

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

5-2022

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; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Sheriff, Jeff Leonard; EMA Staff, Doug Heart and Katie Unger and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

There were no attendees via GoToMeeting.

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

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 were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas urged residents to get the COVID vaccine and the booster, if eligible. He also encouraged residents to allow their children to be vaccinated against COVID. He commented that he hopes everyone will do their part to help keep everyone safe. Commissioner Walls asked that everyone look out for their neighbors with the cold weather and storms we are getting. Please make sure that your neighbors are okay.

There were no public comments.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to hire Laura Bilger for the open Social Service Aide Position effective 2/7/2022. Laura is not new to the agency. She was an intern last year and she did a great job when she interned. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jeff Leonard, Sheriff, requested consideration of approval to appoint an intern, Ryan Bookheimer, effective 2/1/2022. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jeff Leonard requested consideration of approval to attend the PA Sheriff's Association Winter Training Conference. The cost for registration is \$75. The association will pay for one night at the hotel and the County will pay for the second night at a rate of \$115. This is a budgeted expenses. It was moved by

Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to reappoint Housing Authority Board Member Therese Branigan for a five year term ending 3/1/2027. This would be her second term. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Doug Heart, EMA Administrative Assistant, presented an update on COVID-19. For the week ending 1/29/2022, the average number of new cases per day in the county was 82 which is down from 100 the previous week. During that same time frame, the State average was 12,726 which is down from 19,244 the previous week. SCI Smithfield reports 141 positive inmates and 24 staff. SCI Huntingdon reports 88 inmates and 33 staff. On January 27th the SCIs suspended in-person visitation until 3/1/2022. The Department of Health reports a total of 68 COVID cases among school-aged children and 13 among children 4 and under. Juniata College reports 25 cases. Penn Highlands reports a total of 9 in-house COVID patients. 1 is in the ICU. Staffing remains a problem. COVID hospitalizations for the state currently stand at 4,763 which is down from last week. The incident rate per 100,000 for Huntingdon County is 1,039. PCR positivity for the county is 29.4%. The state is at 25.4%. Long-term care facilities are doing well with few reported cases among residents. 23,728 vaccines have been given to date accounting for about 52.5% of the county population. 9,863 boosters have been administered, which accounts for 46.7% of fully vaccinated individuals. There were 6 COVID-related deaths in the County in the week ending 1/29/2022. Omicron is still the dominant variant according to the CDC. The national variant distribution stands at Delta Variant 0.1% and Omicron 99.9%. A sub-variant of Omicron, Omicron BA.2, has been identified. Vaccines are proving to be less effective against this variant but vaccinated people are still not transmitting it as easily as unvaccinated people.

There was nothing discussed under matters for action, information and discussion.

There were 7 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary