

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; Deputy Chief Clerk, Stacie Cutshall; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; Deputy Sheriff, Mark Foor; Conservation District Executive Director, Celina Seftas; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; Assistant Public Defender, Marge Nollau; Public Defender Clerk, Traci Shope; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and guest, Cindy Porterfield.

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 Sather and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was 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 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 Walls wished residents a Merry Christmas. Stay safe and remember the true meaning of Christmas. Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID and flu vaccines and to vaccinate their eligible children.

Under public comments, Susan Harry announced that the judicial sale was held last night. A judicial sale is held after the tax sale for properties that did not sell. There were 77 properties left after the tax sale. 15 were redeemed and 23 were sold. This brought in over \$104,000. The remaining 39 properties will go into a repository account if they cannot be resolved. New software will help us track these properties.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Chief Deputy Sheriff Mark Foor requested consideration of approval for renewal of the Lake Raystown Law Enforcement Contract. This contract provides patrol services on Friday and Saturday evenings and most major holidays. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Celina Seftas, Executive Director of the Conservation District, presented the annual report. The feature project from last year was the Kelly Farm in Dublin Township. Eroding streambanks and lack of fencing for cattle made it more difficult for cattle to access waters. A streambank restoration project was completed and the farmer is extremely pleased with the results. Other projects completed in 2022 include new manure storage on a poultry farm, beef farm rotational grazing systems, silage leachate collection systems, 10 nutrient management plans, planting of 31 acres of new forest riparian buffer, establishment of a county-wide cover crop incentive program with 18 farms currently enrolled, re-establishment of the community engagement programs in schools, 2 stream crossing replacements, and over 200 technical assistance contacts. The tree sale will take place in January. You can order online or by mail. Pickup will be in April.

Marge Nollau, Assistant Public Defender, requested consideration of approval for a conflict counsel contract with BMZ Law. They are contracted for 50 cases for \$20,000. This is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Marge Nollau requested consideration of approval for a conflict counsel contract with Lance Marshall. This contract is for 100 cases for \$40,000. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Marge Nollau requested consideration of approval for a conflict counsel contract with Tim Burns. This contract is for 100 cases for \$40,000. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to hire a Social Service Aid, Melinda McKinney, effective 12/27/2022. She has completed her pre-employment screenings. After this hire, there will be five open positions in the CYS department – 1 fiscal, 3 intake caseworkers, and 1 ongoing caseworker. We are working to fill these positions as quickly as possible. We are also looking to start one intern in January. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval to appoint Keller Engineers as Huntingdon County CDBG Engineer for 2023-2026. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to appoint Chris Stevens to the Active Transportation Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. The number of county cases stands at 13,417. The State total is 2,783,550. We are in the medium level of community spread. Hospitalizations stand at 1,329. The incident rate is 124.9 for the County and 82 for the State. PCR is at 8.9% for the County and 11.6% for the State. 25,402 people have been vaccinated in Huntingdon County and 3,909 have received their booster. There were two additional deaths in the last week for a total of 271 since the beginning of the pandemic.

There were no matters for action.

There were 3 Veteran's Burial Allowance.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary