a very vital platform for a service that we care about, in addition to it being at the right price point, that we are also utilizing a software that is the best, not necessarily something that maybe good enough.

Chairman McBlain said there is a motion to "table" Agenda Item 8. Is there are second to the motion? Mr. Zidek seconded the motion. Is there any discussion on the motion to table?

Vice Chairman Morrone wanted to ask a few questions before a decision is made to "table" this item. After yesterday's conversation with Mimi Bradley Walker, Director of Domestic Relations, they learned that this system is critical to this department and that they receive over 500 calls from residents on a daily basis that are looking for support and immediate action from the county in which that department responds in the same day (typically) to those phone calls and requests. Her concern is whether this system will be supported if this decision is delayed and what impact that would have on Mrs. Walker's department if this was to be delayed.

Mrs. Walker said this system helps them log every call that comes into her department. It is critical to their daily operation. The workflow portion that routes the calls was customized for Delaware County for our caseworkers and supervisors. There was a cost to develop this program specifically for Delaware County. If we didn't have this program in place, they would have to go back to the pink message slips.

Solicitor Maddren said the concept in Pennsylvania is that a contract can be extended by performance for so long as the parties continue to perform. So, he doesn't believe we have a guarantee of a month extension. They could stop performing at any point and we would have to pay them through the time they performed to and the contract would be terminated at that point.

Chairman McBlain suggested we modify the motion made by Mr. Madden to delay the motion for one week. That is certainly not a sufficient period of time to do a RFP, but perhaps collect some data and information regarding what the potential options are and get back to this again. He doubts that MTS is going to stop performing services to the county over the next week. Our system will continue to operate whether or not we vote on this today. No matter what we do

over the next year, we can take a look at what other options we can look at for consideration in the future.

Mr. Madden modified his motion to “table” this matter from two weeks to one week. The motion was seconded by Mr. Culp and carried with an opposed vote registered by Vice Chairman Morrone. (Votes: 4 Yeas/1 Nay)

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the request by the Controller’s Office for payment of current bills, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Maddren asked for Council’s authorization to file one (1) Consent for Adoption with the Orphans Court.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to file one (1) Consent for Adoption with the Orphans Court, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment(s).

COUNCIL: On Monday, January 15, Mr. Zidek said we celebrated the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, a man who spent three years studying at Crozer Theological Seminary, in Chester. He had the privilege, along with the rest of County Council, to participate in collecting food items at a number of basketball clinics and delivering the food to a shelter that care for those less fortunate than most of us here in this room today. During the day he reflected on Dr. King’s fight for civil rights and on his teachings. Dr. King taught us that people should not be judged based upon superficial aspects such as one’s gender or the color of one’s skin but rather based upon the context of one’s character. He also taught us that it is morally imperative for citizens to stand up in the face of discrimination and prejudice and to resist and protest. So in the spirit of Dr. King’s fight for civil rights, he would like to make note of the Women’s March occurring this Saturday (January 20) in Philadelphia. As a son, a brother, a husband and a father of two daughters, he is keenly aware of the discrimination still faced by women in America. Women are under-represented in governments, they are under-represented in board rooms of America’s corporations and they are often paid less for doing the same work that men

do. So, for all those citizens in Delaware County who are interested in civil rights and who are interested in women’s rights, he encouraged them to attend the Women’s March in Philadelphia at 11 A.M. in Philadelphia.

Mr. Madden echoed Mr. Zidek’s comments. He would like to focus on one aspect of what Brian said and that is regardless of the vital causes that are advanced by the Woman’s March of last year, he believes that last year’s march really represented a step forward in our society. In the sense that after a year in which we went through so much polarization and saw a decay in our democratic system, what that march really represented was a peaceful and respectful gathering and a re-engagement in civic life. We as a country have really taken that momentum over the

past year where we saw in terms of the historic turnout in an odd year election in Delaware County and throughout the country, that was really a direct line from the Women's March. He and his wife will be attending the March on Saturday as well, taking SEPTA downtown. He looks forward to seeing Brian and many others down there.

Mr. Culp echoed some of the sentiments about Martin Luther King Day. He first wanted to thank the YMCA who had a great breakfast celebrating Martin Luther King and his life. Second, he thanked all the coaches and the players from Cabrini, Haverford, Neumann and Widener who took the time out on that day to give back to the children and also to help the homeless in our community. It was great day and many thanks to all those that helped out.

Mrs. Morrone wanted to make some comments on some of the issues that were raised at two prior meetings on women's issues. We have a Women's Commission in Delaware County, a group of approximately thirteen women, that since 1984 have been tasked with looking at women's issues in the county and how they affect women and children. She reached out to the chairman of that commission and have asked her to do that on behalf of the county and to address some of the issues that they had spoken about at two recent meetings on sexual harassment and issues affecting women that are basically in the press right now. She has asked them, as part of their scope of work, to have discussions on this and to see if they have any recommendations (which she is sure they will) that the county can use to address some of these issues.

Chairman McBlain said, in his new role as Chairman of County Council, he has discovered some new things and a new appreciation for what Mr. Civera and the previous Chairman did. There are certain things that come up that he didn't realize come up. One thing is when there is the threat of snow and being up at 5:00 A.M. to take a look at what is happening outside. It gets him thinking about (when we talk about that) is an appreciation for our employees in the Courthouse Complex and Fair Acres. While he certainly acknowledges that most people go to work when there is snow and that sort of thing, a lot of public places do not, he very much appreciates the work that our employees do here at the Courthouse Complex, Fair Acres and our 911 Center. So far this year we have had several snow events, icy events and that sort of thing and he thinks our employees do a yeoman job. There were people who came in on an off

day to run the payroll and those sorts of things. It makes him mindful having to pay more attention to the weather than he did in the past. Thanks to all our employees!

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

ANNE M. COOGAN, County Clerk

RECORDED BY: N. J. Scallan