

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

9:30 a.m.

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 Walls, Thomas, and Reeder; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Public Defender, Fred Gutshall; Daily News Reporter, Byron Mantoan and guest, Don Weakland.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Reeder. Prayer was led by Commissioner Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Reeder.

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to table approval of the previous week's minutes.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, the Commissioners wished residents a Merry Christmas and urged them to stay safe and warm while they celebrate. Commissioner Walls also noted that the offices will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will reopen Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the Solicitor, bids for the 2026 TAN were opened and read. 4 bids were received. The first was from MCS Bank with an interest rate of 4.129% and a bank fee of \$2,812.50. The second was from First National Bank with an interest rate of 3.37%. The third was from Juniata Valley Bank with an interest rate of 3.79%. The fourth was from Kish Bank with an interest rate of 3.75% and a bank fee of \$2,500. The apparent low bidder is FNB. The Solicitor conferred with the Treasurer before making the recommendation to accept FNB's bid. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Under new business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to table the appointment of Taahira Smith to the position of intern in the Public Defender's Office.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to table the hiring of an IT Director.

Susan Harry, Treasurer, requested consideration of approval to hire Noah Werner, whose clearances are complete, for the position of Clerk effective 12/29/2025. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to re-add the appointment of Taahira Smith to the agenda.

Fred Gutshall, Public Defender, requested consideration of approval to appoint Taahira Smith to the position of intern in the Public Defender's Office effective January 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to add to the agenda 2 conflict counsel contracts. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Fred Gutshall requested consideration of approval for the BMZ Law conflict counsel contract under the same terms as the previous contract year. BMZ Law will provide conflict counsel services for 75 cases for \$40,000. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Fred Gutshall requested consideration of approval for the conflict counsel contract with Timothy S. Burns under the same terms as the contract for the previous year. Timothy S. Burns will provide conflict counsel services for 100 cases for \$40,000. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to table the item requested by the District Attorney as he was unable to attend the meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

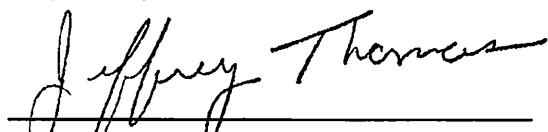
There were no Matters for Action.

There were 0 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary