

The regular weekly 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; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; CYS Director, Joyce Zolten; Brian Wiser and Shawn Ritchey, Keller Engineers; Scott Feagley, Bridge Foreman; Debbie Higgins, Court Administrator; Linda McMath and Joanne Whitsel, Jury Commissioners; Sheriff, Bill Walters; Daily News reporter, Jeff Gill; and visitors Bruce Pergament, Jim Cassatt and Barry Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Thomas.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes;) to approve the minutes of the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes;) to approve the payment of bills for the last two weeks.

There was one new hire request added to the agenda today.

Commissioner O’Korn announced that two meetings will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> to receive comments on the proposed 2013 budget. The first meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in the Courthouse meeting room and the second meeting is at 7:00 p.m. in the Bailey building ballroom.

Bruce Pergament asked about the public meetings on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January first since they both fall on a Holiday. Michelle informed him there would be no public meeting either day. The date has not been set for the first meeting in January but she will advertise it.

Solicitor McManamon had two items to address today. The first item was an agreement between the County and Bio-Haz Solutions, Inc. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the agreement effective December 4, 2012 for a period of one year.

Solicitor McManamon also informed the Commissioners that he received additional information on the TAN loan. The tax base document he was looking at was from a previous year. After reviewing the current information, he requested permission from the Commissioners to advertise bids for the TAN loan. Along with that discussion, there was discussion on when the bids should be received. It was moved by Commissioner O’Korn, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to set the first meeting date for 2013 for January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to authorize the Solicitor to advertise bids for the TAN loan. Bids will be opened at the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Shawn Rithcey and Brian Wiser provided a bridge update as well as two items to be acted on. Shawn presented change order 1 for Runk bridge in the amount of \$2,554.97, which was to provide payment overlay on each side of the bridge. It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the change order as presented. Shawn also requested approval of the final payment on Runk bridge in the amount of \$17,145.51. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the final payment as requested. Brian cleared up an issue with the DEP permit for St. Marys bridge. The County received a letter last week stating that paperwork had not been completed and the funding was at risk. After conversations between Brian and DEP, it was discovered that it was a miscommunication on DEP’s part and the paperwork had been submitted. Brian also stated that the NBIS inspections will be completed soon on Runk and St Marys. He will provide the reports as soon as they are available. Brian also suggested sending a letter to the Township and the Fire Department information them of the new weight limits on Runk Bridge. Michelle will take care of preparing those letters.

Michelle received a request from Tim Guisler to hire Jason Everhart to fill a vacancy in the Probation Department. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the hiring of Jason Everhart effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Joyce Zolten, CYS Administrator presented several items for approval. Commissioner O’Korn noted for the minutes that John Miller’s employment at CYS was terminated effective 11/30/2012 due to civil service requirements.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the hiring of Wendy Egolf, Caseworker effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the hiring of Stephanie Beers, Caseworker effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve a purchase of service agreement with Lynn Kagarise, Psychologist, for a period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve Joyce Zolten and Claudia Conrad to attend the PCYA conference in January at a cost of \$60.00

Last on the agenda was the consideration of the Jury Commissioners positions. Commissioner Thomas provided background information on the issue. He stated that due to a bill past last year, the Commissioners have the authority to decide if they want to retain Jury Commissioners or not. Meetings have taken place between the Board, the Jury Commissioners and the Court Administrator. If the Board decides to abolish the positions, it must be done by the end of 2012 and will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Commissioner Fluke stated that abolishing the positions would reduce costs by approximately \$20,000.00. Commissioner O’Korn stated that the Jury Commissioners do an excellent job and the decision is difficult. Sheriff Walters asked how the work would get completed if the positions were eliminated. Debbie Higgins stated it could be absorbed in her office. Debbie further stated that the system can be automated and she is working with other counties to develop a software program to assist with the selection of jurors. Linda McMath stated that while the use of technology is great, it will still require time and she is concerned that Debbie’s office may be overwhelmed with it. Joanne Whitsel stated that while it was never an issue in Huntingdon County, there was documented incidents of corruption prior to the creation of Jury Commissioners. Joanne and Linda both thanked the Board for taking the time to meet with them prior to making a decision. After further discussion it was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, no) to abolish the positions. The action required adoption of resolution 23-2012, was adopted and approved as part of the motion.

There were four county veteran burial allowances and installation of one government headstone for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Fluke to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. Minutes prepared by Michelle Cerett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary