

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 Sather, Walls, and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; Planner I, Iona Conner; Daily News reporter, Kylie Hawn; and Visitors, Stan Westbrook, Dean Fluke, Dave Edwards, Joan and Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather followed by 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 20th, 2016 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 the bills.

There were no additions to the agenda or announcements today.

Stan Westbrook offered public comment on the County appropriation to the Huntingdon Library. He feels the money should be appropriated to all Libraries in the County. He stated that the satellite Libraries have asked the Huntingdon Library for \$5,000.00 each to be used for repairs to their buildings but that did not happen. He asked Solicitor McManamon and the Board of Commissioners to explain why the Huntingdon Library will not share their county allocation. As the President of the Library Board, Peter stated that while it may seem so on paper, the Huntingdon Library is not flush with money. He stated that he agrees the funding should be shared but that hasn't been possible since the State cut their funding a few years ago. Commissioner Walls stated that he is not sure how the endowment funds can be spent but he feels all County Libraries should receive services. He is interested in meeting with the Huntingdon Library to see if the endowment funds can be shared with the other branches. Commissioner Thomas stated he doesn't know about the monies that are put forth to the other branches. The County appropriation was cut five years ago along with several other appropriations. He feels that the new Library Director will work with the other branches as much as she is able. Commissioner Sather stated that he feels outreach services are being offered although they are not monetary. Commissioner Thomas made a final comment stating that if they Libraries are in need of upgrades for ADA compliance, they could possibly get CDBG funds.

Solicitor McManamon stated that due to some changes, he does not have the 2017 TAN documents ready for signature but he plans to by the end of this week.

First on the agenda today was the consideration of Resolution 27-2016 setting the milage rate for the 2017 budget. Following the reading of the Resolution, it was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to adopt Resolution 27-2016. Jim Cassatt asked who would manage the 14% uncollectible taxes and ensure that the two special mils were managed properly. Commissioner Sather stated that the Bond council would work with the Tax Assessment Office and the Treasurer's office to manage the special mils. Dean Fluke expressed concerns about seeking advice from the Bond Council and asked if the County could add to the bond. Commissioner Sather stated that after a period of time, the County can add to the bond. He also stated that there are two separate entities working on the Bond process. The Bond underwriter will manage the Bonds and the Bond Council will represent the County.

Next on the agenda was the adoption of the 2017 proposed budget. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to adopt the 2017 proposed budget as presented. Joan Cassatt asked that the Commissioners manage the County budget as they would their own personal budget.

The Commissioners received a signed agreement with Huntingdon Borough for the maintenance and operation of the 911 Center. Commissioner Sather stated the agreement was to expire in August but they worked with the Borough to extend the current contract while the new contract was being negotiated. The Borough Solicitor drafted the new agreement and the Borough approved it at their meeting last week. They then sent it to the County for their consideration. Commissioner Sather stated that contract is for a period of one year in the amount of \$618,000.00. He stated that the previous agreement was open ended and the Borough provided the County a bill each month. By implementing the fixed service fee, the County will be able to better manage the expenses of the 911 Center. Jim Cassatt asked who was going to be operating the 911 Center. Commissioner Sather stated that the details are still being worked out but with the approval of this contract, the 911 Director will now be a County Employee. Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the contract with Huntingdon Borough for the operation of the 911 Center for a period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Mark Colussy and Iona Conner were present with two items related to the HOME grant. First was action to rescind the contract with Michael Gelsick for the home inspections. Mark Colussy informed the board a few weeks ago that Mr. Gelsick was not able to perform the work but he just received the letter from Mr. Gelsick making it official. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to rescind their offer to Michael Gelsick for the home inspections as presented.

In conjunction with that, Mark requested approval of the contract with Michael Baker International, Inc. for the completion of the radon, lead, asbestos and mold testing for the HOME grant. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, Thomas, yes) to approve the contract with Michael Baker International, Inc. at a cost of \$3,975.00 per house.

The Library provided a letter requesting the appointment of a new Board member to fill the vacancy of Belle Tuten. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to appoint Anne Millar to the Huntingdon County Library Board for a term ending December 31, 2017. Commissioner Thomas stated that there are two more openings and encouraged anyone who may be interested in serving to contact the Library.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the termination of Natalie Sweitzer, Caseworker II effective December 20th, 2016.

There were no Veteran Burial Allowances for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m. Minutes prepared by Michelle Cerett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary