

**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 18, 2015 to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Bethany Ho, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade student at Garnet Valley Middle School. William Lovejoy, Director of Veterans Affairs, gave the invocation.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2015, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to Award Contract to furnish and deliver Flags for Veterans Affairs to Flagzone, LLC at their cost of \$79.20 per gross. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Central Tax Collection Department request for 1 Court Ordered refund for the year 2013 for a property in Trainer Borough in the amount of \$1,063.92, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Mimi Bradley Walker, Director of Domestic Relations, to speak on Agenda Item 7.

Ms. Walker requested the approval to renew a Service Contract with MTS for one year to service the Domestic Relations document imaging system. The cost for the one year contract is \$54,849.42. She requested and has received approval from the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement for 66% reimbursement. The cost to the county is then \$18,648.81.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to renew MTS Service Contract for the document imaging system for the Domestic Relations Office for the period of 1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015 for the total cost of \$54,849.42. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 8, a Grant to the Delaware County Bar Association in the amount of \$35,000.00, subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Mr. McBlain commented on Item 8. He is proud to say he is a member of the Delaware County Bar Association and he considers it a privilege today to vote to approve a grant from the County to the Bar Association to help provide educational programs for attorneys.

This grant, in the amount of \$35,000.00 which continues the County's effort from previous years, will help the Bar Association to continue to offer the educational programs that are required to insure the competent and ethical practice of law in our county.

Mr. McBlain also said people might not realize that in the early days (from 1872 until 1966) the Bar Association was housed in the Delaware County Courthouse. Due to the dramatic growth in the Association, they now have their own building located at 335 West Front Street, in Media. Today, the Bar Association has 1200 members who have access to quality continuing legal education courses in everything from trial preparation and estate planning to technology and the law.

The law and government regulations are continually changing as is the technology. We are pleased to have a proactive Bar Association that helps lawyers stay current to best serve our residents.

He is proud to be a member of the legal profession where not many professions or industries have it as part of their ethical code that they provide free services to residents that need them. One of the tremendous services that the Bar Association provides to our residents is making the connection to attorneys who will represent individuals pro bono. In fact, for every legal document that is initiated, on the very first sheet, are instructions on how to contact the Bar Association if you need an attorney or looking for an attorney. They provide a great benefit and relieve a great burden on our County government by having pro bono services that are coordinated through Bill Baldwin, Executive Director of the Bar Association.

Mr. McBlain asked Kristen M. Rushing, Bar Association President and Bill Baldwin, Executive Director, to come forward to accept the grant.

Chairman Civera called on David Belanger, Director of Libraries Services, to speak on Agenda Item 9.

Mr. Belanger said Item 9 is a five-year agreement with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit to add additional libraries to the fiber optic network. Already 17 public libraries share a high-speed internet connection with the IU and County government. We are able to add an additional 8 libraries this year, namely Collingdale, Folcroft, Glenolden, Norwood, Prospect Park, Marcus Hook, Tinicum and the Upper Darby Primos library. This project is funded through a combination of state and e-rate funding. E-rate is part of the Universal Service Fee; a small part of everyone's phone bill goes to fund internet connections in libraries and schools through that fund.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a Contract Addendum with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit to add eight (8) library locations to the shared fiber optic network at the cost of \$133,100.00. (Funding: State and e-rate discount) The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Mr. Culp to speak on Agenda Item 10, the announcement of the 2015 Hero Scholarship Basketball All-Star Game.

Each year, Mr. Culp said some of the top student athletes in our county participate in athletic competitions to benefit the Hero Scholarship Fund. This fund provides college education scholarships for the children of police, fire fighters and emergency medical personnel who died in the line of duty.

Not only does the Hero Scholarship Fund benefit young people, but the sports events bring young athletes together for a great cause. The 2015 Hero Scholarship Basketball All-Star Games will be held on Saturday evening, April 11, at Penncrest High School. The other main event is the Hero Bowl football game set for May 28. Today's announcement focuses on the double-header Hero Basketball game.

Mr. Culp stressed the importance of this Hero Fund. One of the greatest tragedies a community can suffer is the loss of a police officer or emergency responder. We all witnessed this recently with the death of a Philadelphia officer, Robert Wilson, who was killed earlier this month while trying to prevent a robbery at a Game Stop store leaving behind two sons.

These men and women are police officers, firefighters and emergency responders but they are also fathers, husbands and friends. As the name of our fund indicates, they are heroes. The Hero Scholarship Fund is one way we can help families in Delaware County if the worst happens.

Mr. Culp welcomed Collingdale Borough Police Chief Robert Adams, Chairman of the Hero Bowl Basketball Committee, to outline the program for the All-Star Double-Header Hero Basketball Game on April 11. He was accompanied by Ed Beebe, of the County's Emergency Services Department and a basketball committee member.

The All-Star game coaches are Don Ciminera (Agnes Irwin School), Mark Jordan (Radnor High School), Steve Cloran (Cardinal O'Hara High School) and Mike Doyle (Penncrest High School). The referees for the games are PIAA varsity officials who are either in law enforcement or related to a law enforcement official and who are volunteering their time to officiate. Admission to the game is \$5.00 each with the girls' game starting at 6 P.M. and the boys' game starting at 8 P.M.

The Hero Scholarship Fund of Delaware County, Inc., was established in 1977 by County Council to provide college education scholarships for children of police, fire fighters and emergency medical personnel who die in the line of duty. Since its founding, 34 young people have received scholarships.

Chairman Civera called on Mrs. Morrone to present a resolution declaring March 18 as "Kick Butts Day" and the presentation of awards in the Tobacco Free Coalition Kick Butts Day Bookmark Contest.

Thanks to education and outreach efforts by many public health organizations, Mrs. Morrone said we are all aware of the toll that tobacco use takes on our health. While we have made progress in reducing tobacco use, nearly one in five Americans still smokes, and more than 2,800 kids try their first cigarette each day.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Tobacco kills 480,000 people each year and it costs the United States about \$170 billion in health care expenditures.

Most people have heard of the Great American Smokeout, held every November, to encourage people to quit smoking. There is another important day focused on our young people. Today is "Kick Butts Day," a national day of activism that empowers youth to speak out against tobacco. During Kick Butts Day, students are encouraged to stay tobacco-free and to educate one another on the risks of all tobacco use.

The Delaware County Tobacco Free Coalition sponsored a "Kick Butts Day" Bookmark Contest with the theme "Tobacco Free – It Starts with Me!" Students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade were invited to create bookmarks that encourages a tobacco-free lifestyle for young people. The bookmark contest empowers Delaware County students to speak up against the dangers of tobacco use and to encourage their peers to kick the habit.

This year, the Delaware County Library System partnered with the Coalition in the contest by distributing entry forms to each county library. Each library will also receive printed copies of the winning bookmarks to give out to their patrons.

Mrs. Morrone invited the following members of the Coalition who attended today's meeting to come forward to accept the resolution: Ellen R. Williams, Administrative Director, Crozer Keystone Community Health Education; Helen McGoohan, Assistant Director of Delaware County Intercommunity Health; Kara Chivalette, Wellness and Prevention Specialist, Bryn Mawr Hospital; Melissa A. Maier, Program Coordinator, Crozer Keystone; Ronelle Yanuzzi, Health Educator, CKHS Community Health; Kelly Vice, Health Education Intern, CKHS Community Health; Barbara Siso, Tobacco Treatment Counselor, Riddle Hospital; and Casey Neidig, Intern, ChesPenn Health Services.

Mrs. Morrone asked Ellen Williams, Chairperson for the Delaware County Tobacco-Free Coalition, and David Belanger, Delaware County Library System Director, to come forward to present awards to the winners in the "Kick Butts" Bookmark Contest.

Ms. Williams thanked the students, their families and the teachers for their support of these great kids. It was not an easy task to select the winners. They do their best to make it as fair as possible so that everyone has the best chance. Awards were given to students in K-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category.

The winning entries were as follows:

**Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Fatou Diop (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), East Lansdowne Elementary School; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Savannah Marie Rode (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Commonwealth Connections Academy; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Serentiy Fowler (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Sharon Hill Elementary School;

**Grades 3 to 5:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Imani Robinson (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Aldan Elementary School; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Isabella Louise Aungst (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) Woodland Elementary School; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Scotty Mathues (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Coeburn Elementary School; and

**Grades 6 to 8:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Bethany Ho (Grade 8) Garnet Valley Middle School; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Hannah Vy Nguyen (Grade 8), Commonwealth Connections Academy (who was unable to attend); and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Sydney Coleman (Grade 7), Northley Middle School.

Ms. Williams called on Joan Morrison, a successful ex-smoker, to say a few words about how she quit smoking about 39 years of that habit.

Chairman Civera called on Mr. McBlain to announce the student winners in the Delaware County Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Force Poster Contest.

Mr. McBlain said our most precious resource and our hope for the future is our youth. The early death of a young person is a heart-breaking tragedy that shakes the community to its core. Unfortunately, suicide among adolescents is a major public health concern. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is a leading cause of death among those ages 10-24.

While risk factors and causes are always being studied, one thing is clear, prevention methods, including greater awareness by parents, educators and friends can help reduce teen suicide. In Delaware County, we are fortunate to have educators and experts who work together through the Delaware County Suicide Prevention & Awareness Task Force. The Task Force recently held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual "Make A Difference" Art with a Message Contest.

This is not an easy topic for a young person to comprehend, but the purpose of the contest is to "foster hope." The goal is to encourage emotional well-being by using art to convey the concepts of communication, hope, community and friendship. By stressing that help is available in the community, either by professionals or loved ones, the effort is to prevent suicide.

Mr. McBlain said there are several suicide prevention programs and resources available on the Task Force website. People can also find information on the County's Mobile Crisis Team, which can respond to an emotional crisis any time, any day. They offer a telephone hotline for people who need to talk.

Mr. McBlain called on the following members of the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Force who attended today's meeting: Maureen Hennessey, Director of Intercommunity Health; Ellen Chung (Elwyn), Co-Chair of the Task Force; and Krista Bendis (Rockford Center), committee member. Also attending today's meeting was Dr. Fredric Hellman, Delaware County Medical Examiner, who has been a leading voice in Delaware County on the issue of teen suicide prevention.

Ms. Chung said this is the 8<sup>th</sup> annual poster contest and the biggest response year with approximately 100 entries. The Task Force did outreach to public, parochial and alternative schools, the Detention Center and mental health agencies; they were amazed how many responses they received.

Ms. Chung said they will hold their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Run/Walk event on Saturday, May 2, in Ridley Creek State Park. They chose that date because May is Mental Health Month and also the first week of May is the start of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

Since becoming the Medical Examiner for Delaware County, Dr. Hellman's driving philosophy has been "to turn lemons into lemonade." He cannot see a better example of this than the leadership and membership of the Task Force. All the participants in this contest and all the other people in the county have taken an active role in addressing this issue. He believes this is a day of congratulations and celebrating life.

The following poster winners and their teachers were called up to be recognized:

Sydney McCarthy – Springton Lake Middle School – 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner  
Summer Martin – Strath Haven High School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner  
Heidi Mroz – Springton Lake Middle School – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner  
Jennifer Savage – Strath Haven High School Guidance Counselor  
Bernadette Dacany – Rose Tree Media School District Social Worker  
Nancy Going – Teacher, Springton Lake Middle School

Chairman Civera called on Mrs. Morrone to continue with today's agenda items.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving 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 seventeen (17) Petitions for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights and two (2) Consents for Adoption with the Orphans Court.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the filing of seventeen (17) Petitions for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights and two (2) Consents for Adoption with the Orphans Court, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL:** Mr. Culp congratulated all the contest winners and hopes to see everyone at the Hero Scholarship Basketball Game on April 11.

Mr. White echoed Mr. Culp's remarks. He thanked the winners for taking the initiative to create a poster or bookmark. County Council will continue to support these organizations to the fullest. He also thanked the teachers, as well as Ridley School Superintendent Lee Ann Wentzel for coming out this morning.


Mr. McBlain congratulated all this morning's honorees, their parents, grandparents and teachers. He also said Delaware County has a very rich history when it comes to basketball teams and basketball programs. Right now Delaware County is able to boast that we have the best college basketball team in the entire United States – the Villanova Wildcats. We wish them luck this week.

Mrs. Morrone also congratulated the students, parents and teachers for being here and for taking part and participating. It is great to see all the different schools that are represented in the county.

Chairman Civera thanked everyone for coming. Council enjoys these types of meetings, especially when the students participate. He invited everyone to come back again to visit and give their input and see how County government works. We meet here every Wednesday at 10 A.M.

**DISCUSSION:** Charles Monteith, 546 Jansen Avenue, Essington (Tinicum Township) addressed Council on October 29, 2014 concerning speeding in the borough and the lack of "flashing lights" in the school zone around Essington Elementary School. He is here today to thank Chairman Civera and the work he's done on this safety issue. He reported that the borough is moving forward with a project that will have flashing lights in the school zone soon.

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

  
ANNE M. COOGAN, County Clerk

RECORDED BY: N. J. Scallan