

Huntingdon, Pa.
Tuesday March 22, 2011
11-2011

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 Hoover, Fluke and Kough Pittenger; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Planning Director, Richard Stahl; Josh Funk, Daily News; and visitors Bruce Pergament, Ginny Cooper, Jim Cassatt, Tony Ricci, Eugene Goshorn, Greg Kough, Aaron Martin, Randy Carper, Charlie Coleman, Michelle Dreibelbis, Susan Hartman, David Hartman, Vicky Gillen, Janet Berlin, Donna Rhodes, Valerie Burnett, Pat Kepple, Darlis Dell, Susan Hurley, Margaret Blanck, Janice Metzgar, Ellen Yeager, and Inez Howe.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Hoover followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Hoover.

There were no additions or corrections to the March 15th minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve the minutes of the March 15th meeting.

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

There were no additions to the agenda today.

Michelle Dreibelbis addressed Commissioner Fluke today regarding his recent decisions involving the EZ loans. Michelle stated that the decision of Commissioner Fluke to deny her loan for the purchase of Curves and approve the loan for the Brickhouse gym was biased and he must be held accountable. She stated the Brickhouse loan was for twice as much money as the loan she requested. She also stated that her loan was to purchase an established business, not to start a new business. She stated that she is not against Brickhouse for receiving the loan and she respects HCBI for their decision in approving the Brickhouse loan. However, she does not respect Commissioner Fluke for his disapproval of her loan despite that unanimous approval by the loan review committee. She stated he is not being a steward for the tax payers and his actions were an abuse of his authority.

Bruce Pergament offered comment on the number of health clubs in Huntingdon area. He stated that he didn't agree with the Curves loan but he feels the Curves loan should have been approved prior to the Brickhouse loan.

Susan Hartman asked Commissioner Fluke for an explanation of his actions. Commissioner Fluke denied comment.

Donna Rhodes offered comment on this EZ loan situation as well. She feels Commissioner Fluke "voted himself into a corner". As a taxpayer, she is distressed over the inconsistencies on the voting on these two matters. She asked Commissioner Fluke what makes him more gifted to act as the Judge to draw the line more than the board that approves these loans. She feels his decision was not made in the best interest of the County or the taxpayers.

Valerie Burnett offered comment on the situation as well. She stated the decision of Commissioner Fluke was discriminatory and that he is a risk to Huntingdon County.

Tony Ricci asked Commissioner Fluke what line he is drawing. Commissioner Fluke offered no comment at this time.

Ellen Yeager commented that the actions of Commissioner Fluke are deplorable.

Commissioner Kough Pittenger offered comment on the amount of support that Michelle has received throughout this series of unfortunate events. She asked Commissioner Fluke, as a colleague, for an explanation on why Michelle Dreibelbis' loan was denied for the purchase of

Curves and Carla Heatons loan was approved to establish the Brickhouse gym. She stated there were no differences in the two loans and both loans were unanimously approved by the loan review board. Commissioner Fluke stated that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. In his opinion, these loans were not the same. He stated that upon reading the narrative that was presented on the Curves loan, he made his decision not to approve the loan. After the public meeting vote when the loan was denied, he told Commissioner Kough Pittenger if she would change her lien position to second place, he would change his vote. He received no response to this request. When he initially reviewed the Brickhouse loan, he had questions regarding the wording of the lien on personal real estate. The wording was revised, otherwise, he would have denied that loan. He feels there is a lot more security on the Brickhouse loan that there was on the Curves loan. He stated that he has no personal vendetta against Connie, Michelle, or anybody else, he was simply doing what he feels was right.

Tony Ricci stated he feels Commissioner Fluke should have expressed his concerns on the Curves loan and asked for them to be corrected. Commissioner Fluke stated that he did that and received no response.

Susan Hartman asked Rich Stahl to identify the differences between the two loans. She also asked if the County has ever been listed as first lien holder on these loans. Richard stated the only difference he can think of between the two loans was collateral. Commissioner Kough Pittenger stated that the County is not permitted to have first lien on any EZ loan. David Hartman offered additional comment on the lien issue. He stated that by state mandate, the County is always second lien holder on an EZ loan. For that process to be changed, it would need to be done at the State level.

Susan Hartman made a request to Josh Funk of the Daily News to do a story on the process of the EZ loan program. She had made that request to George Germann but to date, it has not been done.

Greg Kough offered comments on this topic. He directed a statement to Josh Funk of the Daily News as well. He stated that the Daily News should get adequate coverage at the Commissioners meeting. The story that was published regarding the Brickhouse Gym had many errors. He requested George Germann to "do his homework" on the EZ loan program and report the facts.

Commissioner Kough Pittenger addressed Josh Funk as well regarding a recent article published by Jeff Gill in the Daily News. The article stated that she is the former owner of Curves. That was incorrect, she is still the owner of Curves. It was also stated that her membership was affected, that was incorrect as well. She has requested a correction to be published by Jeff Gill but to date, that has not been done.

Jim Cassatt offered the final public comment today. He commented on today's discussion and the number of people present. He invited all these people to attend meetings regularly to see what all the Board of Commissioners does.

Solicitor McManamon presented three contracts to the Commissioners for signature today. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to approve contracts between Children Services and Juvenile Probation with the Cambria County Emergency Shelter Care Facility and Juvenile Probation with the Cambria County Detention Center for a period of one year.

First on the agenda today was Richard Stahl with a request for the awarding of the RFP for the design of the Bailey building elevator. The RFP was advertised and a total of five bids were received on February 11, 2011. The bids received were:

- Greg Larson Architect in the amount of \$73,575
- Office of Planning and Architecture (OPA) in the amount of \$31,970
- Kasun Architects in the amount of \$28,800
- APArchitects, LLC in the amount of \$30,525
- Judy Cloutts, AIA in the amount of \$44,390

The RFP's were reviewed by Rich, as well as the Board of Commissioners. After additional review today and discussion on the content of the RFP's, it was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes)

to award the bid for the design of the Bailey building elevator to James Kasun Architects in the amount of \$28,800.

The Commissioners received a request from Penn DOT to approve a reimbursement request for the St. Mary's bridge. This was done through Resolution 3-2011. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to adopt resolution 3-2011, thus approving the reimbursement request for the St. Marys covered bridge.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to accept the resignation of Kristen Mazzara from Children and Youth effective April 1, 2011.

There were no veteran burials for approval today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger second by Commissioner Fluke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary