

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

8-2020

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; Public Defender, Fred Gutshall; Sheriff, Jeff Leonard; EMA Director, Joe Thompson; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors, Jim Cassatt and Dean Fluke.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather, followed in prayer led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Sather.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the February 18th Public Meeting.

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

One item was added to the agenda. Public Defender, Fred Gutshall requested to hire for the position of paralegal.

Commissioner Thomas announced the PA Broadband study. He encourages everyone to fill this survey out, especially if you live in a rural area of the County. If someone did not receive information on the study or cannot complete the survey online they should contact the Commissioners for assistance or a paper copy. Commissioner Sather reminded the public that the 2020 census is coming up and it is important for everyone to participate. Commissioner Thomas noted that the County loses funding at a rate of approximately \$2500 per person that opts out of the census.

Under public comment, Jim Cassatt asked when the warranty on the election equipment starts. He would like to know the cost and details of the extended warranty. Commissioner Sather noted that he did not have the information in front of him and that the County Elections Coordinator would have to speak to those questions. Dean Fluke asked when the bond is supposed to be paid. Commissioner Sather clarified that we are looking into a new debt service and it will not be combined with any existing bonds or debt services. Dean Fluke asked about the Commissioner's plan for Terrace Mountain. He noted that it is only open two months out of the year and asked how the Commissioners and the Army Corps of Engineers can justify spending so much money on handicap accessibility for something that is only open for such a short period of time. Commissioner Walls commented that it is part of the Commissioners' plan to open the area up for access all year. Commissioner Sather commented that public lands should be accessible to the public. The Commissioners plan would allow for access to the lake from the Eastern side. Dean Fluke commented that the Commissioners cannot just keep raising taxes every time they want to do a project. Commissioner Sather noted that the plan is to use Act 13 money. It would not involve any money from the general fund and would not result in an increase of local taxes.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Fred Gutshall, Public Defender, presented the resignation of Kim Wagner. Her last day will be February 28th. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Fred Gutshall requested consideration of approval to hire Traci Shope for the position of paralegal. Ms. Shope currently works in the Prothonotary's Office and Mr. Gutshall will work out the details of her start date with the Prothonotary. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for the Todd Township CDBG Sub-Recipient Administrative Agreement. They plan to use the FY 2017 CDBG Entitlement Funding to update the township building and make it ADA accessible. The total cost of the project is \$41,763. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, requested consideration of approval to hire Douglas Heart for a part-time temporary position through the CareerLink Adult Paid Work Experience Program. This position would be for 20 hours per week for the next three to four months. It is paid through Employment and Training at no cost to the County. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jeff Leonard, Sheriff, requested consideration of approval to hire two full-time deputies. Lucas Morningstar has completed his pre-employment screenings and will start on 3/2/2020. Dorian Conrad will have a start date of 3/4/2020 pending completion of his pre-employment screenings. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to sign Proclamation 1-2020, declaring that February 28, 2020 is CHAMP Day. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary