

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Office with the following present via GoToMeeting: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; EMA Director, Joe Thompson; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Heather Fellman conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. Prayer was led by Commissioner Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was 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 February 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 no additions to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

There were no public comments.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, consideration of approval was given for Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, to attend the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators (PCYA) virtual conference. The total cost for this event is \$50. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for change order number two for the Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Project. There are two main differences for this change order. The first is that the budget would change from \$63,447 to \$58,302, which is a reduction of \$5,145. That is due to the fact that we had to remove one of the qualified sites because we were not able to secure the PennDOT permitting prior to the CDBG expiration. The homeowners have been contacted and they understand. The second component is this would grant an extension for the contractors from February 28 to March 15. He was unable to finish some of the sites due to some weather conflicts. We are confident he can finish those two sites prior to the extended deadline of March 15. Commissioner Sather asked if this change order has been reviewed and approved by the Borough. Ms. Gillen answered that it has been approved. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, presented a weekly update on COVID-19 in Huntingdon County. Huntingdon County remains in the substantial level of community transmission. The case count in Huntingdon to date is 4,208. The statewide recovery rate is 90%. It is estimated that there are 400 active cases in the county right now and there have been 124 deaths. 6700 people in Huntingdon County have received either partial or full vaccines. Our confirmed case rate is going down. Our incident rate per 100,000 residents is slightly higher than the state average but it is still much better. The percentage of hospital ER visits remains low. Our percent positivity rate is 3.9%. The state average is 6.3%. Area schools remain adjusting their schedules as now they are able to open up more for more in-person classes. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report from our long-term care facilities. Penn Highlands Huntingdon has five in-house COVID-19 patients as of today. Last week we had a COVID-19 testing site in Huntingdon County. There were 144 tests provided. We do not have a positive and negative test count yet. Testing is a good step towards helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. That is why it was offered here. Some have been asking why we have not had a vaccination clinic. The vaccine has not been available for us to do that. Penn Highlands Huntingdon Hospital has coordinated two vaccine clinics now. There will likely be more of those coming up. The Department of Health has updated its COVID-19 quarantine guidance for fully vaccinated individuals. There is now a third vaccine available, the Johnson and Johnson

vaccine. We remain in phase 1A of Pennsylvania's vaccine rollout. Long-term care facility residents are finished up. Healthcare personnel are getting finished up. Now the push is for individuals ages 65 and older and younger individuals with high-risk conditions. We do have a plan in place for a vaccination clinic in Huntingdon County if it were to happen. We have stayed in regular contact with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and PEMA. It is ready to go but based on the availability of the vaccine. There is some talk about vaccination supersites. These would be for several thousand per day. Counties did receive an inquiry from the Department of Health about a potential location. Frankly, Penn Highlands has done theirs at Juniata Valley. That is probably the maximum we can do here. I am not sure that we have a place that is good for 2,000 or more. We are certainly prepared to do one on a smaller scale, maybe up to 1,000 per day. Residents should beware of vaccine scams that are already underway. Please do not do anything like give payment in advance for your vaccines. If you have any questions about the vaccine or why you are being asked to provide information, please proceed with caution. As a reminder, even if you have received your vaccine, it is really important that you continue with the mask-wearing and other precautions. You may be aware that the Courthouse and other County Buildings are now unlocked, but mask wearing is still required here in the buildings. Over the past seven days, the Huntingdon County new daily case average was 8. Over the last three the average has been seven, so we are seeing improvement. Please remember that the vaccine is allocated by the federal government to the state and from the State Department of Health to providers. Please do not get upset with providers if they do not have the vaccine available that day or that week. We keep in contact with our local state prisons. SCI Huntingdon is reporting seven inmate cases and SCI Smithfield is reporting 21 inmate cases. Yesterday the Governor's Office announced revisions to the maximum occupancy limits for events. Now we are up to 15% occupancy for indoor events and 20% for outdoor. He has also eliminated out of state travel restrictions. We are seeing reduced cases and there are vaccinations being given, but we need to continue to be careful. Keep following the mask-wearing guidelines, wash your hands, et cetera. We want to stay on track and not go back to the way things were. Let's hope we have been through the worst of it now. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude to the EMA Department. Commissioner Walls asked if Mr. Thompson could provide the phone numbers of the current vaccine providers. Mr. Thompson responded that he can share that information with the Daily News.

Joe Thompson reminded municipalities that they need to adopt their resolutions for the Huntingdon County multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. A lot of work went into this project. Jim Lettiere, the County Planning Director, is available to answer any questions that anyone has and is taking the lead on this project. The Commissioners were first to adopt the plan and Shirley Township is now the first municipality to adopt the plan as well.

Joe Thompson announced that the National Weather Service has now renewed our Storm Ready designation for Huntingdon County. This is significant because it shows the County's work to maintain the standards that the National Weather Service sets for getting information and passing it on and the various things we do to promote weather safety and information. Weather is often regarded as the number one hazard in Huntingdon County. We are pleased that we have been able to accomplish this.

Under Matters for Action, it was announced that a vehicle bid was advertised and today was selected as the day to open those bids. No bids were received.

There were 5 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary