

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Deputy Chief Clerk, Stacie Cutshall; Probation Director, Len Hahn; Register and Recorder, Kelsey Dunn and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Cecelia St. Clair and Chris Dixon from the CYS Fiscal Department and EMA Director, Katie Unger attended via GoToMeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Walls. 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; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes) to table approval of the previous week's minutes.

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

There were two additions to the agenda. The first addition is consideration of approval for the Tower Ownership Agreement for the Broadband Project. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes; Thomas, yes). The second is consideration of approval for a grant disbursement agreement for the NTIA award. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Sather noted that there will be no public meeting next week because of Election Day. There will also be no public meeting on November 22nd due to the CCAP conference. Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID vaccines and to allow their eligible children to get vaccinated as well.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the solicitor, Solicitor Larry Newton noted that the grant disbursement agreement is ready to be signed. He would like to make a slight modification to the Tower Ownership Agreement before it is signed and sent to Upward Broadband. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Walls, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the tower ownership agreement with the suggested modifications. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the disbursement agreement as presented.

Under new business, Kelsey Dunn, Register and Recorder, requested consideration of approval to hire McKenna Pearson for the vacant Deputy position in her office. Her hire date will be effective 11/7/2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Tech, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Diversified Treatment Alternatives Centers, LLC. They provide residential services for boys as well as foster care services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. It is a renewal from last year at the state-approved rates. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Robert Covell, Attorney. This is a new contract for conflict counsel services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Len Hahn as Interim CYS Director. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude to Mr. Hahn for stepping up to cover these duties until a new CYS Director can be hired. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes).

Katie Unger, EMA Director, presented an update on COVID-19. The number of county cases stands at 13,131. The State total is 2,717,658. We are in the medium level of community spread. SCI Smithfield has 14 inmates and one staff member testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has 2 inmates and one staff member testing positive. Hospitalizations are at 1,301. The incident rate is 84.2 for the County and 68.1 for the State. PCR is at 9.1% for the County and 11.2% for the State. There has been a slight increase in cases among residents and staff in long-term care facilities. 25,227 people have been vaccinated in Huntingdon County and 2,295 have received their booster. There was one additional death in the last week for a total of 266 since the beginning of the pandemic. The dominant variant is still Omicron.

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 Walls to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary