

Huntingdon, Pa.
Tuesday, November 29, 2011
44-2011

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 Hoover, Fluke and Kough Pittenger; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett, Deputy Chief Clerk, Lori Foster; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; George Germann, Daily News; Commissioner Elect, Gary O'Korn; and visitors Bruce Pergament, John Hoffstetler, Steve Jackson, Pat Kepple, Jim and Joan Cassatt.

The Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Commissioner Hoover followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Hoover and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Fluke.

There were no additions or corrections to the November 22nd minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, second by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve the minutes of the November 22nd meeting.

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

There were 4 change orders for the Bailey building that Michelle just received. They will be added at the end of the agenda.

Steve Jackson asked several questions regarding the Bailey building. He asked about the status of the lighting. Michelle has an email in to Rick Grissinger and is waiting for a reply. He also asked if the new wall that was built for the ramp was water-proofed. Michelle will check with the contractor and provide an answer next week. He also asked if the sign near the loading dock would be removed to avoid vehicles hitting it. Michelle will check on that as well and provide an answer next week.

Pete presented the bid documents for Runk Bridge for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the bid documents as presented by Keller Engineers. The Solicitor has one additional item but does not have the documents yet. It will be addressed later in the meeting.

First on the agenda was the union agreement with ICOP and the County for jail employees. This item was tabled until the Solicitor has a chance to review.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve estimate 14 for Walnut Grove bridge. Commissioner Fluke asked if this was the last one since the work is completed. Michelle will check with Shawn Ritchey and report back next week.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, no; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to accept the retirement of Sandy McNeal as Elections Coordinator effective March 19, 2012. This item was presented previously but tabled at the request of Commissioner Fluke. Commissioner Kough Pittenger felt it was appropriate for this board to take the action since it was presented to the current board.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, no; Fluke, yes) to approve change order GC 33 for the Bailey building in the amount of \$1905.80.

Michelle noted that some of this work had been approved previously, however the contractor combined some of the change orders on one form.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Hoover, no; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve change order GC 34 for the Bailey building in the amount of \$4875.95.

Commissioner Kough Pittenger commented that each change order is difficult to approve. She feels the current Board inherited the project, the line of credit was already obtained and the fact that there will be no money left for Courthouse renovations is very disappointing. Jim Cassatt questioned her last comment. Commissioner Kough Pittenger rephrased her comment and stated if there is any money left, it won't be much.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, no) to approve change order GC 35 for the Bailey building in the amount of \$427.15.

Change order CG 36 was presented as well but died for lack of a motion. It was for additional trailer rental and facilities related to the extension of work on the Bailey building.

Commissioner Kough Pittenger informed the public that the Shirley Home will be having an open house on December 5, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Solicitor McManamon asked for approval of Resolution 2011-20 granting him permission to petition the Courts to maintain the milage rate at 27 mils. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger to approve resolution 2011-20. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Hoover commented that the public recently elected a candidate who campaigned on a 25 mil budget. While he admitted that he does not know how to run this County on 25 mils, he would like to fulfill the wishes of the voters and see a 25 mil budget. Commissioner Fluke stated that he has never voted for the 25th or 26th mil. He stated that there were no steps taken to reduce the budget to 25 mils. Michelle commented that although the staff in her office enters the numbers into the budget, it is the Commissioners budget and they can make changes as they see fit. Commissioner Hoover asked that Commissioner Fluke present a 25 mil budget. Solicitor McManamon stated that there are time limits to completing the budget and they are down to 30 days. He also stated that the County can not acquire the tax anticipation note without the milage being set. Pat Kepple asked what would happen if this is not resolved. Commissioner Hoover stated that the County will have no money to pay bills and payroll in January. Solicitor McManamon commented that the TAN could be acquired on a lower milage rate, if that is agreed upon. Commissioner Fluke stated that the most recent tax increase was for 3 mils, which he feels was not necessary. Commissioner Fluke referred to payments received the last two years in January that carried us through the first few months of the year. Solicitor McManamon commented that is thin ice to skate on and several others agreed. Bruce Pergament commented that with the expenses rising each year, the milage can not be decreased. Commissioner Kough Pittenger commented that spending is bare bones and there is no fat in the 27 mil budget. Michelle asked that, for the sake of the county, work on the budget resumes this afternoon and continue until an acceptable budget is complete so this can be resolved at next weeks meeting. Commissioner Elect O'Korn commented that election results were based on 30% voter turnout. He asked the Board to consider the effects this will have on the entire County. He asked that they reconsider their thoughts and create an appropriate budget for the County.

There were no Veteran's burial allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, second by Commissioner Fluke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary