

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

34-2020

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; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the following individuals were present via GoToMeeting: Fiscal Supervisor at Children & Youth, Claudia Conrad; Guest: Dean Fluke, and News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the September 15th 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.

There were no addition to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas reminded residents that this year is a census year. The deadline to participate up to September 30, 2020. It is important that all residents participate. For each person that opts out of the census \$2,000 in funding for the area is lost every year. You can complete the census online, via telephone, or using a paper form.

Under Public Comments, Dean Fluke asked the Commissioners if there is any approved bills that the county matches. Commissioner Sather noted that at this time the Commissioners have not been alerted of any CDBG matches for this week. Pete McManamon addressed that there was a tax sale last night, Sept. 21, 2020. He continued to say it went very well, there were a number of bids and a number of property sold.

There were no Matters addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Claudia Conrad request consideration of Approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Huntingdon County Child and Adult Developmental Corporation. This is a renewal to cover from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and Carried (Sather, Yes; Walls, Yes; Thomas, Yes)

Matters for Action, Information, and Discussion: Brought to the Boards attention that The Daily News published two articles, one on Friday, September 18, 2020 and a follow-up article on Saturday, September 19, 2020 referring to Fee to be added to Mortgages and Deeds from the Huntingdon County Planning Commission Meeting. First sentence states that the Huntingdon County Planning Commission

has recommended to the Huntingdon County Commissioners an addition of a \$15 processing fee to Mortgages and Deeds to help counter act the growing issue of Blighted properties. Statement of Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission states “we need to start budgeting for them ourselves”. Commissioner Sather stated that this was never presented to the Board, and the Board never received any request for approval. The Board has not yet been approached by the Huntingdon Planning Commission to ask for approval. Commissioner Sather added that he wasn’t under the impression that the Huntingdon County Planning Commission had a budget. He was taken aback by the statement by the Vice Chairman of the County Planning Commission “we need to start budgeting for them ourselves”. Commissioner Walls added while the Planning Commission is a separate entity from the Commissioners, so they can recommend things to the Commissioners but the authority to add additional fees are up to the sole discretion of the Commissioners and from this point he is not considering adding anything at this time. Commissioner Thomas followed up with agreement with Commissioner Sather and Walls. Commissioner Sather went on to address the story that was run on Saturday, September 19, 2020, with the Headline: The Planners Reprioritize the Tip List Project. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission updated its recommendation to the County Commissioners for the Transportation Improvement Plan during its monthly meeting, Thursday night. Again the Tip helps prioritize funding for the road repaving projects. Again Commissioner Sather stated that this was never presented to the Board, and the Board never received any request for approval. Commissioners Thomas stated that tips are moved around all the time but mostly because projects aren’t ready to go and move up. Commissioner Thomas was surprised by this because previously the Board worked with the Planning Commission getting the 2 projects on that they said they wanted removed. At this point in time he does not see the tip to be reprioritize but again that would have to come up to a vote and all 3 Commissioners would have to approve it. Commissioner Thomas also addressed that just because these items were mentioned at the Planning Commission meeting doesn’t mean that it was approved by the Board and it will take effect.

Under Public Comment, Dean Fluke thanked the Commissioners for clarifying this to the General Public. Kylie Hawn asked if the Commissioners discussed this with The Planning Commission as well as with the reporter covered the story. Commissioner Sather addressed that The Planning Commission states in the article that they were recommending this to The Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Sather clarified again, that the Commissioners have not been approached by The Planning Commission. He went on to say that they did receive a call from the County Planning Director who attends The Planning Commission and they were going to discuss the first issue, The Blighted Properties, but in the discussion there was no approval and they have not yet recommended or requested a meeting with The Board.

There was 0 Veteran’s Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Tracey J. Rhodes, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary