

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 O’Korn, Fluke and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Don Burd, Career and Technology Center Director; David Christopher JV School District Superintendent; Allison Hall, Victim Witness Coordinator; Chris Wysocki, JVBDS Administrator; Amy Wise, HCBI Director; Daily News reporter, Kylie Hawn; visitors Bob Seiber, Jim Cassatt, and Joan Rogers.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Thomas.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the October 13th public meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the payment of bills. Commissioner O’Korn stated that due to the budget impasse, the County will be holding all bills that are not essential. We have notified providers of the situation and Commissioner O’Korn thanked them for the cooperation.

Chris Wysocki, JVBDS Administrator was added to the agenda today to give his quarterly update. Commissioner O’Korn announced that there will be no meeting held November 3rd due to the Election.

Solicitor McManamon provided information regarding a shortfall in revenue for the County due to the budget impasse. He stated that the information he received from the Treasurer showed a possible shortfall of \$1.5 million. Peter informed the Commissioners that if they chose to do an unfunded debt loan, he would need to start the process by petitioning the Court. Commissioner Fluke asked why the Court needed to give approval. Peter stated it was necessary due to the type of loan being requested. He stated that the Commissioners would need to show just cause for requesting an unfunded debt loan. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner O’Korn, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to authorize Solicitor McManamon to petition the Court for an unfunded debt loan in the amount of \$1.75 million. Commissioner O’Korn stated accept for the revenue shortfall due to the budget impasse, the County budget is where it should be. Commissioner Thomas agreed and stated that over \$5 million dollars of the County budget comes from State and Federal funding, hence the reason for the shortfall. Commissioner Fluke pointed out that the County will be responsible for the interest on this loan and the State will not reimburse it. Commissioner O’Korn agreed but stated that paying the interest was a fair trade for making sure we have the mandated services covered. Jim Cassatt asked if this was in addition to the \$700,000.00 line of credit loan that was done previously, Commissioner O’Korn stated that it was.

Don Burd and David Christopher were present today to provide an overview of an expansion project that is being proposed at the Career and Technology Center. Don stated that the expansion is necessary to increase programming. The estimated cost of the project is between \$2.25 and \$3 million and they have applied for a 40 year loan at 2.75% interest. The expansion is to add a 7,500 square foot extension onto the existing building to be used for additional carpentry, electrical, heating, plumbing, and HVAC programs. It would also add a 20,000 square foot facility to move the collision repair and auto repair shop to add additional space for another program in the future if they decide to. The project will also include a 100 by 400 foot paved parking area to conduct a CDL driving course. Dave Christopher stated that the original building was built in 1978 and the programs have outgrown their space. He also stated that the expansion of the programs is expected to bring in a large amount of revenue to offset the cost of the expansion. Commissioner Fluke asked if all the School departments were in agreement, Dave stated that they were. Dave stated that they will be seeking approval from the General Authority to be used as a conduit for the loan. If approved by the General Authority, it would then be considered by the Board of Commissioners. Don stated that they are hoping for approval within the next few months so the programs can be opened for the 2016/2017 school year but it may be the 2017/2018 school year before they are fully occupying the buildings. Dave stated that a lot of the finishing work will be completed by students, which will be a cost savings.

Allison Hall was present today to request signatures for an increase to the Rights And Services Act (RASA) grant. This grant provides funding for the Victim Witness position. The proposed increase for the 2016 budget year is \$7,799, which is divided among salaries, supplies and administrative cost of the Victim Witness position. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the grant increase documents as requested.

Amy Wise, HCBI Director presented a loan subordination request for the EZ loan for Desert Garden Day spa. The subordination would put the County in the second lien position, which is typically where the county is on these types of loans. Amy stated that the subordination in on the owners personal property and does not affect the personal guarantee. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the subordination request as presented.

Chris Wysocki, JVBDS Director was present today to provide a quarterly update on services provided by his agency. He stated that due to the budget impasse, the agency will only be able to provide services until mid-October. Chris said he has seen a decrease in Intellectual Disability services but an increase in Mental Health and Early Intervention services. He also stated that due to the increase in Early Intervention Services, they are having difficulty finding providers.

There were two Veteran burial allowances approved today.

At 10:29 a.m., it was moved by Commissioner O’Korn, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to recess the meeting while Solicitor McManamon prepares the paperwork for the petition for the unfunded debt loan. The meeting reconvened at 10:46 a.m., at which time the paperwork was signed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary