

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 and Walls; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Deputy Chief Clerk, Stacie Cutshall; Warden, Brad Glover; Mike Hannon from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol; Ed Zack from Susquehanna Accounting and Consulting and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Commissioner Thomas and EMA Director, Katie Unger attended via GoToMeeting.

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

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 two additions to the agenda. The first addition is resolution 17-2022 to set the 2023 tax rates. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes). The second addition is the 2023 TAN bid opening. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls commented that there are people who need assistance during these cold winter months. He encouraged residents to look out for one another. Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID and flu vaccines and to vaccinate their eligible children. He also wished residents a happy new year. Commissioner Sather urged residents to take extra caution during the Christmas/New Year season while driving.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. The number of county cases stands at 13,478. The State total is 2,795,496. We are in the low level of community spread. SCI Smithfield is reporting positive cases in 27 inmates and 1 staff member. SCI Huntingdon is reporting no positive cases among inmates or staff. Hospitalizations stand at 1,317. The incident rate is 127.2 for the County and 86.9 for the State. PCR is at 9.8% for the County and 12.6% for the State. Long-term care facilities are reporting no cases among residents and less than 4 cases among staff. 25,415 people have been vaccinated in Huntingdon County and 4,041 have received their booster. There were no additional deaths in the last week for a total of 271 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Brad Glover, Warden, requested consideration of approval to hire a full time Corrections Officer, Braylan Ronk effective January 3, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to re-appoint Mike Mowrer and Jeff Thomas to the Conservation District Board. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Keller Engineers as the County Engineer for 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to pass the 2023 County Budget. This budget was publicly displayed for 20 days. It includes a reduction in the 911 debt service. Kylie Hawn asked what the Bailey millage is. Commissioner Sather responded that it is .41 mils. Commissioner Walls commented that it is a good, sound, balanced budget. We were able to give pay raises to employees to encourage retention and we were able to do that with no tax increase. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Resolution 17-2022 to fix the tax rate for 2023. The general millage was set at 20 mils, the Bailey millage was set at .41 mils and the 911 millage was set at .59 mils, which is a reduction from the previous year. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

TAN Bids were opened at this time. 3 bids were received. The first, from Community State Bank, was for an interest rate of 5.99%. The second, from First National Bank, was for 4.48%. The third, from Juniata Valley Bank, was for an interest rate of 4.19%. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to table a vote on the bids until they could be reviewed by the Solicitor and Treasurer.

There were no 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 10:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary