

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, April 21, 2009
16-09

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following being present: Commissioners Fluke, Hoover, and Kough Pittenger; Scot Gill, Solicitor; Chief Clerk, Cinnamon Bair; Jim Foster ABATE member; Neil Weber and Walt Grudi, Grudi Associates; Richard Stahl, Planning Director; Ed Silveti, Southern Alleghenies Executive Director, Haley Sankey, Regional Energy Coordinator; Brandon Carson, Economic Development Planner; Fred Querry, Director of Economic and Community Development; George Germann, The Daily News; Jeff Gill, Altoona Mirror; and visitors Randy Carper, Jo Ann Whitsel, and Charlie Coleman.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Fluke followed by Prayer led by Chief Clerk Cinnamon Bair and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Kough Pittenger.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the minutes of the April 14 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Hoover, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve payment of invoices for the week of April 20.

There were no additions to today's meeting.

There was no public comment.

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor.

First on the agenda was Jim Foster. Jim represented the ABATE Organization. Commissioner Fluke read a proclamation to all attending the meeting proclaiming May as Biker Awareness Month. Jim thanked the Commissioners and explained when he joined ABATE there were 49 members today there are 249 members. Jim said they go to schools talking to young drivers not only about motorcycle riding but also the hazards driving cars like distractions from cell phones, and radios. They inform kids to watch for motorcycle riders while driving cars. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes) to sign the 2009 ABATE Proclamation naming May Biker Awareness Month.

Next, scheduled on the agenda were Grudi Associates Neil Weber and President of the company Walt Grudi. They were joined by Richard Stahl. Richard did a small introduction to the PRI system and how Grudi Associates work to save money on phone bills. Neil Weber went over how the system bundles phone lines and if the County agrees they would have a two year contract that would save the County approximately \$400 per month. The plan is to have two phases. Commissioner Kough Pittenger said that they had reviewed this with Neil at a previous meeting and got a very good explanation from Neil on how the system works. Richard Stahl told the Board he called two references, one from the Law Office BMZ, Huntingdon and the second, Clearfield County they were both satisfied with the service and did show savings. Scot Gill asked if the digital system would interfere with any alarm systems. Walt Grudi answered no and explained a little about the technology. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if phase two would include all the buildings. Richard said that would have to be discussed a later time because all buildings would need to have the upgraded phone hardware from Moorefield. Commissioner Hoover asked about the local calling numbers on the chart presented by Grudi that showed the local calling cost as an increase rather than a decrease. Neil explained currently the County has 20 value packs from Verizon and they still exceed the minutes and are charged on a separate line. Richard added that Neil worked with Verizon to get the County a router to service the system as part of the package. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to sign a two year agreement with Grudi Associates to set up a bundle phone package through their carrier Line Systems at a cost of \$200. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to sign a two year agreement Lines System, Inc. as the carrier for the County. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to sign a two year agreement with Verizon for the bundled service.

Ken Tucker came to the meeting to ask if the Commissioners would allow him to attend an online training to renew his State Certification. Ken said that he was not able to attend the conference last year and this year with a new field person he feels he can complete the online course easier and at a savings to the County. Commissioner Hoover asked if the online training was accredited. Ken answered yes. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve Ken to attend the online classes.

Ed Silvetti, Fred Querry, Brandon Carson, and Haley Sankey of Southern Alleghenies were on the agenda to talk to the Commissioners regarding stimulus money coming from the Federal Government as grants to help with Energy costs. Ed said that the current grant that has been available “Energy Harvest Grant” would probably be the model used to get the stimulus money. Brandon explained the Energy Harvest Grant requires many statistics that would need to be completed by an Engineer. Ed asked the Commissioners to allow Richard Stahl to be the contact person between Southern Alleghenies and the Engineer. Brandon said historically the Energy Harvest Grant was a maximum amount per application of \$500,000. This year the amount may be \$250,000. They feel this may be due to the fact the Government is trying to spread it to more people. Ed told the Commissioners that April 28th is a webinar and he feels that the money may be released at that time. Ed believes the applications could be due May 15th. George Germann asked a follow up question to a previous question from Richard, Richard had asked the Commissioners if they plan to use geothermal even if they do not get a grant. Commissioner Fluke said that the grant is critical to the decision. Commissioner Kough Pittenger said they would have to take a hard look at the costs and the future savings of geothermal. Commissioner Hoover said a 16 year payback is a long time.

The Commissioners approved payment for 1 Veteran burial allowance, 0 widow/widower burial allowances and 0 bases.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger second by Commissioner Hoover and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk Cinnamon L. Bair.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary