

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; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Mission Critical Representative, Sid McConahey, 911 Director, Rufus Brennaman; CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Riling; Visitor's Bureau Director, Matt Price; Register and Recorder, Virginia Cooper; RSVP Coordinator, Darcey Cuzzolina; RSVP volunteers Rosemary Gill, Dorothy Anderson, and Shirley Franks; WTAJ reporter, Karina Cheung; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn; and visitors Tom Ritchey, Tim Schrack, Donna Napier and Jim Cassatt.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the February 21<sup>st</sup> public meeting.

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

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

First on the agenda today were revisions to two resolution numbers. Michelle noted that resolution #1 was used on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 and again on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 so she requested revising the numbers. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to revise resolution #1-2017, which was adopted on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to resolution #2-2017. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to revise resolution #2, which was adopted on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to resolution #3-2017.

Next on the agenda was consideration of accepting the bid for the radio upgrade RFP, which was done last year. Sid McConahey stated that the only complete bid offered was by Com Pros. in the amount of \$5,899,808.80 and it is to upgrade 8 radio sites from UHF to digital. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to accept the bid as requested pending solicitor review. Commissioner Thomas stated this project has been a long time in the making. He thanked Sid for all his work on the project and Rufus Brennaman for holding it together as long as he did. Commissioner Walls stated that it is important to ensure the system functions properly. Commissioner Sather added that this has been needed for many years and public safety is a priority. He stated the anticipated rollout time for testing and implementation is 18 months. Jim Cassatt asked questions regarding change orders, Sid stated they do not expect any because it is all for equipment and the prices are locked in.

Next was the consideration of a resolution to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative agreement with Bedford, Fulton and Blair counties for the implementation of the text to 911 phase of the project. Sid stated that the four counties have received a grant from PEMA to cover the cost of the service for 5 years. Fulton County has agreed to administer that grant at no additional charge to the other Counties. The contract is with West/Intrado in the amount of \$68,250.00. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to adopt resolution 4-2017 as requested, thereby entering into the Intergovernmental Cooperative agreement with Bedford, Fulton and Blair counties as requested. Commissioner Thomas asked when the service would be available, Sid stated mid-May. Commissioner Thomas asked if this was the first such agreement in the state, Sid replied this is the first regional intra-grated solution. Commissioner Walls assured the public that even though the life expectancy of the new radio system is 7 years, he fully expects it to last much longer. Sid followed up stating that the company will only guarantee the system for 7 years but he also fully expects to get 15 years out of it. Tom Ritchey commented about the fact that cost of the new system falls exclusively on property owners and not residents who do not own property. Commissioner Walls stated that the County has no way of implementing a tax on residents who do not own property, although he wishes the legislature would make changes to that law. Commissioner Thomas stated that the special mil will come off the tax rolls after 15 years. Commissioner Sather stated the Board has been transparent on the intent of the special mil.

Lastly, Sid presented the Commissioners with a check in the amount of \$1,071,780.88 that they have been anticipating for nearly two years for the upgrade to the CAD system. The upgrade was completed in 2016 despite the holdup in the grant money from the State.

Virginia Cooper noted that today is Rufus Brenneman's last day as Borough Police Chief. Rufus stated that although he is retiring, he will be around to help with the 911 duties. He also stated he has thoroughly enjoyed his 27 years with the Borough.

Claudia Conrad and Chris Riling were present today with a request to approve a purchase of service agreement with Language Line for interpretation services. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the purchase of service agreement with Language Line for a period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Virginia Cooper recognized the RSVP program and their volunteers for their assistance with digitizing records. Over the past few months, they have successfully digitized 100,000 county documents. Virginia thanked Darcey Cuzzolina, Project Coordinator for operating the program and presented the volunteers with individual certificates of appreciation. The volunteers present today are Rosemary Gill, Shirley Frank and Dorothy Anderson. Steven Bjonnes also volunteered his time but was not present for the meeting today.

Matt Price, Visitors Bureau Director was present today to request an increase to the hotel excise tax, which is levied at 3% on all hotels, vacation rentals and bed and breakfast properties in the County. Matt is requesting the tax be increased to 5% effective April 1, 2017. He stated that the increase would net the Visitor's Bureau approximately \$150,000.00 per year in additional revenue and he provided a detailed plan of how the money would be used. Donna Napier and Tim Schrack were present to express their concerns with the timing of the increase. They manage several vacation rentals in the County and already have several bookings that would be affected. Jim Cassatt asked why this wasn't done last year when Act 18 was implemented. Matt stated he didn't want to rush into it and he wanted time to plan how to spend the money. Commissioner Walls noted that he talked with other counties who said they rushed into it and it caused problems for the property managers. Commissioner Thomas expressed concerns about the timing of the increase but thanked Matt for taking his time and not rushing into it last year. He feels that the property managers need more time to make software updates, etc. before the increase takes place. Matt provided information from surrounding counties that have lakes and stated the increase would keep up competitive with those counties. Following discussion, the Commissioners asked Matt to reconsider the effective date of the increase and bring it back to the Board at a future meeting.

There were 2 Veteran Burial Allowances for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Cerett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary