

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; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor McManamon; Treasurer, Susan Harry; CYS Administrator, Joyce Zolten; Register and Recorder, Virginia Cooper; Daily News reporter, Kylie Hawn; and visitors Jim Cassatt, Herb Kann, Don Talasky, Jake Hughes, Kelly Hughes, Dean Fluke, Lois Fluke, Tom Ritchey and Steve Jackson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Solicitor McManamon followed by prayer led by Commissioner Sather and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Walls. Solicitor McManamon welcomed the new Board and said he is looking forward to working with them.

The first order of business today was the organization of the Board of Commissioners. The following motions were made:

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather as the Board Chairman.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Walls as the Board Vice Chairman.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas as the Board Secretary.

At this time, Commissioner Sather took over the meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the December 29th, 2015 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 were several additions to the agenda today. Michelle stated there are sub committees for Southern Alleghenies, rules of procedure for the public meeting, and two Conservation board appointments to be added. She also stated if the new board would like to re-open the 2016 budget, that will be done by motion as well.

Jim Cassatt stated he heard the State has released money and asked if the line of credit loan would be paid off. Commissioner Thomas stated the money coming in is for CYS services but will not be enough to pay all the invoices. Kelly Hughes welcomed the new board and wished them well. She read a statement to the Board regarding her recent termination. She feels she was treated unfairly and was not trained properly to do her job. Mrs. Hughes also clarified statements that were made in a recent Daily News article. Jim Cassatt asked Solicitor McManamon if he had located the letter that Commissioner O’Korn presented at the December 8th public meeting. He stated he has not located it but when he does, it will be added to the minutes. Tom Ritchey stated his dealings with Kelly in her position were positive. He asked the Commissioners to re-visit the situation. Former Commissioner Dean Fluke questioned the reason for the appeal of Kelly Hughes unemployment. Commissioner Sather stated the unemployment issue has not come before the new board. He also stated that he would look into the personnel issue but will not comment at the public meeting on that. Steve Jackson asked for clarification on a recent daily news article. Commissioner Thomas stated he isn’t aware of the article in question, therefore he would only be speculating on his comments. Mr. Jackson also asked questions regarding a grant to improve Cold Springs Road.

Next on the agenda was the appointment of the Commissioners to various boards. The following appointments were made:

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Peter McManamon as the Solicitor of the Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Peter McManamon as the Solicitor for Children and Youth.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Michelle Cerett as the Chief Clerk of the Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Ken Tucker as the Chief Tax Assessor for the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint John Cirko as the Emergency Management Director for the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Lou Ann Shontz as the Veteran Affairs Director for the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Susan Harry as Tax Claim Director for the County. Commissioner Thomas publically thanked Bobbi Jo Gearhart for a great job while serving as Treasurer and Tax Claim Director this past year.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint First National Bank as the Depository for the General Fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Community State Bank as the Depository for the Liquid Fuels account.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Fred Gutshall as the Chief Public Defender for the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Central Counties Youth Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Shirley Home Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services Executive Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioners Walls and Thomas to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Committee Board of Directors with himself serving as the alternate.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Executive Committee for Southern Alleghenies.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Rural Transportation Coordinating committee for Southern Alleghenies.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Personnel committee for Southern Alleghenies.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Finance Committee for Southern Alleghenies.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Conservation Board and RC&D Council.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Library Board.

It was moved by Commissioners Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Route 22 Community Advisory Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Local Emergency Planning Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Skills Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Co-Op Extension Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Economic Infrastructure Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Visitors Bureau Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Chamber of Commerce Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the County Leadership Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Commissioner Sather to the Senior Abuse Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Court Security committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Commissioners Walls and Thomas to the Pa Counties Health Insurance Program board. Commissioner Thomas will be the voting member with Commissioner Walls as the alternate.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint all three Commissioners to the following Boards:

- Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services
- Area Agency on Aging
- 911 Policy Board and 911 Regional Board
- Salary Board
- Prison Board
- Retirement Board
- Election Board
- Records Improvement Committee
- Assessment Appeals Board
- Tri County Solid Waste Agency
- Huntingdon County Business and Industry
- Partners for Economic Progress
- Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Next on the agenda was Joyce Zolten with a personnel request. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the hiring of Alyssa Phillips, Caseworker effective January 11th, 2016. It was also noted for the minutes that Richard Putt retired on Disability from CYS effective January 4th, 2016.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the public meetings with no changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to re-open the 2016 budget.

There were two Conversation Board appointments for consideration. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to re-appoint Dennis Johnson as a public member of the Conversation Board for a period of four years. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Tyler Snider to the Conversation board as a farm member for a term of four years.

There were two Veteran burial allowances for approval today.

Commissioner Sather stated that it is an honor to serve the residents of Huntingdon County. He looks forward to working with his fellow Commissioners and Department Heads to move Huntingdon County forward in Business development and job creation. Commissioner Walls commented that he is humbled and honored to serve the residents of Huntingdon County. He believes in this county and is looking forward to working with his fellow Commissioners to move the County forward. Commissioner Thomas thanked everyone for coming and wished them a Happy New Year. He stated it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents the past four years and he is looking forward to working with his fellow Commissioners the next four years to move the County forward.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. Minutes prepared by Michelle L. Cerett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary