

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, July 28, 2009
29-09

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; Solicitor, Scot Gill; Chief Clerk, Cinnamon Bair; Ann Foor, Executive Director Center for Community Action(CCA), and Harry Stroup, CPA for CCA; Warden Duane Black, and Deputy Warden Darrell Bair; George Germann, The Daily News; and visitors Barry Hoover, Betty Ruhlman and Zach Gordon.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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 July 21 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve payment of invoices for the week of July 27.

There were no additions to today's meeting.

There was no public comment.

First on the agenda, was Ann Foor. Ann was scheduled to show at 9:45 due to a bid opening. The opening was postponed. The Commissioners asked that Warden Black be called to speak first. Warden Duane Black and Deputy Warden Darrell Bair presented the Commissioners with a report from the Department of Corrections that showed the Jail received a perfect score on the State Inspection. Warden Black said this is the second 100% the Jail has received. The perfect score is the 13th in the state. Warden Black said they had the Lead Commissioner Ed Pfister for the inspection. The next inspection will be in 2011, they get to skip an inspection due to the perfect score. The Warden said it could not be done without a great staff. He thanked the Deputy Warden, Lieutenants, and Officers for the good work they do running the jail and preparing for the inspection. The second agenda item was a contract with SAM (Service Access and Management, Inc.). The Warden said the jail was in need of mental health evaluators. SAM will send a case manager to meet with inmates that may want to commit suicide. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked how soon will a person be seen after coming to the jail. Warden Black said within 24 hours. The Warden explained when a person comes to jail the Officers have a form they complete, asking the person questions to see if they have suicide tendencies. If they fail the test they are put in a holding cell with fifteen or thirty minute checks. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked how many times does this happen. Warden Black answered possibly 8-10 times a year, they usually are okay once they get adjusted and realize what they need to do. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve the contract with SAM with an initial assessment fee of \$150 and a follow up safety check \$75. Commissioner Fluke added to the Warden and Deputy Warden "job well done". Commissioner Kough Pittenger said congratulations. Warden Black again gave credit to his staff.

Ann Foor came to the Commissioners to ask their approval to submit an application for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP). The grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Ann will ask for \$184,999 with \$4,625 of the \$184,999 being administration costs. The grant will cover three years. The program assists applicants that are at or below 50% of the area median income. CCA will hire a Housing Counselor and a Housing Intake Specialist to operate the program. Ann told the Commissioners that if granted the HPRP would be used in conjunction with the Homeless Assistance Program. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if a resolution needed signed. Ann said she had forwarded them to Cinnamon by email. Cinnamon will print them out and have the Commissioners sign if approved. Commissioner Fluke said this is much more than the previous Homeless Shelter money. Ann said this is a new recovery stimulus money grant. It is designed not just to pay rent or utilities. This grant follows people to get them in a permanent better place. Ann mentioned that an organization was set up to help the homeless. In an emergency they can get help through Huntingdon County Community Housing Partnership. The partnership brings many organizations together to meet the needs of individuals that are homeless. Commissioner Hoover asked about the budget line "other costs". What are they? Ann answered that DCED requested that to be a line item. All the costs are broken down in the packet. Commissioner Hoover said that approximately \$85,000 goes to administering the grant only \$100,000 goes to help people. Ann said this is a three year grant that pays salaries and office costs for the employees who do the work to help the homeless. Commissioner Fluke responded in a tight economy to take taxpayer money to increase the money for homeless. Ann answered this grant did not require a match and she wasn't asking for taxpayers to donate money. Commissioner Kough Pittenger said to not apply would be short sighted. The money is needed and if our county does not apply other counties will. Ann said that not all counties apply. The grant is very difficult and takes a great deal of time.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover with a question has the budget been submitted. Ann said it is part of the submission and resolution. Commissioner Hoover asked if Huntingdon County would have to pay the money back if it was not spent appropriately. Harry Stroup said the grant only required a small amount of information. Ann said that CCA is audited several times and try to be very transparent. Commissioner Fluke said it was a tough decision to make between paying for homelessness or when the elderly need transportation to the doctors. Ann said she understands his point of view, but the homeless are not all people who spent beyond their means, but many are families that had jobs and lost them and cannot keep up on mortgages, not from mismanaging their money. Commissioner Fluke said he would support it but not for a long term. The motion was carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve Resolution 23-2009. Ann also had an agreement between CCA and Huntingdon County to administer the grants. Ann gave this to the Commissioners to look over.

The Commissioners took action to approve Scott Decker to the Children Services Advisory Board. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve.

The Commissioners approved payment for 4 Veteran burial allowances, 0 widow/widower burial allowances and 2 bases.

Betty Ruhlman on behalf of Senator Specter told the Commissioners she was glad to hear that Huntingdon County was applying for stimulus monies.

Commissioner Fluke asked to go into executive session on a potential litigation matter at 10:49 am. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover.

Commissioner Fluke asked to come out of executive session on a potential litigation matter at 11:27 am. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger second by Commissioner Hoover and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk Cinnamon L. Bair.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary