

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday March 4, 2014
9-2014

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 O’Korn, Fluke, and Thomas; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Deputy Chief Clerk, Kristen Croyle; Center for Community Action Director, Wendy Melius; Mike Hannon, HMJ Drug and Alcohol Director; Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Grant Administrator; Judge of Common Pleas, George Zanic; Court Administrator, Alexa McGraw; Daily News Reporter Candy Price and visitors Bruce Pergament, Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Thomas.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the February 25th public meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the payment of bills.

There are no new additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Fluke addressed the public with concerns of the new court security, and who is actually responsible for the courthouse security. He addressed the Daily News and advised they addressed the security at Mifflin County and Blair County but not Bedford County. They do not have security in Bedford County, Commissioner Fluke advises that he can walk in the building and there is no security, what-so-ever. He is wondering why it is so different 30-40 miles away. Commissioner Fluke wants the cost and would like to see the whole cost of the security from the Sheriff Office. Commissioner Thomas advised these discussions were talked about in the Safety and Security meeting which are held every month and this is the first he is hearing of Commissioner Fluke’s concerns. Commissioner O’Korn caveats off Commissioner Thomas remarks and addresses that if something does happen in the courthouse this would be a huge liability to the county and to the tax payers. Judge Zanic stresses that this was discussed on several occasions at the Safety and Security meetings and everyone was in concurrence with the change.

Bruce Pergament commented on the security as well and handed out Pennsylvania Law on Possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility.

There were no items addressed by the Solicitor today.

Judge Zanic, Judge of Court of Common Pleas, was present today and addressed the appointment of Kathy Richards, Director of Domestic Relations and the hiring of Michael Kipphan, Assistant Director of Domestic Relations/Domestic Relations Conference Officer as well as hiring Mr. Kipphan as Guardian Ad Litem in custody cases. It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve the appointment of Kathy Richards, Domestic Relations Director effective March 17, 2014. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) for the hiring of Michael Kipphan, Assistant Director of Domestic Relations/Domestic Relations Conference Officer as well as Guardian Ad Litem (Non CYS Cases) effective March 3, 2014.

Mike Hannon, HMJ Drug and Alcohol Director, was present today to address distribution of funds and program updates. He addressed concerns on the rise in alcohol and drug abuse and need to educate the community on drug abuse.

Wendy Melius, Center for Community Action Director, was present for the approval of Emergency Solutions Grant. Presented was an invoice in the amount of \$2707.91. They have worked with over 137 total served in the county. This includes rental services and utility services. Commissioner Fluke raised a concern on duplication of Center of Community Action and Huntingdon House. This was explained, the difference and understood there is no duplication of services. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) on the approval of the Emergency Solutions Grant invoice in the amount of \$2707.91.

Mark Colussy, Planning Director and Maureen Safko, Grant Administrator, was present to address the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant Contract Extension. Addressed the grant and the expiration of the grant being March 19, 2014, there are funds in the grant that could potentially be lost. Asking consideration of the extension of the grant, this would be extended to March 16, 2016, this will give us plenty of time to use the funds in the grant. Balance remaining on the grant is \$25,475, with \$6,000-\$7,000 already spent. The balance is roughly about \$19,000. State is offering the extension, and it is up to us to extend the contract. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve extending the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant until March 16, 2016 as offered by the Commonwealth and as requested by Planning.

Request from the Huntingdon County Housing Authority for the approval on the re-appointment of James Bookhamer III to the Huntingdon County Housing Authority. Commissioner Fluke suggested tabling until next weeks meeting. Commissioner Fluke would like to have it tabled to review the by-laws or contact the director on the term. Commissioner O’Korn addressed the term expired on March 1, 2014 and cannot see a delay in the action of the appointment of Mr. Bookhammer. Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett called Dawn Sunderland, Executive Director of The Housing Authority of the County of Huntingdon, she advises the board it is a 5 year term, she would have to look at how long he has served but has been there since before 1995 and there is nothing in their by-laws stating on how many terms he can serve. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, no; Thomas, yes) to re-appoint James Bookhammer effective March 1, 2014 to March 1, 2019.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (Fluke, no; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to terminate the part time/as needed employment of Kierstine Boozel effective on March 4, 2014.

It is noted for the record the hiring of Chad Swanger was effective on March 3, 2014.

There were one veteran burial allowances and installation of one government headstone for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary