

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; Victim Witness Coordinator, Allison Hall; Jeff Hackenberg and Deb Ridgeway from the Penn State Extension; Natasha Brubaker from the Center for Community Action and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Kathy Whalen from JVBDS participated via GoToMeeting.

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

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID and flu vaccines and to vaccinate their eligible children. Commissioner Walls noted that it is difficult to heat homes right now and we all need to watch out for our neighbors. Commissioner Sather reminded everyone that it is a new year and we can put 2022 behind us.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Natasha Brubaker from the Center for Community Action requested consideration of approval for the Whole Home Workplan. This will provide funding for home repairs. There is a maximum of \$50,000 that can be used per home, which means a minimum of six homes in the County will be served under this program. Funds must be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Natasha Brubaker presented and update on the PHARE program for 2018-2021. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Kathy Whelan announced that JVBDS has moved to a new location at 152 E. Market Street, Suite 105, in Downtown Lewistown. All phone numbers have stayed the same.

Jeff Hackenberg and Deb Ridgeway from the Penn State Extension presented an update on the Master Gardener's Program. Membership maintained and actually increased during COVID. They have implemented several new programs and have reestablished many programs that had to be discontinued during COVID. There are now 24 master gardeners in the program.

Allison Hall, Victim Witness Coordinator, requested consideration of approval for the 2023 PA SAVIN contract. This is a notification system for victims of crimes for any type of releases, escapes or work releases. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to reappoint Wendy Melius and Patrick Reeder to the Planning Commission. Their new terms will expire December 31, 2027. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jennifer Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for a Smithfield Township Flood Levee Improvement Project Extension from January 27, 2023 to April 15, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

The COVID-19 update for this week was tabled.

There was nothing discussed under matters for action.

There were no Veteran's 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 Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary