

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; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; Jury Commissioner, Linda McMath. Daily News Reporter, Jeff Gill and visitors Bruce Pergament and Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by Prayer led by Commissioner O’Korn and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Fluke.

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 July 9th 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 for the last two week.

There was a resolution for the Area agency on Aging added to the agenda today.

Commissioner O’Korn congratulated the Huntingdon County Fireman for a successful convention last week. He also announced that the Commissioners attended a ceremony to present a monument that was created in honor of fireman. Commissioner O’Korn congratulated everyone who was involved in the project and thanked them for preserving the original fire bell of the County. Jim Cassatt added that the monument was privately funded. He also added that they are offering bricks from Bryan Street for sale to be inscribed and added around the base of the monument.

There were no items addressed by the Solicitor today.

Planning Director Mark Colussy requested appointment of Earl Martin to the Planning Commission board. Mr. Martin served on the Board from 2008 to the end of 2012, at which time he did not seek re-appointment for personal reasons. Mr. Martin has requested to be re-appointed at this time. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner O’Korn, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to table the request until more information is received from Mr. Martin.

Mark also announced that DCNR will be offering mini grants through the Regional Greenways program ranging from \$1,500 to \$25,000 to be used for conservation of natural resources, various recreational activities, economic development and heritage projects. The grants will be awarded in January, 2014 and the projects will need to be completed in early 2016. Mark stated that all municipalities are eligible for the grants and there is a 100% match required.

During the recent quarterly meeting of the Area Agency on aging, Alan Smith presented a resolution for consideration by the various counties. The resolution grants Alan authority to sign documents on behalf of the Agency and has been done in past years. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to adopt resolution 10-2013 as requested.

Also for consideration today was the abolishment of the office of Jury Commissioner. Action was taken in December, 2012 to abolish the office but the ruling was appealed and overturned. Earlier this year, Senate Bill 808 was enacted as Act 4 2013, which again granted Counties the option to abolish the office if they chose to do so. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas to retain the office of Jury Commissioner. The motion died for lack of a second. It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, no; O’Korn, yes) to adopt resolution 11-2013, thereby abolishing the office of Jury Commissioner in Huntingdon County. Commissioner Fluke commented that while the Jury Commissioners are good people, he feels it is financially best to eliminate the positions. Commissioner Thomas stated that he feels the abolishment of the Jury Commissioners puts full control for jury selection in the hands of the Court. He also stated that someone still has to do the work, therefore he is not convinced there will be a cost savings. Commissioner O’Korn commented he shares Commissioner Thomas’ concerns regarding ethical problems. He has reviewed the options in detail and discussed them with other Counties. Commissioner Thomas noted that Act 4 is under appeal and may be overturned. He also commented that the Court administrators office has a plan in place to absorb the additional work, if necessary. Linda McMath commented that the Jury Commissioners ensure fair trials for the people and the abolition of the position takes away that right. She also stated that once the position is abolished, it can not be reinstated.

Steve Lane requested permission to attend a State sponsored Veterans accreditation training course on September 9th through 13th. All costs associated with the training course are paid for by the State. It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas,yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve Steves attendance at the training as requested.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to accept the resignation of Codi Hollibaugh from the probation department effective July 27, 2013.

There was four county veteran burial allowances and one private headstone approved today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Fluke to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary