

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, December 22, 2009
47-09

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following being present: Commissioners Fluke, Hoover and Kough Pittenger; County Solicitor, Scot Gill; Chief Clerk, Cinnamon Bair; Richard Stahl, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Grants Administrator; George Germann, The Daily News; Jeff Gill, Altoona Mirror; and visitors Randy Carper, Charlie Coleman, Kevin Fluke, Jim Cassatt, and Willis Sneath.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Fluke followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Hoover.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the minutes of the December 15 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve payment of invoices for the week of December 21.

There were no additions to today's meeting.

Kevin Fluke asked a question regarding the departments running their own accounts separate from accounts that run through the Commissioners' Office. Scot answered all county records are audited by county auditors and a separate single audit. Kevin asked about the Sheriff Department. Scot said the Sheriff Department receives money from sheriff sales but the money is put into the general fund. Kevin mentioned another county that had some crooked judges and were getting paid by companies to use their services. Commissioners Hoover and Kough Pittenger said they were not aware of any problems and asked if he or Commissioner Fluke knew of any problems. Commissioner Fluke said some new program money that was asked to be put into a separate account to keep it "clean". Which may be put back and no questions would be asked.

Court money brought in and spent by the court system that is not reviewed by the Commissioners. Kevin said that is what he felt happened in the other county. George Germann explained the judges were getting kick back from centers for sending juveniles to their centers. Commissioner Fluke said he brought to the attention of the other Commissioners that the county was sending double the number of youth to the center this year from last. Commissioner Fluke added he had high respect for the Central Counties Youth Detention Center administration and Board. Commissioner Fluke added he doubted there was a dollar wasted. Commissioner Hoover said that the Commissioners do not review the cases that go through the courts. Commissioner Fluke said he is concerned by the increase from Huntingdon County. He was told that increases mostly come from a new judge or a new district attorney, and we have a new D.A.

Willis Sneath asked if the Commissioners had changed their policy regarding disposition of the sale of property. Commissioner Hoover addressed Willis saying in the future the county will advertise all sales to the public. Commissioner Hoover said Willis had an excellent suggestion to change that procedure. Willis also asked if costs of patrols by the Sheriff Office were reimbursed. Commissioner Hoover answered the county is reimbursed by other governing agencies with the exception of the annual fair. Salaries and car expenses were covered.

Willis asked about the new positions in the D.A.'s office. Commissioner Kough Pittenger said that these new positions were 100% covered by the grant. Commissioner Fluke added the positions will end once the grant money dries up.

James Cassatt, Huntingdon attended the hearing for the 3 mil tax increase. The Judge suggested that the County Commissioners solicit the State for money owed to the counties. Jim asked the Commissioners if they intend to take the judge's advice. The Commissioners are working through the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). Randy Carper said the Judge said you ought to withhold however you are not allowed to withhold. Randy recommended the Commissioners send letters to the State or their association. Scot said that CCAP was very actively seeking avenues to get the money owed. Willis suggested the County submit bills to the State. Willis said he has been coming to the Commission Board for at least six years and never gets a response from the board on any of his suggestions. He brought up the subject of in lieu of taxes. No response was given. Commissioner Fluke thanked all for the comments.

Scheduled first on the agenda was Dwight Beale, Corps of Engineers. Dwight asked the Commissioners to sign an application for an annual grant for the PA Conservation Corps. He applied last year but did not receive the grant. He will this year resubmit with a more detailed explanation of the projects proposed. He also said that there was an increase in competition applying for the grant. Commissioner Fluke asked if a Federal campsite pays any money to the state. Dwight said no, if they are a concession such as the resort or seven points marina money is shared with the State and then returned to the county of origin. No recreation fees are shared.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to apply for the grant 2010/2011.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes) to accept the resignation of Tricia Spagnola, Children Services Caseworker, effective January 1, 2010.

The Commissioners approved payment for 1 Veteran burial allowance, 0 widow/widower burial and 1 base.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger second by Commissioner Hoover and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk, Cinnamon L. Bair.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary