

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

40-2021

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 and Walls; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; EMA Administrative Assistant, Doug Hart; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn. Attending via GoToMeeting: CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; Natasha Brubaker and Wendy Melius from the Center for Community Action.

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 Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There were two additions to the agenda: acceptance of the 2018-2019 PHARE reports as well as consideration of acceptance of the 2019-2020 PHARE reports. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to add these items to the agenda

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls reminded everyone that there will be no public meeting next week due to the election. Everyone is encouraged to get out and exercise their right to vote.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Claudia Conrad, CYS Fiscal Supervisor, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Summit Academy. This is for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. They provide the agency with residential and substance abuse treatment services. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Larry Newton, County Solicitor, requested consideration of approval for a rental agreement with First National Bank. The lease covers the drive-through lane, bank window and teller space. We have leased this to the bank since August 17, 1999. There is no increase in rent. Kylie Hawn asked what the rent is. Commissioner Sather answered that it is an annual cost of \$7,575 to the bank. This is paid in monthly installments of \$631.25. This contract is through August 31, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Natasha Brubaker from the Center for Community Action requested consideration of approval for Resolution 15-2021 authorizing the application for the 2020 PHARE funds. They are seeking \$125,000 from the PHFA. This funding will be awarded in June of 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Natasha Brubaker presented the 2018-2019 PHARE report. There have been four households served through the Marcellus-PHARE funds for the Senior Minor Home Repair Program. This is a total benefit of \$36,184 serving 4 households. Wendy Melius added that there are also 2 pending applications for this program. Commissioner Walls asked if these funds will all be able to be spend. Ms. Melius reported that this is the goal but it depends on availability of materials. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Natasha Brubaker presented the 2019-2020 PHARE report. There has been nothing spent of the awarded \$100,000 for this fiscal year. Commissioner Sather asked how long these funds are available. Ms. Brubaker responded that they are available for 18 months from April 2021. Commissioner Walls asked if this funding is earmarked for any particular community. Ms. Melius responded that it is available for all of Huntingdon County. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Natasha Brubaker presented the 2020-2021 PHARE report. There has been nothing spent of the awarded \$200,000 for this fiscal year. We have 18 months to use these funds from July 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for Resolution 14-2021 authorizing the FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant submission. This resolution spells out the duties of the County and that we are entitled to submit. It also spells out the proposed projects on the last page. Those projects include a project in Mount Union Borough to rehabilitate the westbound lane of Pennsylvania Avenue. The award for the project was \$206,680 with \$45,368 for administration costs for a total allocation of \$252,048. Huntingdon County on behalf of Huntingdon Borough's project is the 6th Street Municipal Parking Lot rehab. This is a multi-year project with last year's funding. The award for that project is \$103,964 with \$22,821 for administration costs for a total allocation of \$126,785. Huntingdon County on behalf of Smithfield's project is Smithfield Township Housing rehab, which they also did last year. This is to rehabilitate one to two single-occupancy units for LMI-qualified households. The award for that project is \$79,970 with \$17,554 for administration costs for a total allocation of \$97,524. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen requested consideration of approval for a Notice to Proceed for Anteres Site Work, LLC for the MUMA West Water Street Water Line Replacement Project. Commissioner Walls asked if there are two Water Street projects going on now. Ms. Gillen responded that there are. There is a MUMA West Water Street water line replacement project which is simply replacing a water line in a dead-end cul-de-sac. There is also the MUMA Hill Valley Sewer Improvements Project. You have seen the notice of award for this project but they are still getting their paperwork together. The current project has all of the paperwork completed and they are ready to proceed. Commissioner Walls noted that the contract indicates that the work will be completed by December 30, 2021. Ms. Gillen responded that we are expecting that there will probably be a change order on this project just because of the lead times. There is nothing the contractors can do about delays in acquiring the necessary materials. This will not jeopardize the funding. We have a year to extend so that we can completed these projects. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Doug Hart from the EMA Office provided an update on COVID-19. Huntingdon County remains in the high rate of community spread. Last week we had a county average of 18 cases per day. The week before it was 29 per day so there has been a significant improvement there. SCI Smithfield continues to have the revolving door of COVID patients. Currently they have 29 COVID-positive inmates. SCI Huntingdon has two inmate positives. The good news is that neither SCI Smithfield nor SCI Huntingdon have any positives among staff. There is nothing to report from area schools. The Department of Health reports 12 COVID cases among school-aged children in the county. That is down from 23 in last week's report. The schools are doing a very good job of keeping it under control. Juniata College had two COVID-positives. Penn Highlands is still struggling. They have 12 inpatient COVID cases. 7 of those are in the med-surg unit. Four are in the ICU. None of them are on ventilators. One is awaiting transfer in the ED to the med-surg unit. The challenge there is that beds are full in the med-surg and intensive care units. They are doing their best to not have any diverts and I am not aware that they have had any in the last week. The State has 2,786 hospitalizations currently which is down from 2,919 last week. The State is currently trending down in hospitalizations. The incident rate per 100,000 in the county is 248. Last week I reported that it was 370 so this is another significant improvement from last week's report. PCR positivity is 9.2% which matches the State rate and is down from the rate reported last week, which was 12.7%. There is nothing concerning coming from long-term care facilities. Total fully or partially vaccinated people in the county is 21,036 or 46.6% of the population. Total number of booster shots given is 1,399. There was concern last week about whether you can mix doses – if you were initially vaccinated with Pfizer can you get a Moderna booster? The FDA has approved this. If you are eligible for a booster you can receive any booster. The Jail reported last week that there were 2 positives in the Jail and a total of 23 for the month of October. The majority of these cases should be resolved by November 3rd.

Commissioner Sather requested some information on the Small Business Administration emergency funding. Doug Hart commented that because of all of the damage due to IDA and the fact that we did not qualify for individual assistance, the SBA has stepped up with funding to help small businesses and non-profits in the form of SBA Low-Interest Disaster Loans. Bedford County qualified for individual assistance so because we are an adjoining county that helped us qualify for some other programs. Those interested in applying should call the FEMA toll-free hotline at 1-800-621-3362. The rates vary slightly depending on the applicant.

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 10:09 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary