

Huntingdon, Pa.
Tuesday April 17, 2012
15-2012

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners meeting room with the following being present: Commissioners O’Korn, Fluke and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Tax Assessor, Ken Tucker; Planning Director, Richard Stahl; Louise Ketner and staff, Child and Adult development; Daily News reporter, Theresa Mull; Altoona Mirror reporter, John Hoffstetler; and visitors Bruce Pergament, and Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner O’Korn.

There were no additions or corrections to the April 12th minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the April 12th meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the payment of bills for the last two weeks.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Michelle Cerett reminded voters that the deadline for returning absentee ballots is April 20th at 5:00 p.m.

There were no public comments today and nothing addressed by the Solicitor.

Louise Ketner and staff from Child and Adult Development were present with children from Huntingdon Headstart in recognition of “Week of the Young child”. After reading a book to the children, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to sign the proclamation declaring the week of April 22nd, 2012 as “week of the young child”. Commissioner O’Korn recessed the meeting at 9:41 a.m. so the media could take pictures. The meeting reconvened at 9:46 a.m.

Richard Stahl requested adoption of Resolution 2-2012 granting him permission to modify the CDBG funds. The modification would move \$18,807.00 from contract number 00030017 from the Orbisonia Rockhill water project to the County accessibility line item. In addition it would modify contract number 00052221 and move \$18,807.00 from the County accessibility line item and adding it to the Orbisonia Rockhill water project. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to modify the two contracts as recommended.

Wendy Melius, Centre for Community Action requested permission to amend the HPRP grant. Her request was to move \$9,016.03 from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing grant – Homeless Assistance grant to the Homeless Prevention Financial Assistance and Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the grant revision as requested.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve Lou Ann Shontz to attend the annual PROP conference July 25th through July 27th, 2012. The conference is paid for from the 903 grant and the South Central Agency.

Tim Guisler provided the Grant-In Aid and Supervision fund agreements for approval. The agreements are for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017 and will provide the County with reimbursements for certain expenses. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the agreements as presented and reviewed by the Solicitor.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to renew the healthcare contract with Geisinger Healthcare for the period of May 1st, 2012 through April 30th, 2013.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the purchase of a 2004 Blazer at a cost of \$7,500.00 for the Tax Assessment office.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve GC 004 for the Bailey building in the amount of \$2,709.15. This is for the moving of a door in the District Judges office, which will resolve a security concern.

Last on the agenda was consideration of authorizing the Solicitor to start the process to consider a ratio change for tax year 2013. Solicitor McManamon stated the process would require advertising the consideration of adopting a County ordinance and holding a special public hearing to receive comments from the public. Commissioner O’Korn stated that the ratio currently used is 40%, which was set during the re-assessment in 1978. The proposed change will increase the ratio to 80%, which will in turn cut the milage rate in half. Bruce Pergament asked what the purpose of the change was and what the Commissioners want to accomplish with the ratio change. Commissioner O’Korn stated that the Board has gathered information from other Counties as well as several others involved. As far as he is concerned, this change is made as a result of inflation. Also, doing a ratio change would reduce the possibility of being forced to do a complete re-assessment, which will cost the County between \$2 million and \$3 million dollars. The estimated cost of doing a ratio change is \$35,000 to \$50,000, which covers notifying all taxpayers of the change. He further stated that he is not interested in raising taxes, however the change does allow for revisions to tax rates in the future. Commissioner Fluke stated that the board is split on this issue and he does not feel the County needs a ratio change. Commissioner Thomas stated that he is going in to this with an open mind and will hear all sides. Commissioner O’Korn stated that he wants to make it perfectly clear that this is not an attempt to raise taxes. It is an attempt to look at all options in order to avoid the possibility of a re-assessment.

After further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (Fluke, no; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to begin the process and advertise the ordinance.

There was one private headstone for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary