

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners meeting room with the following being present: Commissioners Sather, Walls, and Thomas; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Warden, Duane Black; Wendy Melius and Susan Speicher, Center for Community Action; Tanya Hartman and Kelly Maffia, Mainstream Counseling; Children and Youth Administrator, Joyce Zolten; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn; visitors Jim Cassatt and Barry Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather followed by prayer led by Commissioner Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Thomas.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the December 27th 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 are two additions to the agenda. The Commissioners will consider a Citation of Respect for Trooper Landon Weaver who was killed in the line of duty on December 30th. Mainstream Counseling will present information on a grant recently received for Huntingdon County.

Commissioner Walls announced there are two openings on the library board and encouraged anyone who is interested to contact the library. Commissioner Thomas offered his deepest condolences to the family of State Trooper Landon Weaver, the law enforcement community and his family. Commissioner Sather stated it is inspiring to see the law enforcement community, the first responders, emergency personnel and fire fighters come together. He offered admiration, respect, and love to the Weaver family.

Jim Cassatt asked if the County auditors are independent. Commissioner Sather stated they are elected officials and the recent opening that was filled was done so by Judge's appointment. Jim stated he feels it is a conflict of interest for Gary O'Korn to be appointed as Auditor since he was involved in creating last year's budget. Jim also made comments regarding the variance in the levy numbers that were used to create the 2017 budget. Commissioner Sather stated the levy numbers were received from the Tax Assessment office and are believed to be accurate numbers. Commissioner Thomas stated part of the reason for the change in the levy was due to the Pictometry not generating as much revenue as anticipated.

Solicitor McManamon will present documents for signature related to the 2017 TAN at the end of the meeting.

First on the agenda today was Duane Black with a request to hire a part-time Corrections officer to fill an existing vacancy. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the hiring of Richard Schultz, Part-time corrections Officer effective January 4th, 2017.

Tanya Hartman and Kelly Maffia provided information to the Board regarding a grant that was recently received for Huntingdon County. Kelly stated that Tri County Drug and Alcohol applied for the grant in conjunction with Mainstream counseling. The grant is for \$134,663.98 and was offered by the PA Department of Corrections. It will be used to provide Drug and Alcohol services to inmates exiting jail. The allowed services include up to six monthly injections of Vivitrol, which is a drug that blocks the effects of opiates as well as counseling and case management services. Commissioner Thomas thanked Tri County D&A and Mainstream Counseling for writing the grant.

Wendy Melius and Susan Speicher were present to request signatures on a revision to the HSDF report. Back in November, they were present and requested permission to move monies out of Case Management and into other housing support services. The Department of Human Services is now requesting they move that money back to Case Management services. The total amount for both revisions was \$18,217.00. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the report revision as requested.

Joyce Zolten was present to request the hiring of a Caseworker I. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the hiring of Cody Hockenberry, Caseworker I effective January 9th, 2017.

The Commissioners received the 2017 Public Defender contract for consideration. Fred Gutshall will continue as the Chief Public Defender but Chris Wencker, Esquire will be taking on the role of Deputy Public Defender. This is due to the resignation of Jennifer Habel, Esquire and BMZ Law, Deputy Public Defender effective December 31st, 2016. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the 2017 Public Defender contract as requested.

Due to Chris Wencker becoming Deputy Public Defender, he will no longer be doing conflict Counsel work. Therefore, the Commissioners considered a contract with Andrew Carson, Esquire and the Law firms of Michael B. Cohen to serve as conflict counsel. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the contract with Andrew Carson, Esquire and the Law firm of Michael B. Cohen to serve as conflict counsel. The contract is for \$20,000.00 to cover up to 50 cases and will be managed by the Court Administrators office.

Due to the resignation of Jennifer Habel, Esquire and BMZ Law as conflict counsel, the Commissioners considered a fixed fee contract with them to complete the cases they are currently working on. The contract is for \$30,000.00 for a period of one year to cover any cases they were assigned prior to December 31st, 2016. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the contract as presented.

Korn Ferry/Hay Group provided the Board with an agreement for actuarial services for 2017 in the amount of \$24,888.00. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the contract as presented.

Next, the two additions to the agenda were considered. First was a Citation of Respect for State Trooper Landon Weaver who was killed in the line of duty on December 30th, 2016. Following the reading of the Citation, it was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the Citation of Respect.

Solicitor McManamon presented a resolution and several documents to be signed related to the 2017 Tax Anticipation note. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to adopt Resolution 1-2017 authorizing the 2017 TAN and the signing of related documents.

There was one veteran burial allowance for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. Minutes prepared by Michelle Cerett, Chief Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary