

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, March 31, 2009
13-09

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following being present: Commissioners Fluke, Hoover, and Kough Pittenger; Scot Gill, Solicitor; Chief Clerk, Cinnamon Bair; Ed Silveti, Executive Director Southern Alleghenies; Ken Tucker, Chief Tax Assessor; Kay Coons, Prothonotary; Tim Guisler, Probation Director; Adam Miller, EMA Director; George Germann, The Daily News; Jeff Gill, Altoona Mirror; and visitor Robert Salmons.

The meeting was called to order at 9:29 a.m. by Chairman Fluke followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Hoover and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Kough Pittenger.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve the minutes of the March 24 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve payment of invoices for the week of March 30.

There were three additions and a change to the agenda. The mechanical, plumbing, and electrical bids were originally scheduled for today, but were postponed by addendum to the following week. Ed Silveti spoke to the Commissioners in place of the bid opening. Lou Ann Shontz sent the shredding contract to be signed by the Commissioners. Adam Miller requested the Commissioners sign for the grant awarded to EMA for the construction of a new building and also to sign the annual EMPG grant.

There was no public comment.

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor.

First, Ken Tucker, Chief Tax Assessor recommended to the Commissioners to hire Heather Pearson for the position of Field Data Collector. The Commissioners noted that they had sat in on the interviews with Ken. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to hire Heather Pearson, effective April 13, 2009. Heather's salary will be set at the Salary Board Meeting April 7, 2009.

Next, Ed Silveti, Executive Director Southern Alleghenies addressed geothermal heating and cooling funds that may be available with the Stimulus Bill from the Federal Government. Ed told the Commissioners that there is no question about its eligibility. Southern Alleghenies has it on the list along with other county projects. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if other counties were looking into geothermal projects. Ed said that Cambria has two projects that were submitted not geothermal. Commissioner Fluke asked if the projects had to be "shovel ready" in a short time frame. Ed told him there is a specific time frame, and there will be cycles. Southern Alleghenies would be hosting webinars and emails going out to counties and municipalities. Commissioner Hoover stated that if the money is available for the Elks he would want to include the Courthouse or the annex buildings.

Commissioner Hoover asked Ed if he had heard anything on the transportation stimulus money. Ed did not.

Scheduled on the agenda; Kay Coons, Prothonotary to give the Commissioners an update on her office. Kay said that with the current economy they were very busy with lawsuits, judgments, etc. Kay brought with her a file that was approximately 4 ½ inches thick of paper. She said that with paperwork like that, her space would fill up fast. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if Kay knew the time guidelines to dispose of old files. Kay said each case needs to be looked at piece by piece some parts can be taken out, but others need to remain. Commissioner Hoover asked if she needs to make requests to the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (PHMC). Kay said that they must complete a form. The Commissioners went over options with Kay regarding her files, space and the need to have a staff person available for the review of the old files. After which a person would be needed to microfilm and preserve the old files.

Commissioner Fluke asked if the multipage lawsuit was a higher fee than a one page filing. Kay answered no. Commissioner Fluke said that there should be a charge per page. Kay said it is a flat fee of \$75 and that the County receives \$60. Commissioner Hoover asked if that was the highest she

could charge. Kay was not sure and would check.

Next on the Agenda was Tim Guisler, Probation Director. Tim came to the Commissioners to request that the Commissioners be the fiduciary for the Huntingdon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB). Tim explained that money is available for two and four year grants with no match. A sub-committee was formed to look into what activities were needed in Huntingdon County. Tim said they would keep the Commissioners updated on any project they may look into. Commissioner Fluke asked who was on the Committee. Tim said that he was, George Zanic, Jeff Miles, Rufus Brenneman, Tim Schrack, and Diane Strohman. Tim said that only one Commissioner would have a vote on the CJAB and that Commissioner has not been decided by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Fluke asked who will monitor the grant money spending. Tim said the Commissioners or a designated person will. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the research committee to look into the grants and the Commissioners will act as fiduciary of any grant approved by the CJAB board and the Board of Commissioners.

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator (not present) requested the Commissioners to sign a contract with Burgmeier to do the county paper shredding. Two bids were received Burgmeier and Shred-It. Burgmeier was the low bidder. Scot Gill had reviewed the bids and Lou Ann Shontz recommended Burgmeier. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the contract for shredding.

The Commissioners approved payment for 0 Veteran burial allowances, 0 widow/widower burial allowances and 0 bases.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Hoover second by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

After all in attendance at the meeting were notified the meeting was reconvened to approve the PEMA grant for the construction of the EMA Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The meeting started at 11:05am.

Adam Miller, EMA Director was able to attend the meeting. Adam requested that the Commissioners sign the EOC grant in the amount of \$769,860. The grant will be matched with \$256,620 by the McConnellstown Fire Department. The Fire Company will provide the land to be leased by the County. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the EOC grant with PEMA.

Adam also requested the Commissioners sign the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) which reimburses the County for half of Adam Miller's and Denise Dunlap, EMA Administrative Assistant's salaries and benefits. Adam in addition asked if he could pay the difference to the County for adding his wife Jennifer to his health coverage. Adam said that PEMA would pay half of the cost for family benefits if provided by the County. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Hoover, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the revised EMPG grant including health coverage for Jennifer Miller, Adam's wife. The coverage will remain as long as PEMA pays fifty percent and Adam pays the remainder of the difference. The coverage is also available to Denise Dunlap, Denise declined family coverage.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Hoover second by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary