

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 Barnett; Solicitor Peter McManamon; Community Development Grant Administrator, Melody Mason and visitors Jim Cassatt and Stan Westbrook.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather, followed in prayer led by Commissioner Sather 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 August 21, 2018 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 was one addition to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

During the public comment period, Mifflin County Resident, Stan Westbrook stated the “he doesn’t get any answers to his questions and I really think the four of you should step down that you are not doing your jobs”. “When you were elected, I backed you, I really thought you had some good ideas.” “The first thing you did was raise taxes and the first thing a knowledgeable business man does is cut expenses.” Second move was Peter and the library and I thought you understood what was going on.” “There was a period when you had to look at your expenses and your income and overhead, but you also had to consider the wellness of the County. Here we are 2018, six years later and what do we have?” “We have County Library system, we have a president and board of directors that haven’t made a move in 6 years to bring this county together.” “There is a new librarian in Alexandria and two operations in the lower end of the County and no one has touched based with them.” Commissioner Sather commented that the two minutes for public comment has been exceeded and what you are a member of the public and I appreciate your comments, but what you are leading to would be better served in another manner and if anyone would like to be on the agenda, we open up the agenda.”

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor.

Consideration was given of a resolution renewal in support of Hawn’s Bridge Recreational Area. The Army Corp of Engineers has been looking at a Raystown Lake Master Plan revision. Notification was received from Avis Kennedy all previous resolutions had to be renewed including Southern Alleghenies, HCBI, Planning and Development and from the Legislators. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve Resolution 13-2018. Jim Cassatt asked if any consideration was given to the presentation from last week. Commissioner Sather stated yes that we had a week to review that. Mr. Cassatt stated the point I am trying to make is where that area is at out there is stripper and bass population and has been there ever since and is the headquarters of the old damn and is the finest area. A recreation area in there will kill that. Commissioner Sather replied that there are environmental studies being done. Mr. Cassatt then commented why aren’t the studies out before you make the resolution? Commissioner Sather replied there have been many meetings previously for five years and has been given due consideration. Jim then commented that if you talk to the people who lost their properties and look and see who benefited by the Corps decisions. Commissioner Sather commented that “I am going to stop you there, I grew up here and have friends who lost their homes and we don’t take any of this lightly.” So, do I want to see an individual prosper at the expense of those that lost their property, no?” “Do I want to see Huntingdon County residents prosper by development, yes?” Commissioner Sather also shared information provided by Southern Alleghenies, an independent unbiased report of the projected impact the four star resort would offer. It is projected that 300 resort jobs would be created, 217 direct jobs in the community, 42 indirect jobs annually, 17 induced jobs created annually, \$15 million of additional payroll, 2.3 million in new annual state and local tax revenue and 1.5 million in new federal tax revenue. Commissioner Walls also commented that he grew up in the Marklesburg area and enjoyed camps along the river that is now flooded. If I could give that property back to the people today, I would. There will not be a single shovel full of dirt lifted unless the Army Corp of Engineers approves it. The bottom line is if everyone comes to

the table tries to work together on a solution that is workable for everyone, instead of the all or none attitude which is what we are seeing.

There was a request to consider an appointment to the JVBDS Citizen's Advisory Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to appoint Bonita Anderson to the JVBDS Citizen's Advisory Board.

Melody Mason, Community Development Grant Administrator, Melody Mason requested to be added to the agenda to request approval of an annual evaluation of environmental review for the Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Storm Water Phase II Project that has been going on since 2012. One invoice that was submitted for funding was denied because there had not been an updated environmental review done since 2014 on the project. The environmental review has since been done to ensure there is no additional environmental impact. The initial environmental review covered 13th Street to 8th Street. This review goes from 8th Street to part of Juniata Ave. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the evaluation review as presented.

There were 0 Veteran Burial allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Barnett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary