

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; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; CYS Supervisor; Nicole Leturgy; Warden, Duane Black; District Attorney, Dave Smith; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko; Mapping Director, Brian Young; Daily news reporter Claire Williams; and visitors Mike Hannon, Jim Cassatt and Bruce Pergament.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Thomas.

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 March 3<sup>rd</sup> public 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.

There was one addition to the agenda today, which Maureen Safko will present.

Commissioner Thomas announced that the electronics and appliance recycling event will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Fairgrounds.

Bruce Pergament offered public comment today on the ratio change which occurred a few years ago. He stated that at the time, the Commissioners were of the opinion that doing a ratio change would possibly prevent a re-assessment. After researching re-assessments, he found that re-assessments are done based on fairness and inequities. He doesn’t feel a ratio change accomplished that and stated the only way to correct inequities is through a re-assessment. He asked if the Commissioners were still of the opinion that the ratio change prevented a re-assessment. Commissioner O’Korn stated that due to the millage rate at the time, there was a possibility that the County could get forced into doing a re-assessment, which could cost the county \$3,000,000.00. The ratio change eliminated that risk for a cost of \$19,000.00. Commissioner Fluke stated that a re-assessment is only as good as the people who do it. He also agreed that doing a ratio change reduced the risk of a re-assessment. Commissioner Thomas stated that prior to the ratio change, Court approval was needed every year to set the millage rate. Doing so opened the County to the possibility of getting forced in to a re-assessment but the ratio change reduced that risk. Commissioner O’Korn finished by stating that the purpose of doing the ratio change was not to raise taxes.

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor today.

First on the agenda today was Brian Young with a request to attend the State GIS Conference June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the conference is \$205.00 and he will need one night room accommodation of \$133.46. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve conference attendance as requested.

Mark Colussy and Dave Smith presented a consulting agreement for Criminal Justice services for consideration. The consultant was recommended by the CJAB Board to do an analysis of the entire judicial system and make recommendations on ways to improve services. The agreement presented today is for Phase I of the project for an amount not to exceed \$57,000.00. Commissioner Fluke expressed concern about the cost of bringing someone in from out of State to do the assessment. Dave stated that this consultant retired from the Department of Corrections and specializes in jail assessments. He also stated that the assessment will include data collection, statistics and looking at trends within the County. Dave also stated that having the data and statistics will open up grant opportunities for funding. Commissioner Fluke feels we already have these statistics available within the County. He also feels that the decision to build a new jail should be on the ballot for the tax payers to decide. Dave stated that putting it on the ballot without providing the statistical information is not fair to the tax payers. Commissioner Fluke stated that he feels CJAB should provide the information to the Daily news and let the public decide. Commissioner Thomas stated that the County spent nearly \$1,000,000.00 on 2014 to house inmates out of the County. He further stated that he is looking at all the options, not just building a new jail. Commissioner O’Korn stated that his understanding is that the sub-committee will provide recommendations and it is up to the Commissioners to make the decisions. He stated that he is going in to it with an open mind and will look at all the possible options. After further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, no; Thomas, yes) to approve the consulting agreement with Voorhis/Robertson Justice Services, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$57,000.00 over a two year period for the consulting services outlined in the agreement.

Maureen Safko presented an amendment to CDBG contract number 000059250. She was notified recently that DCED has approved an additional \$250,000.00 for the project and the amendment is to accept the additional money. This contract is for the Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue project and Maureen stated that DCED is very much in favor of the project. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the contract amendment as presented.

Warden, Duane Black presented an auditing agreement with Achilles Consulting Services. The agreement is for a one time audit of the Prison Rape Elimination Act standards for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 plus travel expenses. The PREA standards are a new State Mandate and each County must comply with the standards, which includes the auditing process. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the auditing agreement with Achilles Consulting Services, LLC. as presented.

Nicole Leturgy, CYS Supervisor presented four purchase of service agreements for consideration. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the purchase of service agreement with The Children’s Aid programs of Somerset for a period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the purchase of service agreement with Mid-Atlantic Youth Services for a period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the purchase of service agreement with Harbor Creek Youth Services for a period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the purchase of service agreement with Children’s Aid programs of Franklin County for a period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Solicitor McManamon provided the 2015 Public Defender contract for consideration. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the 2015 Public Defender contract as presented.

There were two veteran burial allowances approved today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Fluke to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.  
Minutes prepared by Michelle Cerett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary