

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 Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Deputy Chief Clerk, Sarah Helton; Solicitor Peter McManamon; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko; CYS Director, Joyce Zolten; Tri-County Drug and Alcohol Director, Mike Hannon; Bedford County CDBG Administrator, Terry Stacy; GHD Engineering, Ann Reynolds; Mapleton Water Authority member Michael Corbin, Ron McNerlin, & Cheryl Woods; Gwin Dobson & Foreman Inc, Travis Long; WBTW Joint Municipal Authority members Laurie Nearhood, Billee McCavitt, Fred Myers, Andrew Palko, Norman McClain, Roy McCabe & Donna McCabe; Daily News reporter, Kylie Hawn; visitors Bobbi Jo Gearhart and Jim Cassatt.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the February 2nd, 2016 public meeting.

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

There were no additions to the agenda today. There were no announcements, public comments or matters to be addressed by the Solicitor today.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the 2016 budget as presented. Commissioner Thomas noted that the new board re-opened the 2016 budget for examination and that they passed the 2016 budget expecting to get level funding from the state. Commissioner Thomas also stated there would be no tax increases for the following year. Commissioner Walls encourages all departments to work within their budget.

Jim Cassatt inquired as to the status of the \$1,750,000 loan to pay CYS bills and the \$700,000 loan not being in the budget. Commissioner Sather explained that the loans are being paid back as the County receives funds. Mr Cassatt asked where does the expense for payment on the loans show in the County's Budget when the line item is zero for interest. Michelle explained that the budget shows zero but actual expenses for the interest will show on that line item. Mr. Cassatt also asked if the \$1.5 million dollar TAN loan has been used? Commissioner Sather explained that very little of the TAN loan has been used. It started at \$1.5 million and there is still \$1.47 million available.

Mark Colussy and Maureen Safko presented two CDBG contracts for consideration. Maureen noted that there were competitive CDBG funds available last year so she applied for two needed projects within the County and both were awarded. She was pleased that out of nine grants awarded through the State, Huntingdon County received two of them.

The first CDBG contract for consideration was for the Wood, Broadtop, Wells Water sewer plant rehabilitation. Ann Reynolds explained that the authority put the package together to come up with the best scenario for the community at the least cost. They investigated other programs and loans but it all came together when the amount was raised for the CDBG competitive money. Now they are able to fund the sewer and water plant rehabilitation together into the same package. The funds were still not completely there but the authority stepped up and decided to take out a line of credit, making up for the remaining funds that were needed.

It was also noted that 15% of the affected population is in Bedford County, and they are providing funds for the project as well. Terry Stacy said that Bedford County was happy to participate in the project. It was an unusual project due to the fact it spanned over multiple counties. He explained that the entitlement grant funds have not been approved yet but the approval of the competitive grant application sets the stage for that.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to accept as presented the Community Development Block Grant application for \$750,000 for the Wood Broadtop Wells Water & Sewer Plant rehabilitation project. Commissioner Thomas thanks members of the authority for working so diligently on this project. He hopes it is the beginning of a new era with inter-governmental agreements, regionalizing and working with their neighbors in Bedford County. He also thanks the Planning Commission and grant administrator for what they do for the residents of Huntingdon County. Commissioner Walls states that this project is a perfect example of everyone in a community coming and working together. Commissioner Sather thanks everyone for all the participation in this project. He thanks the Planning Commission, the Wood & Broadtop Townships and the joint cooperation with Bedford County. With complete cooperation of all entities, projects such as this can be done.

The second CDBG grant was for the Mapleton Water Authority project. The Mapleton authority wanted to take on a project for looping the existing water lines to assist with poor quality at the end of the lines. The authority approached the Planning Commission for help but they couldn't fund the entire project and the associated engineering fees. They were able to work with DEP on the free engineering side. They currently have a gravity fed system with one water storage tank. If there was a problem or leak they had to turn off water to all residents. The proposed project will double water storage capacity and will allow the authority to rotate the tanks and increase capacity. The other benefit in looping the lines works in a way that if there is a leak in one area that the entire town does not have to be without water while one leak is being fixed. He applauds the planning commission for connecting the dots and helping in securing the money.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to accept as presented the competitive Community Development Block Grant application for \$556,000 for the Mapleton Borough Water Improvements.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried to take a short recess at 9:58 a.m. to present the checks to the municipalities for the improvement grants.

The meeting was called to order again at 10:10 a.m. by Commissioner Sather.

Joyce Zolten is requesting approval to send 2 employees to a conference. After all reimbursements, the total for both workers to attend the 2 day conference will be \$106.60. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, and seconded by Commissioner Walls (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to send Lori Deline and Sabrina Peters to the PA 2016 Family Group Decision Making Conference on April 26 & 27, 2016 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, and seconded by Commissioner Thomas (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to table the Lease Agreement with J&L Grubb Rentals to allow time for further review.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, and seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the auditing contract with Maher Duessel as presented. Commissioner Walls explains that this is a state required audit for the county and the County has used Maher Duessel for some time.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, and seconded by Commissioner Thomas (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to appoint Hannah Bellwoar to the Huntingdon County Library Board. Commissioner Sather noted that Hannah will be filling in the 3rd year of the term for David Hsiung.

There was one county veteran burial allowance for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Minutes prepared by Sarah B Helton, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary