

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

9:30 a.m.

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 Walls, Thomas, and Reeder; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator; April Feagley and Jim Troha from Juniata College; Matt Price from the Visitor's Bureau; Michael Kipphan, Domestic Relations Director; Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director; Lee Zeger from CES Engineering; Brad Glover, Warden; Jeff Leonard, Sheriff; Kelsey Dunn, Register and Recorder; guests, Cheryl Osborne and Julie Slager and Daily News Reporter, Byron Mantoan.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to approve of the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas reminded residents that school is now back in session. Please watch for kids during your commutes. There has also not been very much rain lately. Please use common sense when burning.

Under public comments, Cheryl Osborne commented that Walker Township is planning to build a new administration building. This plan is not supported by the community but 2 out of 3 supervisors approved it anyway. This is a \$2.2 million project and it is being built to house two employees and heat the area where the trucks are kept. Walker Township is already at its debt limit. There are concerns about the sewer and water program. The population is aging. Ms. Osborne and Ms. Slager are seeking advice from the Commissioners on how to slow down the process. Commissioner Walls noted that the Commissioners do not have authority to intervene in township governance. Commissioner Thomas replied that the only advice he could offer would be to contact an attorney.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Jim Troha and April Feagley from Juniata College requested consideration of approval for Proclamation 12-2025 in honor of Juniata College's 150th anniversary. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Matt Price from the Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau provided an update on the state of bureau operations.

Michael Kipphan, Domestic Relations Director, requested consideration of approval for a state cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Child Support and Enforcement. This is a 5-year agreement commencing on

September 30, 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Jeff Leonard, Sheriff, requested consideration of approval to hire Mark Hesketh for the position of full-time Deputy Sheriff effective 9/2/2025. One position remains open in Sheriff Leonard's office. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Susan Harry, Treasurer, requested consideration of approval for Cathy Bilger, Deputy Treasurer, to attend the Tax Claim conference. The registration fee is \$300 and the hotel cost is \$150/night. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Kelsey Dunn, Register and Recorder, requested consideration of approval to attend the annual PRODA meeting. The registration fee is \$150. There is no hotel fee. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to attend the annual planning conference. The registration fee is \$395. Including the room rate, the total cost for this conference will be \$1,200. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for a notice of award for the 7th Street Parking Lot rehabilitation project. The award goes to Grinis Brothers with a project cost of \$96,585 to be paid out of Huntingdon Borough CDBG funds. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Brad Glover, Warden, requested consideration of approval to hire Matthew Hoover for the position of full-time Corrections Officer effective 9/2/2025. There are two positions still open in this department. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair, CYS Fiscal Supervisor, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with the Salvation Army. This is a new contract for specialized and intensive emergency placements for contract year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Professional Family Care Service. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Adelphoi Village for foster care services. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Lifespan Family Services of PA for foster care services. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Jacob W. Diviney, Esq, for agency solicitor services. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Kids Peace National Centers. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Nursery Rhymes Child Care Center at Juniata College for daycare services for children in foster care. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Heather Fellman, Ch/ief Clerk, requested consideration of approval to hire Anthony Benitez for the position of Custodian effective 8/25/2025. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Lee Zeger from CES Engineers, requested consideration of approval to add opening of bids for the Annex 1 roof replacement project to the agenda. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Lee Zeger provided information to the Commissioners on the three bids received for the Annex 1 roof replacement project. He does not recommend a screw-down roof. He recommends staying with shingles because of the valleys on this particular roof. Mr. Zeger will examine the bids and have a recommendation for next week.

Lee Zeger requested consideration of approval for an invitation to bid for the county paving project. Bid requests will go out on September 2nd. There will be a pre-bid meeting on September 11th. The bids will be opened on September 23rd. Commissioner Reeder noted that this is an expensive project and that he believes this should wait until next year given the state budget impasse. Mr. Zeger noted that the work would not be able to be done until the spring anyway, but that we will likely get a better price if we bid out now. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Marc Services change order #7 for upgrades to the electric system from 30 amp to 50 amp. The total cost for this project will be \$5,582.45. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no Matters for Action.

There were 3 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary