

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; President Judge, George Zanic; Court Administrator, Angela Robinson; Warden, Brad Glover; County Engineer, Lee Zeiger; Sarah Keck from CES Engineering; Prothonotary, Sarah Snare; Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson and guest, Curtis McConaughy.

Katie Unger, EMA Director; CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Cecelia St. Clair and CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Dixon participated via GoToMeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. 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 previous meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There was one addition to the agenda: consideration of approval to advertise for sealed bids for the Courthouse and Annex 2 renovations. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID and flu vaccines and boosters and to vaccinate their eligible children. Commissioner Walls commented that the Commissioners are happy to announce, working along with State and Federal Officials and Southern Alleghenies Planning Commission, the county share of money that comes from gaming revenues. Huntingdon Ambulance Authority received \$394,883. Penn Township received \$54,762. Shirley Township General Authority received \$34,000. Tell Township received \$70,000. Three Springs Borough received \$217,158. Commissioner Sather commented that the primary is coming up and we are always looking for additional poll workers. If you are interested in serving as a poll worker on Election Day please contact the Commissioners' Office.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Lee Zeger requested consideration of approval to advertise for sealed bids for renovation of the Courthouse and the Annex 2 HVAC upgrade. The Annex 2 project was bid out last fall but no bids were accepted. We are hoping for more interest this time. Mr. Zeiger presented an overview of both projects. Judge Zanic commented that the Court is able to contribute funds to this project. He appreciates the work and cooperation of the Commissioners. Commissioner Thomas asked if the Central Court will be moved back out of the Bailey Building and into the Courthouse. Judge Zanic commented that with scheduling he is not sure if that is possible. Commissioner Thomas commented that it is important to look into that for security and accessibility reasons. Judge Zanic agrees that it is not ideal to have it in the Bailey Building and commented that he can look into solutions to move Central Court out of the Bailey Building. Commissioner Sather commented that there is a mandatory pre-bid conference on Wednesday, April 5th at 2PM. Sealed bids will be opened on April 18th. Commissioner Walls commented that these projects will be completed without any tax increase and without using general fund monies. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Proclamation 4-2023 for Safe Digging Month. Safe Digging Month is April 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Brad Glover, Warden, requested consideration of approval for the resignation of Richard Kidd effective 3/15/2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Sarah Snare, Prothonotary, requested consideration of approval for a solicitor contract with Nicholas Newfield, Esq. This is for contract year 2023. The total cost is \$5,000 and is a budgeted expense. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to close out the RACP JC Blair Memorial Hospital project. This project totaled \$1 million which funded the ER renovation project. This project was opened in 2011. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval to list the County as the designated entity for the EBT Railroad expansion initiative. This is funded by the Power Initiative Grant. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval to complete the Registered State Basic Agency request for PA DCED. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for Keller Engineers, Inc. to complete preliminary engineering services for the EBT project. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for the 2020 project completion report for the Huntingdon County Library Elevator Project. All funding has been expended and the project has been completed. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for an agreement with Hickes Associates, Inc. for pump station #2 upgrades. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jen Bellis requested consideration of approval for a notice to proceed with the pump station #2 upgrades to be completed by September 30th. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair, CYS Fiscal Supervisor, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Juniata Valley School District. This is a transportation agreement under the Every Child Succeeds Act. It is for contract year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and is a renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) pending solicitor review.

Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk, requested consideration of approval to hire Charles Swope for the position of Custodial Supervisor effective 3/27/2023. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Heather Fellman requested consideration of approval for Andrea Riley to attend the Western Pennsylvania Election Conference. There is no fee for the conference. The only cost will be a single night hotel stay. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Wall, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Kathryn Unger, EMA Director, presented an update on COVID-19. The number of county cases stands at 13,921. The State total is 2,901,604. We are in the low level of community spread. Hospitalization is at 671. SCI Smithfield has 14 inmates and 6 staff members testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates and 1 staff member testing positive. The incident rate is 29.5 for the County and 25.5 for the State. PCR is at 5.3% for the County and 7% for the State. There are 1-4 cases among residents and 1-4 among staff in long-term care facilities. 25,544 people have been vaccinated in Huntingdon County and 4,745 have received their booster. There were no additional deaths in the last week for a total of 280 since the beginning of the pandemic.

There was nothing discussed under matters for action.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary