

The special 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 O’Korn, Fluke and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor, Pete McManamon; Daily News Reporter, Zach Myers; and visitors Jinny Cooper, Bill Hoover and Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by prayer led by Commissioner O’Korn and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Thomas.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive public comment on the proposed 2015 County budget.

Jim Cassatt asked questions on several line items and offered comment on others. He asked how the County has done income to expenses in 2014. Commissioner O’Korn stated that by his estimate, we will be approximately \$200,000.00 ahead of expenses at the end of the year. Jim also questioned the decrease in revenue in the Register and Recorder’s office. Jinny Cooper stated that the number of deed transfers have gone down in past years. She also stated that the revenue figure provided is a conservative estimate. Jim questioned a line item for the Sr. Judge reimbursement. He stated that he doesn’t see that item in expenses. Commissioner Thomas stated that is a new line item this year since we have never had a Sr. Judge prior to 2014. Michelle also stated that the Sr. Judge is paid by the State, not by the County. The reimbursement will come from AOPC for the expenses related to operating his office. Lastly, Jim questioned the reason for the increase in Out of County inmate costs. Commissioner O’Korn stated this is a concern for the Commissioners as well and several options are being considered.

Bill Hoover asked a few questions as well. He inquired about the 20% increase in costs for the Coroner. Commissioner Thomas explained that one of the doctors doing autopsies isn’t doing them anymore. Therefore, transports to other Counties will be necessary at times. Bill also asked about the reimbursement percentage for the CYS Department. The budget shows the income to expenses reflecting a 90% reimbursement and he understood the reimbursement to be 80%. Commissioner Thomas stated that the reimbursements for CYS services are typically 80% but some are higher or lower. He also stated that several new laws affecting CYS have been implemented recently, which impacts the cost of services. Lastly, Bill commented that he does not agree with paying expenses for a Sr. Judge, who was not elected. Solicitor McManamon stated that all Sr. Judges were elected at one time but they can elect to become a Sr. Judge once their term has expired. Commissioner O’Korn stated that during Judge Zanic’s first few years in office, he will be limited on hearing certain cases due to conflicts. The Sr. Judge will hear those cases instead. Bill finished by stating the Out of County Judges have always heard those cases at no expense to the County. Commissioner Thomas stated that Huntingdon County is one of the few counties in the State that doesn’t have two Judges. He feels that having a Sr. Judge in lieu of a second Judge saves the Count money.

Zach Myers asked each Commissioner for their personal view of the budget. Commissioner Thomas stated that there are always concerns when creating a budget because you can only estimate revenues. Commissioner Fluke expressed concerns about employee salary increases due to potential changes to the minimum wage. Commissioner O’Korn commented that the budget is a plan to go by when making plans and making decisions. He stated that in 2014, revenues exceeded expectations by nearly \$1,000,000.00 due to Commissioners being pro-active in bringing in as much revenue as possible. He also stated that this Board has accomplished many things over the past three years that needed addressed for several years.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary