

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Office with the following present via GoToMeeting: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; Lisa Erickson from the Huntingdon County Public Library; EMA Director, Joe Thompson and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Heather Fellman conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. 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 April 6th Public Meeting.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls reminded the public that there are two opportunities for funding currently available. \$511,000 is being disbursed through HCBI for the hospitality industry. There are also rent relief funds available through the Center for Community Action. Commissioner Thomas asked the public for help with Broadband. If you know of an area that is underserved or has no service and you are willing to take the lead in that area, please bring that information to the Commissioners. We know of a lot of places that we have already identified and in the New American Rescue Plan there is money available for expanding broadband. Bring us a letter with how many customers are in that area. The Commissioners will be making decisions on where to deploy this and we want to make sure we are hitting the areas that really need served. The RFP is out of the Broad Top area now. It will not cover everybody, but it is a starting point. We are looking through the entire county.

There were no public comments.

Under Matters to be addressed by the solicitor, Attorney Newton presented a proposed agreement with Eagle Towing. This agreement was reviewed with Joe Thompson. Eagle Towing is the only company in town that is certified within a five county area. They have been very good to us in the past. Other counties have done similar things where equipment is provided. Under the agreement, we will purchase the necessary equipment and lease it to them. The agreement makes it clear that this equipment still belongs to the county. Basically that would be used to ensure that hazardous spills and waste are dealt with appropriately. Joe Thompson noted that the equipment purchased will be two radiation measurement meters to provide to Eagle HazMat Team. Kylie Hawn asked about the cost of the equipment and where the funding is coming from. Joe Thompson answered that the approximate price for two of them would be \$2,500. The LEPC is purchasing one using the Hazardous Materials Response Fund State Grant. The other meter will be purchased with funds from the EMA office. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Attorney Newton also addressed the expired Hazardous Materials Emergency Response contract with Eagle Towing. It was for a four year term. The last time it was signed was in 2016. They are asking for same renewal terms. The contract is dated April 9, 2021. Joe Thompson commented that Eagle Towing is the closest certified team that we could contract with for hazardous materials responses in Huntingdon County. They provide this agreement at no cost or retainer. They have been very cooperative. Any time we need assistance I can call and they do not bill us. Consideration of approval was given for renewal of the Eagle Towing Contract for a four year term. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Attorney Newton commented that the General Authority entered into an agreement with the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP). This is a project at Juniata College for the library. Mike Keating is the point person at the college for this. He is now retired but he has been retained by the college to finish this project through. Apparently in the package needed from the Commonwealth, there has to be an agreement between the County and the Commonwealth that basically states that in the

event that there are improper reimbursements under the award, the county would reimburse the Commonwealth. We are going to require an indemnification. That is pretty much understood with the College. Mike informs me that in the history of this RACP program, the Commonwealth has never gone after anybody for repayment. Still, I think we need to cover all bases. I will prepare an indemnification and cooperation agreement between the County, the Authority and the College. There is a consultant that the college has retained, and he is going to talk to him about that. In the event that we cannot do this in one agreement with the college joining, we will do it in two agreements and contemporaneously we would have an indemnification agreement with the College. This is a great thing for the community, because I think the way that this is envisioned there is going to be an outdoor seating area and coffee shop that will be open to the community as well. I will be working on that with Mike and Dave Andrews, who is the solicitor for the college. We will try to have something at least in draft for you at the next meeting. Commissioner Thomas commented that he remembers the last RACP grants that we have done. In the recent time, we have always had that addendum because we cannot control that once that money passes through us. Attorney Newton commented that this is a little unusual because most applicants are public entities that have taxing authority. That is the reason for the request. Commissioner Sather commented that the General Authority has also done work for and brought money to the county from the state. One of the most recent is the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center. The General Authority does a great job of bringing money into the county from the state.

Under new business, Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for an agreement with CES Engineering for the Library Elevator Replacement. The Planning Office was asked to assist with this project. We also have Lisa Erickson, the Executive Director of the Library, on the call. The Library Board of Directors and the County Commissioners jointly developed a Keystone Recreation Park and Conservation Act Fund Grant Application in April 2020 for the replacement of the existing elevator at the library. The grant agreement was executed between the County Commissioners and the PA Office of Commonwealth Libraries May 7, 2020 in the amount of \$48,650. This is a 100% match grant. The total approximate project cost is \$97,300. The grantee is required to submit preliminary specifications. We spoke to Lisa Erickson and she has taken care of that. We received approval April 1st to proceed with the project. The grant is a reimbursable grant. This means that all initial costs must be paid from a non-library grant fund source and then the invoices and supporting documentation will be submitted for reimbursement. Our involvement is to assist Lisa with getting the project bid and underway. We approached Mr. Lee Zeger of CES Engineering relative to his services. He has previous experience with Fulton County with this Keystone Library Grant. He proposed to provide services, including buildings plan preparation, bidding advertisement, bid award and construction administration in the amount not to exceed \$8,500. There are some exclusions including permitting fees, hazardous materials inspections, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing renderings. I asked about these additional costs and he said they would be approximately 2% of the construction costs or about \$1,600. Mr. Lettiere expressed that he feels that the fee Mr. Zeger is charging is reasonable. Ms. Erickson commented that the library has money available in trust funds that have been left to the library specifically for building purposes and maintenance. Our elevator is quite old and is in dire need of replacement. It is past its life expectancy. We are prepared to pay for the engineering fees. We are not asking for any money from the commissioners. The Keystone Grant will pass through their office to reimburse the library for some of the costs associated with this project. She invited the Commissioners to come visit the library and see the elevator that will be replaced. She also noted that they have brought a lot of changes to the library and the library is currently open to the public. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the agreement pending solicitor review.

Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for Resolution 5-2021 for Fair Housing. This resolution is required by the CDBG Program. The Fair Housing Resolution identifies that Huntingdon County and Huntingdon County on behalf of Smithfield Township and Huntingdon Borough prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing or provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status, or handicap or disability under Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The PA Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age, ancestry, and use of guide or support animals because of blindness, deafness, or physical disability, or because the user is a trainer of support animals. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, provided a COVID-19 update. There have been quite a few developments in the last 24 hours or so. Pennsylvania is moving ahead of schedule for vaccine rollout. Beginning today, anyone 16 or older can sign up to get the vaccine. State Health Officials are concerned about an increase in cases and hospitalizations across the state. Although everyone is basically now eligible, availability may be a concern. Just remember that although there are a lot of people in the pool who can get appointments, the doses are limited. You may have to wait days or weeks to get the vaccine. The state website does have a provider lookup tool that shows who offers the shot nearby. That website is health.pa.gov. The DOH also has info on how to prepare for the appointment. If anyone does not have internet access, you can call the PA Health Hotline at 877-724-3258. According to Johns Hopkins University, about 21% of Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated. That is about 2.6 million people. US Federal Distribution, including mass vaccination sites, are going to be pausing the use of the J&J vaccine. There is a concern with blood clots from that vaccine. That is really all we know right now. Mr. Thompson offered his thanks to Larry Newton for his quick and efficient work with the EMA Office and the LEPC. Larry has jumped in with both feet and it is a pleasure working with him. There is an uptick in Huntingdon County cases. We do continue in what is known as the substantial level of community transmission. This means that the transmission of COVID-19 is more likely in our community right now. We should be careful. Our seven-day average is about 12 new cases per day. The three-day average is 10. There are several places in the county have the vaccine. Penn Highlands Primary Care are calling their patients for scheduling. You can also call the vaccine information line at 814-503-4735. The Huntingdon County case count to date is 4,689. If you take the numbers and dates and times, we are estimating that there are about 500 active cases right now. We have had 128 COVID-19 related deaths as reported by the Department of Health. This has plateaued. We have had 3,000 partial and 10,300 full vaccines administered

in Huntingdon County. That means about 22-23% of Huntingdon County residents are fully vaccinated. SCI Huntingdon has one active inmate and two active staff cases. SCI Smithfield has 30 active inmate and two active staff cases. Vaccination efforts began at both institutions last week. Long-term care facilities are generally doing well. There are a few active cases but no outbreaks. Penn Highlands reports 2 patients, neither in the ICU. There has been some discussion recently about duplicate appointments for the vaccine. If you have signed up for an appointment with a number of places in order to try to get the vaccine, please call and cancel with the other providers once you have gotten your vaccine. This will help ensure that the vaccine is available for everyone and that doses are not wasted.

Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk requested consideration of approval to attend the CCAP Virtual County Administration Conference. This conference offers a number of different educational sessions related to the HR side of my position. This conference is occurring virtually and the total cost is \$49 to register. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no Matters for Action.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary