

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

12-2022

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; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Probation Director, Len Hahn; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Chief Assessor, Melissa Bousum; EMA Staff Member, Katie Unger; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn; Chris Osborne from Vision and students and teachers from the Huntingdon County Head Start Program.

Chris Dixon and Claudia Conrad from the CYS Department attended remotely via GoToMeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Prayer was led by Commissioner Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Huntingdon County Head Start.

Commissioner Thomas read "Moose's Loose Tooth" to the Huntingdon County Head Start class. Proclamation 3-2022 to designate April 2 – April 8, 2022 as the Week of the Young Child was approved.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the previous week's minutes as presented.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas urged residents not to let their guard down about COVID. Get the vaccine and the booster, if eligible. He also encouraged residents to allow their children to be vaccinated against COVID. Commissioner Walls asked that the public continue to pray for the genocide in Ukraine.

There were no public comments.

There were two items to be addressed by the solicitor. Last year the County brought legal action against Bethany Christian Services of Central PA for some compliance issues with children being placed through this agency. These compliance issues cost the county reimbursement funding that would typically be received from state agencies. The suite was for \$30,000. We were able to determine that some of that money was still recoverable. We reached a settlement agreement for \$15,065.56. This includes the amount due to the agency plus our costs. Consideration of approval was given to sign the release for this settlement agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes). The second item is a settlement agreement for a lawsuit filed by Jerry and Carol Price against Colton and Chantelle Neubauer and the County. The lawsuit was filed in 2019 concerning an alley adjacent to the Jail. It has been satisfied with a quick claim deed in favor of the County. The County will pay the Prices a sum of \$1,000. Attorney Snook served as counsel for the County in this suit as Attorney Newton had a conflict.

Under new business, Len Hahn, Probation Director, requested consideration of approval for renewal of the State Offender Supervision Fund Agreement for fiscal year 2021-2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

At the request of Treasurer Susan Harry the Fairfield Online Dog License agreement was tabled again. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for resolution 5-2022. The purpose of this resolution is for the County's 2021 CDBG application. On October 26, 2021 you approved resolution 14-2021 for this purpose. Upon review by DCED, they requested additional language in the resolution to indicate that if CDBG funds are determined to be expended for ineligible program costs the Commissioners agree to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal funding sources. The chances of that happening are pretty remote. Before we begin a project, we have DCED review and approve each project relative to eligibility and fundability. The current resolution includes the additional language requested by DCED. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for Change Order 2 for the Library Elevator Project. Change order 2 and change order 3 have been combined into a single change order. This change order is relative to the addition of a new 100 amp disconnect for the cab lights and labor totaling \$1,927.11. The new total cost will be \$140,713.11. The Library is undertaking a capital campaign to solicit funding from the community to offset the impact to the library budget as no general fund monies will be spent on this project. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for an extension request for the Mapleton Reservoir Improvement Project. All work was initially to be completed by April 1, 2022 but we are requesting an extension to August 31, 2022. The reasons for this include: an income survey expired and a new income survey was required. This was completed in November 2021. The environmental clearance was required to be completed prior to the drawdown. A dam permit was required from the DEP and was completed in October 2021. 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 an extension request for the 912 Washington Street Rehabilitation. All work was to be completed by April 1, 2022 but we are requesting an extension to October 31, 2022. There were a lot of delays relative to this project because there was a displaced tenant and there are federal regulations which necessitate an in-depth review of the client's eligibility for rental assistance at another location. The Borough is aware of this and has approved this action as well. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for an extension request for the Huntingdon Borough Town Clock Revitalization. All work was to be completed by April 1, 2022 but we are requesting an extension to December 21, 2022. The Borough has approved this action. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for Revision Request 3 for the 2018 CDBG Contract. This involves adding the Huntingdon County Clock Tower to the 2018 project year in the amount of

\$160,419.86. It is currently funded in 2019 and 2020. It also involved the reduction of the MUMA Hill Valley Sewer Project to \$9,924.97 and reduction of the MUMA West Water Street Water Line Project to \$1,500. Finally it involves the reduction of the Smithfield Township Demolition of 913 Pike Street to \$51,090. The reason for these changes is due to the fact that Huntingdon Borough's Micro Enterprise Loan Program was dissolved about a month ago. That balance was \$160,418.86. That is considered program income by DCED. It had to be put in a separate account. Any projects that we were drawing money down for had to be removed from that program income account versus the treasury account, which is the federal money. We are putting it in various projects and have been guided by DCED to do so. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for 2 agency staff to attend the National Car Seat Installation Training. Now that we house the county foster care program we are doing a lot of our own visitation and we are doing additional transporting of children. Car seat safety is a key component to keeping kids safe. The cost of the training is \$30 per person plus hotel expenses for the four day training. The overall total cost is \$654 for the two staff members to attend the training. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Tech, requested consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Amber McCloskey for guardian ad litem services. This contract is for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Jennifer Habel for guardian ad litem services. This contract is for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Melissa Bousum, Chief Assessor, requested consideration of approval to attend the Spring Conference May 4th-May 6th. This provides continuing education credits for our CPE licenses. The conference cost is \$540 and the hotel is \$596. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Melissa Bousum and Chris Osborne from Vision provided an update and explanation of Vision's Work in the County. Mr. Osborne is the Crew Leader for our data collection project. The data collection project began last week and they have part of Smithfield done. The project is going well. There is a new hire who is supposed to start on April 11th and then they will be out on a daily basis working on data collection. Commissioner Thomas noted that an important thing for the public to know is that this is only for new homes and additions to update the records in the Tax Assessment Office. This is not a full reassessment. Mr. Osborne noted that the workers that will be doing the data collection throughout the county wear high-visibility vests and have County and Vision ID cards. Our cars also have stickers on the vehicle identifying them as Property Assessors from the Assessment Office. They are registered with the State Police and emergency services. This project will be finished by December 31, 2022.

Katie Unger, EMA Assistant, requested consideration of approval for the 2022 LEPC membership roster. This has been approved by the LEPC and there are three new members: Doug Heart, Jerry Gamber, and Park Armagast. PEMA requires us to provide an updated annual roster. We will send this in with our HMRF grant. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Katie Unger requested consideration of approval for the annual HMRF grant. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. The average number of new cases per day in the county was 2. The State is at an average of 599. Huntingdon County has moved down to a low level of community transmission. SCI Smithfield currently has 7 inmates and 1 staff testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates or staff testing positive. Penn Highlands currently has 1 COVID patient in the med surge unit. There is nothing to report with the schools. The Department of Health reports less than five COVID cases among school-aged children and zero among children 4 and under. Juniata College continues surveillance testing and has had a total of 56 positive cases this semester. COVID hospitalization for the state stands at 489. Our incident rate for the county is 17.7 per 100,000 and the state is 24.9. The PCR percent positivity is 2% for the county and 2.9% for the state. Long-term care facilities have had 22 residents and 12 staff test positive in the past four weeks across three facilities. 24,342 vaccines have been distributed in the county. 10,504 boosters have been given. The county is over 48% vaccinated. There were two deaths in the last week. The dominant variant is still Omicron. Nationally, Omicron BA.1.1 accounts for 57.3%, B.1.1.529 is 7.9% and Stealth Omicron is 34.9%. In Pennsylvania, Omicron B.1.1.529 is at 69.8% and Stealth Omicron is at 30.2%. Commissioner Thomas reminded everyone that home tests are not factored into these numbers. There are a lot of home tests out there now. It is good that the numbers are going down but there is more out there than we think there is. Do not let your guard down. Ms. Unger commented that the Stealth Omicron is definitely starting to pick up. We should continue to be cautious.

Consideration of approval was given for appointments to the Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council. Candidates for renewal are Mary Gates from Dudley, Imogen Blatt from Mount Union, Sarah Locke from Mount Union and Nancy MacNamara from James Creek. We also have new candidate Charles Brenneman. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There was nothing discussed under matters for action, information and discussion.

There were 6 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary