

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

13-2022

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 and Walls; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; EMA Acting Director, Katie Unger; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and Lisa Erickson from the Huntingdon County Library.

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 Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Sather.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the previous week's minutes as presented.

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

There was one addition to the agenda: consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Bethany Christian Services of Central PA. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to add this item to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls noted that there are many voting precincts that remain unstaffed for the upcoming election. For whatever reason, people are not able or willing to staff polling places for Election Day and we are in dire need. There is pay for the day and it is a great way to do public service. In the future, if we cannot staff some of these locations we may have to look into combining polling places and people may have to travel out of their usual area to vote. Commissioner Sather commented that if anyone is interested in serving please contact the Huntingdon County Elections Office.

There were no public comments.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Lisa Erickson, Huntingdon County Library Executive Director, commented that this week is National Library Week and today is Library Workers Day. She also requested consideration of approval for the Keystone Grant Reimbursement. The elevator in the Huntingdon County Library is 53 years old and in need of replacement. It has been out of service for about 6 months and has created accessibility issues within the library. Unfortunately there have been supply and equipment issues that have delayed the replacement of the elevator but as of yesterday workers are in the building working on getting the replacement started. The original project cost was around \$100,000 but it is now up to \$138,000 because of supply cost increases. We are still engaging in capital campaigns to finish funding the project and we are currently within about \$14,000 of our goal. We are also working on getting fiber connection at the library to increase internet speeds. People use the library for a number of things

including accessing services related to unemployment and disability with our computers. The Library provides many services all over the county and we welcome community engagement. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for a sub-recipient grant agreement between Habitat for Humanity and Huntingdon Borough for the 912 Washington Street property transfer from the Borough to Habitat for Humanity. The total project cost of the rehabilitation activities at this location is \$230,748. \$96,948 of this is CDBG funding. Habitat is providing \$23,000 plus volunteer labor. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, provided a correction from last week's meeting. The car seat training cost includes a registration fee of \$95 plus a \$30 certificate fee. This amount is still reimbursable from the State and is budgeted. Ms. Walborn requested consideration of approval for Proclamation 4-2022 for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Shannon Walborn requested consideration of approval to hire Thomas Scott Fritz. He was formerly employed as a Caseworker for the County and has applied to come back to the County for the position of Caseworker I. He has met all of the hiring requirements. His effective start date will be April 19th. This leaves the agency with one open caseworker position. We expect to receive a list from Civil Service today or tomorrow. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn requested consideration of approval to attend the virtual Pittsburgh Conference on Child Maltreatment. The total cost is \$40. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Shannon Walborn requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Bethany Christian Services. This agreement had been tabled at a previous meeting due to pending litigation that has now been resolved. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn announced for the public that the agency is doing foster care outreach at Mayfest on April 30th. They will also be at the farmer's market in Huntingdon every Thursday in May and at the BBQ Bonanza May 20th and 21st.

Consideration of approval was given for the resignation of Adult Probation Officer, Kate Hughes effective April 13th. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Katie Unger as Huntingdon County Emergency Management Director effective April 11, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Andrew Sharp as Huntingdon County Mapping and GIS Director effective April 11th. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Katie Unger, Acting EMA Director, requested consideration of approval for an event sponsor agreement for the South Central Mountain Region Counter Terrorism Task Force. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried pending solicitor review (Sather, yes; Walls, 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 at an average of 597. Huntingdon County remains in the low level of community transmission. SCI Smithfield currently has 9 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 less than five COVID cases among school-aged children and zero 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 417. Our incident rate for the county is 22.2 per 100,000 and the state is 25.3. The PCR percent positivity is 2.1% for the county and 3.1% for the state. Long-term care facilities are doing well. 24,401 vaccines have been distributed in the county. 10,567 boosters have been given. The county is over 48% vaccinated. There were two deaths in the last week. The dominant variant is still Omicron. Nationally, Omicron BA.1.1 accounts for 25.3%, B.1.1.529 is 2.5% and Stealth Omicron is 72.2%. In Pennsylvania, Omicron B.1.1.529 is at 32.3% and Stealth Omicron is at 67.7%.

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

There were 3 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary