

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

1-2021

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, Peter McManamon; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; Deputy Treasurer, Cathy Bilger 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 Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was 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 29th 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 Thomas expressed his gratitude that 2020 is behind us and he is looking forward to a better 2021. We had many things to overcome in 2020: we are still dealing with the pandemic, we had new election equipment that went off without a hitch in Huntingdon County, and now we're happy to move into 2021. COVID is still running rampant and is worse now than it has ever been in our county and our nation. Please follow the CDC guidelines. Social distance, wear a mask, and we will all get through this together. Commissioner Walls echoed Commissioner Thomas's comments and thanked the county employees for pitching in through the last year in these trying times. Their cooperation and hard work is very much appreciated. He also offered his thanks to essential workers and emergency responders who are on the front lines of this pandemic every day. Commissioner Sather added that while 2020 may be a forgettable year for all of us, it is those people that were mentioned, the employees, the first responders, the EMS, the fire personnel, the healthcare workers that are truly unforgettable. We should give thanks and appreciation and respect for their services.

There were no public comments.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Before beginning with the new business, there will be a brief recess from the Public Meeting for a Public Hearing led by the Planning Department. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

The Commissioners voted to return from recess at 9:45AM. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Under new business, Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for Resolution 2-2021 for the modification of the 2017 CDBG contract funds. This will delete the Shade Gap activity and add the 19 South Jefferson demolition project and the additional funding for the Todd Township project. Commissioner Walls commented that the Shade Gap Community Center was a priority but I appreciate the Planning Department's efforts to get the funding out to other communities that could use it. Commissioner Sather

commented that it is good to see that the money is going to other projects in Huntingdon County. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen requested consideration of approval for the CDBG modification request. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen requested consideration of approval for the adjoining CDBG extension request. On a fiscal year 2017 contract, the typical construction end date was to be March 15, 2021 which is this year and coming up very quickly. Because these modifications were needed, including the addition of a new activity, there was no way in which those activities could be done in a three month time frame. It is a two-part extension request. Since the Todd Township project has already been bid out and awarded we gave the contractors the traditional 90 days to complete the work. That project should be completed no later than April 27, 2021. The demolition, which is the new project, we wanted to give additional time, but it should be completed by July 26, 2021. We hope that they will give us consideration for that so that we can expend those funds and get the projects closed out. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Keller Engineers as the engineer for County Bridges. Commissioner Thomas commented that we do not pay for their services unless we use them. Commissioner Sather added that Keller Engineers has served the county well for quite a number of years. I look forward to continuing to work with them in the future. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

There were no Matters for Action, Information, and Discussion.

There were 2 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary