

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

16-2021

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; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; HCBI, Debra Clark, EMA Director, Joe Thompson, and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Tracey Rhodes 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 April 20th 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 was no addition to the agenda.

Under announcements Commissioner Walls, on behalf of Tammy Thompson the Election Director, reminds the public that the 2021 Municipal Primary will be held on May 18th, 2021. The last day to register to vote or make changes to your address or party is Monday, May 3rd, 2021. The last day to apply for an absentee or mail in ballot is Tuesday, May 11th, 2021. We began mailing out absentee and mail in ballots yesterday, Monday, May 26th, 2021. We encourage voters who requested mail in or absentee ballots to please read the instructions prior to completing their ballot, your completed ballot may then be mail back to our office or delivered in person. We will not be allowing drop boxes in Huntingdon County. All ballots must be received in our office prior to 8:00 pm on Election Day, May 18th, 2021. An important reminder when adding write in names to your ballot, you must darken the oval and write the name in, if the oval is not darkened your vote will not count. We are need of Poll workers in two precincts in Huntingdon Borough, Also Mill Creek Borough and Miller Township. If you are interested, please contact the election office at 814-643-3091 ext. 205 as soon as possible.

There were no public comments.

Under Matters to be addressed by the solicitor, Attorney Newton announced Juniata College has signed the Edification and Cooperation Agreement that was prepared, Attorney Newton is asking that this agreement be added to next week's agenda for the board to sign, once signed Attorney Newton will then schedule a special meeting with the Authority to sign as well. Attorney New has prepared a draft agreement with respect to Marv Reifsteck, Attorney Newton is under the understanding that the Commissioners would like meet with Mr. Reifsteck as well as some individuals from the Assessment Office, Asking for this to be added to next week's agenda for signature as well. Attorney Newton has also met with Treasurer, Susan Harry regarding issues with entity's paying the county's Hotel Tax.

Under new business, Debra Clark, Executive Director of HCBI. Update on the COVID 19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program. Our county was allocated a little over \$500,000 to go towards the grants the Hospitality Industry qualifies such as: Motels, Hotels, Inns, Bed and Breakfast, and also bars, restaurants, etc. We have received a couple applications so far. Estimating that there is still around \$300,000 still eligible to be dispersed. The application is available on our website at HCBI.com or contact our office at 814-506-8287, we are located on 9136 William Penn Highway, right across the street from Rick Singleton's Rentals. The application is still open until funding runs out or June 15th, 2021. If you are not sure if you meet qualification for the application, please reach out to HCBI for assistance. If you have any thoughts to apply please do so, hoping to keep all funds within Huntingdon County.

There were no public comments.

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, provided a COVID-19 update... we are seeing about 73 new cases in Huntingdon County over the past week, the average number of daily new cases is down slightly, with 10 new cases per day each week. There are 3 individuals currently hospitalized in Penn Highlands with COVID 19, 1 is in the Intensive Care Unit, most of the patients hospitalized across the state and within the our county are with the 65 and older age range. The Huntingdon County percent of positivity rate is 6.1%, this is the results of positive results COVID testing. No current COVID 19 deaths with in the past week. Shipments of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine continue throughout Huntingdon. US Health officials have lifted the 11 day pause on the Johnson and Johnson single dose shot, it was lifted on Friday, April 23, 2021 after scientific advisers decided the benefits outweigh the rare risk of a blood clot. Mr. Thompson commented the numbers continue to go down and with this news there are plans for graduation ceremonies from the local high schools as well as Juniata College. They continue to keep in touch with many agencies, facilities and organizations, they check in with them regularly and they remain available to assistance many folks including the outstanding emergency medical service providers and healthcare facilities. Reminder all Pennsylvanian 16 and older are eligible to schedule a COVID 19 vaccine, if you have any questions about the vaccine process we urge you to call the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health at 1-877-724-3258 or talk with your physician or pharmacist. Penn Highland Hospital will be offering a vaccine clinic on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at it will be available until 7:00 pm. Broadtop Medical group has vaccines available as well. EMA dept. would like to stress that if you must go out please continue to wear a mask when entering a business or if it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing. Wash your hand with soap and water, cover any coughs or sneezing with your arm, not your hands and please stay home to help reduce the spread of COVID 19. Mr. Thompson also reminds everyone that this is State Work Zone Awareness Week and wanted to highlight the importance of driving safely through work zones and emergency zones. Any municipalities that have not yet adopted the Huntingdon County Hazardous Litigation Plan to please do so, we need participation to get the plan approved. Any questions please contact the EMA department.

There was no public comments.

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 10:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Tracey Rhodes, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary