

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: Commissioner Sather, Walls, and Thomas; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Deputy Chief Clerk; Sarah Helton; Assistant Director of Transportation, Keller Engineers, Brian Wiser; EMA Director, John Cirko; EMA Operation & Training, Jennifer Kann; PEMA Central Area Director, Fred Boylstein; EMA Volunteer, Terri Ray; EMA Chief Deputy, Gregory Werner; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn; and visitor 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 Sather.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the January 3rd 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 bills.

There were no additions to the agenda, announcements, or public comment.

Solicitor McManamon said that there was a request from the Chief Public Defender's Office to add Erica Shoaf as an unpaid Public Defender. The County already has an agreement with Christopher Wencker from the same office. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve, pending solicitor's review, the law firm of Wencker and Shoaf as Public Defenders for the County, at the same cost as stated in the original agreement with Chris Wencker.

First on the agenda was Brian Wiser with a request for approval for the General Permit Application and Certification for Bridge #17, Neff's Bridge. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the DEP General Permit Application and the Certification for Bridge #17.

Fred Boylstein was present to appoint John Cirko to serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Huntingdon County. Mr. Boylstein presented Mr. Cirko with a plaque of recognition and congratulated him on his achievement. The Board also congratulated Mr. Cirko in completing his training. Mr. Cirko stated that he only needs 3 more classes, over the next six months, and he will have his advanced certification.

Due to the official appointment of the EMA Director, the department is now eligible for increased federal reimbursements of the salary of the director through a EMA Performance Grant Program. The grant reimburses 50% of the Director's salary. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the Election of Merit System and Certification of Merit System Standards County and Local Emergency Management Agencies that recognizes the federal reimbursement amounts for the EMA Director's salary.

Next on the Agenda was the approval of Maher Duessel to complete the 2016 County Financial Audit. Commissioner Sather, reading the contract with Maher Duessel, states that fees will not exceed \$51,950. Those fees will be split up into monthly billing. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve Maher Duessel to perform the 2016 financial audit for Huntingdon County. Jim Cassatt questioned the need for an outside auditing firm when there are 3 County Auditors. Commissioner Sather explained that it is mandated by the state to use a firm such as Maher Duessel to do an outside audit. Also, County bi-laws require 3 elected County Auditors to perform an internal audit.

Bob Reitman, the new Executive Director of HCBI has been recommended to serve on the RTT Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the appointment of Bob Reitman to the Rural Transportation Technical Committee.

There were 2 veteran burial allowances for approval.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m. Minutes prepared by Sarah Helton, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary