

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

27-2020

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Office with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Probation Director, Len Hahn; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Wendy Melius from the Center for Community Action and visitors, Dean Fluke and Dave Wagman. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the following individuals were present via GoToMeeting: CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; EMA Director, Joe Thompson; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitor, Mark Fennell.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Chief Clerk Heather Fellman conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. Prayer was led by Commissioner Sather and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Walls.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the July 21st Public Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the payment of bills.

There was one addition to the agenda: Joe Thompson, EMA Director, is requesting consideration of approval for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas reminded residents that this year is a census year. The deadline to participate in the census is October 31, 2020. It is important that all residents participate. For each person that opts out of the census \$2,000 in funding for the area is lost every year. You can complete the census online, via telephone, or using a paper form. Huntingdon County is lagging behind other counties. We are only 54% complete. The Commissioners would like to thank Our Place Convenient Store in Broad Top, Sandy Ridge Plaza in Orbisonia, and the Cassville Country Store in Cassville. They have worked with the census people and they will be set up in those locations encouraging people and helping them to fill out the census. Commissioner Thomas also urged everyone to continue to follow CDC guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please wear your masks when you cannot social distance. Commissioner Sather reminded residents that it is summer and there are kids out playing. Please be cautious when you're driving.

Under Public Comments, Dean Fluke commented that in the previous meeting he had asked a question again about who signs the checks – the Commissioners or the CYS Director. Commissioner Thomas responded that, as Mr. Fluke is well aware, the Commissioners have the fiscal authority for the County. The checks are signed by the Fiscal Department and the Treasurer's Department. Mr. Fluke further commented on the termination of Dave Wagman, the former Maintenance Director, expressing his opinion that Mr. Wagman was a valuable employee who saved the County money. Commissioner Sather commented that this is a personnel matter and the Commissioners cannot offer a response.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for the resignation of Amanda Coleman effective August 6th. Commissioner Sather asked how many open caseworker positions there are. Ms. Walborn noted that there are currently four positions open but there are two candidates who are going through the pre-screening process and we have received 14 applications so it is just a matter of sorting through

them and making some decisions. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for the Rural Housing Preservation Grant Agreement. This funding was applied for in 2018 and \$71,718.23 has been awarded. The deadline for expenditure is September of 2021. The Planning Department is working with Wendy Melius from the Center for Community Action. The Center for Community Action will receive approximately \$12,000 in administrative fees. Approximately 5 homes will be served with a budget of \$11,772 per home. Mr. Lettiere provided a clarification that the Center for Community Action's fee is not to exceed \$2,550 per unit. Commissioner Walls commented that lead and radon remediation is not funded through this program. How will it be paid for if found? Ms. Melius commented that she believes it can be paid out of rehabilitation funding through other resources. Dean Fluke asked if this funding is only for Bedford. Commissioner Sather noted that this funding is only for Huntingdon. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for a notice to proceed for the Shirley Home Freezer Project with Southern Contractors. The notice of award and contract were approved on June 9th. This project will take approximately 60 days to complete and will begin on August 1st. The project will be paid for out of CDBG funds. Final cost is \$72,995. Commissioner Walls thanked the Planning Department and the state agencies that have been involved with getting this project completed. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Len Hahn, Probation Director, requested consideration of approval to apply for a grant for the Intermediate Punishment Program through PCCD. This program helps to keep the community safe while addressing problems of overcrowding at the jail. Commissioner Thomas commented that this is only funded for five months this year until the state budget is passed. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of Approval was given to hire Jennifer Klester for the open part-time custodial position with a start date of July 27, 2020. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, requested consideration of approval for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Agreement. This agreement is to pay for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The grant will pay for the full cost of the project whereas usually it would be an 80/20 match. The total cost of the project is \$52,500. Commissioner Walls thanked the EMA and Planning departments for their hard work. He also noted that there are a couple of townships that still need to submit their paperwork. It is very important that everyone complete and submit their paperwork quickly. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There were no Matters for Action, Information, and Discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary