

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: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; Coroner, Paul Sharum; Chief Assessor, Melissa Bousum; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn. Attending via GoToMeeting: CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Dixon and Marlin Huestetter of Upward Broadband.

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

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

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas encouraged all eligible residents to get the COVID-19 vaccine. With the new variant, it is important to get the vaccine, if not for yourselves then for your loved ones. Commissioner Sather commented that people who are traveling should please take particular care and caution. Our traffic is higher than normal in this area with the Fair.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor

Under new business, Commissioner Thomas, Chair of the Alleghenies Broadband Initiative (ABI), requested consideration of approval for a letter of support for the application for broadband grant funding made by Upward Broadband. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has \$288 million available to support the expansion of broadband infrastructure. They expect to make awards in the \$5-30 million range. Eligible applicants must be a partnership between a government entity and a provider of fixed broadband service. The application includes Huntingdon County as the primary applicant in partnership with Fulton and Bedford Counties, Upward Broadband, Crowsnest, and Alleghenies Broadband Incorporated. The proposal is for expanding broadband internet services into rural and underserved areas of the three counties. Huntingdon County will commit to contributing \$400,000 towards the costs. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity, if we are approved for this grant, to receive \$10 million in funding to expand broadband. Commissioner Walls asked if our portion can be covered under the American Recovery Act. Commissioner Thomas commented that we are looking into the possibility. Commissioner Walls commented that this is not necessarily a done deal, but that if we get this grant we will contribute \$400,000 towards the project. Commissioner Sather commented that this is consideration of approval to complete the application. We have not yet been awarded the grant funding. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Melissa Bousum, Chief Assessor, requested consideration of approval to attend the AAP Chapter Meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. This meeting has required classes that go towards our CPE license. Since we are chapter members, there is no fee for this event. Ms. Bousum is requesting that Brandy Moore and she both be allowed to attend. Commissioner Thomas asked if this is just for one day and if the office will be adequately staffed with the two of them gone. Ms. Bousum responded that it is a one day conference and the office will be open and staffed. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Paul Sharum, Coroner, request consideration of approval to attend the 2021 Coroner's Conference in Danville, PA. It is from September 12-18<sup>th</sup>. This is our annual conference where I get 16 hours of continuing education, hear updates on legislation that impacts my office, and I also serve on the Ways and Means Committee. Commissioner Sather commented that this is a budgeted item. Mr. Sharum confirmed. The cost is \$850 for the conference and \$99 per night for the hotel. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Director of Planning and Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator requested consideration of approval for the CDBG Sub-Recipient Agreement between Huntingdon County and Huntingdon Borough for the 2020 application. This grant will be designated for relief from COVID-19 that the Center for Community Action will be carrying out. The total grant is \$69,001 with admin accounting for 13% of that to go to the Planning Department. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for a recommendation from the Partnership for Economic Progress. They received a request from CGI Communications for renewal for the video promotional series on our main website. They are six short videos hosted on the county website promoting the county. They are effective at promoting the county. PEP is recommending a letter of support from the County Commissioners to the business owners allowing them a sponsorship opportunity to help promote the videos. The other item is a three year agreement between the county and CGI communications. This would allow us to update or change the existing videos or create new ones at no cost to the county. The sponsorships will pay for the video series. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) pending solicitor review.

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for a Notice of Award to MidState Construction on the library elevator project. The library received a Keystone Grant through the State Department of Education Office of Commonwealth Libraries in early 2021 to assist with renovating the existing elevator. The elevator was built in 1960 and has reached end of life. It is leaking hydraulic fluid and needs to be replaced. The grant amount was \$48,650 and required a 100% match from the library. Engineering services were provided by Lee Zieger. \$98,636 is coming from library funding. The total project cost is approximately \$147,286. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, second by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, Claudia Conrad, CYS Fiscal Supervisor, and Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Tech requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Adelphoi Village, Inc. This is for contract year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for residential services, foster care and adoption services. This is a renewal from last year at the state-approved rates. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement George Junior Republic of Pennsylvania. This is for contract year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for residential programs for boys. This is a renewal from last year at the state-approved rates. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Evolution Counseling Services, LLC. This is for contract year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for counseling services. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, no; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Project Point of Light. This is for contract year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for counseling services. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement Sarah Jefferson, LCSW. This is for contract year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for counseling services. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Shannon Walborn requested consideration of approval to promote Alecia Wilson from Social Service Aide to Caseworker I. She was originally a student from Juniata College that interned with the agency and was excited to join the team when a Social Service Aide position came open in the hopes that she could get into a caseworker position if one opened at the agency. Through retirement, a position has opened. Alecia Wilson completed all of the pre-employment screenings prior to her employment in May. She has met all Civil Service requirements for this new position as well. Her promotion will be effective August 11, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to accept the retirement of Susan Gardner from the District Attorney's Office effective August 6, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There were 3 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to enter into executive session related to personnel matters at 10:23 a. m.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to leave executive session at 11:05 a.m. No decisions were made during executive session.

Consideration of approval was given to affirm the decision of District Attorney Dave Smith to accept the resignation of Assistant District Attorney Julia Wilt effective August 5, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary