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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

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In this issue...

Page 2



State Budget Outlook
Courthouse Renovation
Update
CCAP Board of Directors
News

Page 3



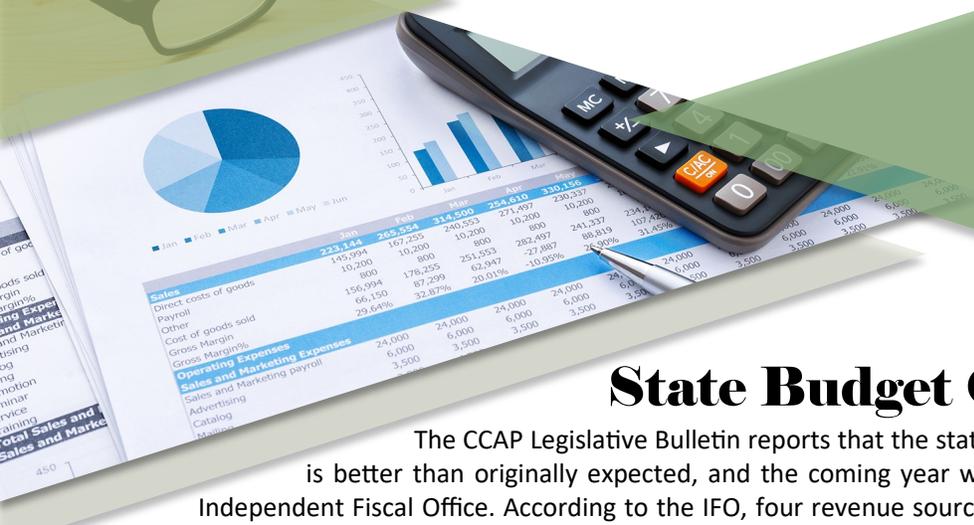
Information Technology
Update
The End



Budget in Brief

The Adams County Finance Department has recently published their 2nd annual “Budget-in-Brief” document and it is posted on the County website. The purpose of a Budget-in-Brief document is to capture forward looking data and other information in a traditional budget but in a summary version. This type of budget document is designed for a quick read, easy to understand, and informative. The value of this document is that it provides highlights of our County budget presented in a way non-financial users and the general public can pick up and quickly read without reading the entire adopted budget document. It is intuitive and easily understood.

The Finance Team is very proud of this achievement and a shout out to all of the staff for taking the initiative to create this document. Finance Director Melissa Devlin recognized Sara Brensinger for her special picture taking skills and maintaining this practice as part of the report in accordance with GFOA Best Practices.



State Budget Outlook

The CCAP Legislative Bulletin reports that the state’s fiscal picture for the current year is better than originally expected, and the coming year will continue a positive trend, according to the Independent Fiscal Office. According to the IFO, four revenue sources have driven the surge in FY 2018-2019 general fund revenue. They include corporate net income tax growth, non-motor vehicle sales and use tax, non-withheld personal income tax, and license/fee revenues primarily in relation to gaming expansion.

If you are a county or municipal official, this information is worth noting in relation to passing a budget on time and funding of county programs.

Courthouse Renovation Update

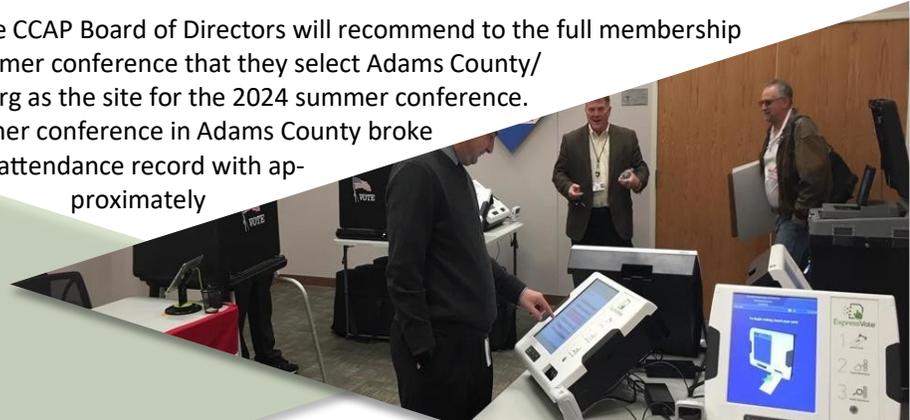
Work is progressing on renovations to the first floor of the Historic Courthouse. Walls are being moved and painted, ceiling tiles and carpet is being replaced. The HVAC contractor has begun upgrades to the system. The first floor of the historic courthouse will soon be home to Finance, Controller and Public Defender. The Solicitor and staff will be moving to the 2nd floor vacated by Finance/Controller. You may have noticed that work has also begun on freshening up the row offices beginning with the Prothonotary. Building & Maintenance is doing most of the work as they have time among other tasks. This makes the renovations fiscally prudent. The Board will keep you updated on progress.

CCAP Board of Directors News

Last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday I was in Harrisburg and West Chester for CCAP Board of Directors business. On Wednesday the Board Interview Team interviewed eight finalists for the position of CCAP Executive Director. CCAP has extreme value to county government. CCAP is not only the premier lobbying group for county government; but is also a business entity providing various insurance needs to Pennsylvania county governments. Executive Director Doug Hill is retiring December 31st after 35 years of service to CCAP in that position. Doug is extremely well respected by staff and counties both state-wide and nationally. The Interview Team will be narrowing down candidates for interviews before the full board of directors at the Summer Conference in August. We anticipate the selectee will have a 3-month overlap with Doug before he departs.

Among a multitude of topics, the Board discussed and was updated on two CCAP priority subjects regarding Voting Machine Reimbursement and Opioid Litigation. CCAP is obviously lobbying the legislature for maximum reimbursement for the new state mandated voting machines. I am happy to report there does seem to be some headway with the legislature going into next year’s budget. Both the state Attorney General and individual counties are pursuing legal action for damages against several pharmaceuticals that manufacture OxyContin. Purdue Pharma seems to be the lead company being litigated. We were told that settlement talks were underway with other companies. The Adams County Board is having conversations and getting expertise on how we want to proceed with these action(s).

On another proud note, the CCAP Board of Directors will recommend to the full membership at this year’s summer conference that they select Adams County/ Gettysburg as the site for the 2024 summer conference. Last summer conference in Adams County broke an attendance record with approximately



400 participants for four days. The Board has continually heard from our colleagues from across the state how much they enjoyed their experience in Adams County last summer. The final three selections offered by CCAP staff were Hershey Lodge, Penn Stater and Adams County/Gettysburg. Adams County got the nod regarding cost, date compatibility and the fact that the members had such an enjoyable time last year. Each year the summer conference rotates to the Eastern, Central and Western part of the state - normally at a different location. To get the event two times in six years is quite a feat and a testament to what we have in Adams County.

Information Technology Update

The Information Technology Department recently participated in an RFP process at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania to replace the current Adams County website. The purpose of the meeting was to vet multiple vendors to determine the best solution for PA Counties that participate in the CCAP web hosting program. CCAP hopes to have a final decision made within the next month. IT will then work towards determining when the migration from the current web platform to the new one will occur. The IT Department will be working closely with the Commissioner's Office throughout the process.

In addition, Phil Walter, Director of the IT Department, participated in the National Association of Counties (NACo) IT strategic planning focus group in Bolton Landing, NY. Throughout the two-day session, over twenty IT Directors and Chief Information Officers shared their expertise and vision on where NACo should be focusing resources and efforts. Adams County was represented alongside multiple states throughout the Country. This wide-ranging perspective will help NACo to represent and support both large and smaller counties. Pennsylvania was well represented with Adams County, Franklin County, and CCAP all in attendance.



The End

The countdown to the Phiel Family new Golden Retriever continues. The litter is supposed to arrive in late June and be ready for their new homes in late August. My druthers is a female, since I have had great history with two previous female canine companions; but I am not ruling out a male from this litter if the chromosomes don't happen to cooperate. Picking a name is a family activity but if it is a female we probably want it to end with the e sound. I will keep you posted.

Here are some great events this weekend. Today from 4-7, the Adams County Library FunFest is a free event coordinated by the Adams County Library System that will feature activities for the entire family, face painting, balloon artists, food and vendors. The 2019 theme is A Universe of Stories. The Library's goal is to have activities centered around five literacy's: basic, information, civic and social, health and financial. The FunFest will take place at the library on Baltimore Street. On Saturday the 63rd Annual New Oxford Antique Market & Craft Show will be held on the historic New Oxford Center Square and surrounding streets in New Oxford. Ample parking will be available nearby. This is the longest continuous running antique show in the country and has one of the largest attendances of street shows in Pennsylvania. One hundred quality dealers will be offering a wide variety of crafts, homemade items and antiques. Food vendors will also be in attendance. On Sunday head to The Lodges for their 2nd Annual Food & Fun Festival! Proceeds support the Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen. Bring the whole family for a Father's Day outing for a good cause. Enjoy great food, beverages, music and vendors for all. They will have clay pigeon shooting, an axe throwing competition, cigar rolling, bouncy house for the kids and more. Bring a fishing pole and enjoy some time at the lake for catch and release. Bring a camp chair or easy up if you want to stay a while and enjoy the festivities. The Willy's will be playing during the festival from 1-4pm. So that takes care of most of your weekend. To round it out, the best of Adams County's agricultural bounty is increasing each week at many area produce and farmers markets - so start enjoying fresh, healthy produce while supporting our local Adams County economy.

Happy Father's Day to all the Dads! We are definitely rolling into vacation season, so no matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!