

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

47-2019

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Veterans Affairs Director, Brian Bassett; CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Riling; Public Defender, Fred Gutshall; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitor, Mike Hannon.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the December 10 and December 11, 2019 Public Meetings.

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.

The Commissioners wished the residents of Huntingdon County a Merry Christmas and asked that everyone please enjoy themselves responsibly. Commissioner Sather announced that since the next regular meeting day falls on Christmas Eve, the public meeting scheduled for December 24, 2019 will be cancelled. The County Offices will all also be closed that day in observance of the holiday.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Claudia Conrad and Chris Riling requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Centre County Children and Youth Services for foster care services. This is a new contract for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Claudia Conrad and Chris Riling requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Community Specialists Corporation for residential services for juvenile females. This is a renewal for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Claudia Conrad and Chris Riling requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with The Summit Schools for residential drug treatment for juvenile males. This is a renewal for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Fred Gutshall requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Lance Marshall for conflict counsel services for 2020. The contract provides for services on up to 100 cases for \$40,000. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Fred Gutshall requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Douglas Keating for conflict counsel services for 2020. The contract provides for services on up to 100 cases for \$40,000. Commissioner Thomas commented that this will help the county and that these contracts have existed previously but offered less coverage at up to 50 cases for \$20,000. Fred Gutshall noted that Judge Zanic has already signed an order for these appointments and the cases will be assigned by the Public Defender's Office. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for the 2020 Huntingdon County Budget. A special budget meeting was held on December 11, 2019, at which the public had an opportunity to ask questions related to the budget before the Commissioners vote. Commissioner Thomas noted that the average assessed value in Huntingdon is 20,696. A 3.75 increase, if this budget passes, for the average homeowner is \$77.57 per year, which breaks down to \$6.46 per month. Commissioner Walls also noted that a budget is an estimate and that the Commissioners cannot control other elected officials. Commissioner Sather commented that while the County has maintained expenses, there have been many additional unexpected extra costs that have come up, including an exceptional number of inmates in the jail, mandated purchase of new election equipment, computer upgrades, insurance rate increases, increased payment into the retirement system, debt reduction, and the addition of a contingency fund. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Resolution 14-2019 fixing the tax rate for 2020 at 20 mils for each dollar of assessed value. The per capita tax will remain at \$5. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for a contract for new voting equipment with Elections Systems and Software. Purchase of this equipment is to comply with the mandate from the Pennsylvania Department of State. The cost of the new equipment is \$583,757, the maintenance agreement for the first year is \$39,065, and the annual extended hardware maintenance fees will be \$11,845. We will be receiving a 60% reimbursement from the Department of State. Commissioner Thomas commented that this new equipment will allow us to program our own ballots for a considerable savings. Commissioner Sather commented that the public will see very little change in their voting experience. We are purchasing an updated system that is compliant with the State, but it is very similar to our existing system. Commissioner Walls noted that our current system meets federal requirements, but the State of Pennsylvania has its own requirements. Kylie Hawn asked if the Commissioners had to go through the bid process. Commissioner Sather answered that we went through Costars and therefore do not have to put this out for bid. We reviewed equipment by the state-approved vendors. Ms. Hawn asked when the new equipment will arrive. Commissioner Thomas responded that it will arrive in January. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for a software licensing, extended hardware warranty, and maintenance agreement for the voting equipment through Election Systems and Software. The total cost of the agreement is \$242,705. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for a purchase of service agreement with Keller Engineers, designating the organization as the County Engineer. Keller Engineers has been serving in this capacity. The contract requires no retainer fee. The County only pays for the services that are used. Keller Engineers will provide the following designation services: consulting and advice regarding engineering needs; attend meetings upon request; receive and make phone calls on behalf of the county; monitor state and federal rules, regulations, and requirements to keep the county informed and is available to answer questions regarding road bonding, land development, planning modules and Act 537 plans, project funding sources, ordinances, liquid fuels fund usage, wetland issues, flood plain certification, etc. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for the appointment of Jama E. Hampson to the position of Conservation District Director for the Board of Conservation for a four year term. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary