

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

14-2022

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Probation Director, Len Hahn; EMA Director, Katie Unger; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn; Mike Hannon from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol and Celina Seftas from the Conservation District.

Chris Dixon and Claudia Conrad from the CYS Department attended remotely via GoToMeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. 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; Thomas, abstain) to approve the previous week's minutes as presented.

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 two additions to the agenda. The first is consideration of approval for an engineering services agreement for the HVAC system replacement in Annex 2. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to add this item to the agenda. The second item is Proclamation 6-2022 for Conservation District Week. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas reminded the public that COVID is still a threat. He encouraged residents to get their vaccines and boosters, if eligible and to vaccinate their children.

During the public comment period, Mike Hannon from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol commented that the vape pen issue that he discussed during the last meeting he attended has been resolved. When the vape pens were retested they came up negative for fentanyl. However, fentanyl use is still a significant and dangerous problem within our community and surrounding areas. There were three overdoses at a Mifflin County high school recently. They will continue to monitor this problem. If anyone is in need of naloxone, please contact the Tri-County Drug and Alcohol Office. Commissioner Sather asked what the shelf life of naloxone is. Mr. Hannon responded that it is about 18 months.

Under matters to be addressed by the solicitor, Larry Newton announced that the case with Bethany Christian Services has been settled and a check to the county is in the mail.

Under new business, Celina Seftas from the Conservation District provided an update on their work. She noted that it is now construction season and the Conservation District Office is busy with many projects. They are building a manure storage system set to begin later this month and a silage leachates collection system that is going to be built this year. As part of our county-wide action plan, we are

launching a county-wide cover crop initiative. Interested farmers can contact the Conservation District. They are accepting applications until September 1st. The environmental education programs have returned in person. The 35th Annual Huntingdon County Envirothon will be held on Tuesday, April 26th. It will be at the Seven Points Recreation Area. Six schools will be competing. To help students prepare we have a lot of resources available. We are also conducting field experiences with Juniata College. This week we have a new 15-acre riparian forest buffer that is going to be planted. This is an agro-forestry project that will contain your regular hardwood tree species like oak, hickory and sycamore and will also contain native fruit and nut species like elderberry and hazelnut. The farmer plans to market those products over time. We would also like to remind municipalities that the Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road program is accepting applications. They are due May 20th. We highly encourage eligible applicants to schedule a pre-application meeting. It really helps with designing a good project and making sure you have something that is eligible for funding. Finally we would like to remind county residents to be on the lookout for spotted lantern flies. They will start hatching out in May. They are highly invasive and mostly spread by human activity. It is important to check your vehicle before leaving an area that is known to have spotted lantern fly and not move firewood. We have traps available for land-owners who are experiencing infestation.

Consideration of approval was given for Proclamation 6-2022 to designate April 10-16, 2022 as Conservation District Week. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Len Hahn, Probation Director, requested consideration of approval for the Intermediate Punishment Grant of \$35,000 for the salary of the IP Officer. This agreement is for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Len Hahn requested consideration of approval for the resignation of Adult Probation Officer Stephanie Feagley effective April 15, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to attend the 2022 PA Children's Roundtable Summit. The State will pay for 5 members of staff to attend. The agency is requesting that the County pay for three additional staff members to attend: Sabrina Peters, Laura Hardy and Sarah Gongloff. This would be paid out of grant funds and will not be a cost to the taxpayers. The total cost of those three to attend the conference with hotel stays and conference fees is \$1,926. We would use an agency vehicle for transportation. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Claudia Conrad and Chris Dixon from the CYS Fiscal Office requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Ray Ghaner to serve as agency solicitor. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and 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 with Robert Covell for Guardian Ad Litem services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is a renewal from last year. 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 Nicholas Newfield for Guardian Ad Litem services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and

is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Michael Kipphan for Guardian Ad Litem services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and 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 with Andrea Lehman for Guardian Ad Litem services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Erica Shoaf for Guardian Ad Litem services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Chris Wencker for Guardian Ad Litem services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is a renewal from last year. 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 with Tussey Mountain School District for transportation services for children in foster care under the Every Child Succeeds Act. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is a renewal from last year. 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 Sarah Jefferson, LCSW, for counseling services. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Mount Union Area School District for transportation services for children in foster care under the Every Child Succeeds Act. This is for contract year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and 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 with Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC for residential program services. Probation has requested that we have this contract. This is for contract year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and is a new contract at the state-approved rates. Commissioner Walls asked if this is for youth detention. Ms. Walborn answered that it is a secure facility that probation can use. They have a shelter piece. A lot of times, Abraxas comes with a six month program with intensive services looking at the victimization and what caused the youth to commit a crime and how to prevent it in the future. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for payment to CES Engineering for engineering services for the Huntingdon County Elevator Replacement Project. This is to be paid by the Huntingdon County Library Fund per the contract signed in April 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for a sub-recipient agreement with Mount Union Borough Council for the Diven Park Improvement Project. This funding will be used for the following projects: replacement and expansion of the existing gravel parking lot with macadam, a one-way circulation system for the traffic flow, storm water drainage, curb ramps at the driveway entrances along Division Street, new sidewalks between the parking and the basketball and tennis courts, macadam overlay of two tennis courts, removal of existing chain link fence and installation of new chain link fence and gates, crack repairs on two existing tennis courts, erosion control, seeding and mulching of disturbed areas. The Borough Council committed to paying \$34,305 of their general fund money towards this project. We have a total estimated cost of \$178,305 for the total project. The terms of this agreement will be April 12, 2022 through September 28, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for Resolution 6-2022 for Fair Housing. A notice of the Fair Housing Officer and complaint process is to be published in the newspaper. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Proclamation 5-2022 for CHAMP. April 22, 2022 is designated as CHAMP Day. The Commissioners expressed their thanks to the students for all of the work they do for the community. Commissioner Thomas thanked all of the students and also Jeremy Crouse and Matt Bair for all of the help they give in coordinating and supporting the students in running this program. Commissioner Sather commented that it is great to see area schools come together for this event. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Alonso Brown as the Administrative Assistant for the Commissioners' Office effective April 18, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire CES Engineering for engineering services related to the Annex 2 HVAC replacement project. The cost of this project is not to exceed \$32,950. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Katie Unger requested consideration of approval to attend the Annual Homeland Security Symposium on May 6th. There is no cost to attend. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. The average number of new cases per day in the county was 1. The State is rising again and stands at an average of 845. Huntingdon County remains in the low level of community transmission. SCI Smithfield currently has 5 inmates and 1 staff testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates or staff testing positive. Penn Highlands currently has no COVID patients. There is nothing to report with the schools. The Department of Health reports no COVID cases among school-aged children and no cases among children 4 and under. Juniata College continues surveillance testing and has had a total of 56 positive cases this semester. COVID hospitalization for the state stands at 411. Our incident rate for the county is 19.9 per 100,000 and the state is 31.8. The PCR percent

positivity is 2.2% for the county and 4% for the state. Long-term care facilities are doing well. 24,452 vaccines have been distributed in the county. 10,611 boosters have been given. The county is over 48% vaccinated. There was one death in the last week. The dominant variant is still Omicron. The percentage breakdowns for the individual variants has not been updated since last week.

There was nothing discussed under matters for action, information and discussion.

There was 1 Veteran's Burial Allowance.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary