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; Planning Director, Laurie Nearhood; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; Sheriff, Jeff Leonard; Barb Covert and Michele Heane from Employment and Training and Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There was one addition to the agenda. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to add the Veterans Court contract that was tabled at the previous meeting to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls asked residents to watch out for the neighbors, pets, and farm animals during this heat wave.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the Solicitor, Solicitor Newton commented that he has reviewed the Veterans Court contract with AOPC. It is a good contract and he recommends that the County participate in the program and sign the contract. This will provide up to $10,000 in grant funding from the AOPC. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Under new business, Barb Covert and Michele Heane from Employment and Training requested consideration of approval for the County Medical Assistance Transportation Program Contract Agreement for FY 2024-2025. There are currently 4,834 registered users of the program and 2,174 users that receive CART and paratransit services for out of the area medical care. Funding for this program is split 50/50 between the federal and state governments. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Barb Covert and Michele Heane requested consideration of approval for the MATP Participation Agreement and Assurance of Compliance for FY 2024-2025. Ms. Covert commended Treasurer Susan Harry for her dedication to this program. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for modification request #1 for the CDBG FY 2023 program. This modification will reallocate $30,012.85 from the Habitat Program. $19,784 will go to the waterline project in Mount Union. $10,227.96 will go the restoration of Pennsylvania Avenue. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).
Cecelia St. Clair, CYS Fiscal Supervisor, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Robert Covell for backup solicitor services. This is for contract year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The contract rate is $90/hour as needed, which is the same as last year’s contract. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with the Trena A. Wilson Family Childcare Home for daycare services for foster families. This is for contract year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. It is a renewal from last year at a rate of $30 per day.

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Sarah Jefferson, LCSW, for counseling and psychological evaluation services. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at the same rate as the previous year. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Cecelia St. Clair requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with the Mount Union Area School District for transportation services for children in foster care. This is a renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for the Act 13 Municipal Agreement with Alexandria Borough. Alexandria will receive $8,904 towards the Canal Park slide replacement. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval for the Act 13 Municipal Agreement with Marksleburg Borough. Marksleburg will receive $2,020 for park equipment, a picnic table, bench, and deck box. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Jeff Leonard, Sheriff, requested consideration of approval to hire Robert Chandler Lewis for the position of full-time Deputy Sheriff effective 7/1/2024. There are a couple more vacancies to fill in this department. Sheriff Leonard expressed that he has a few good candidates that he is looking at to fill those positions. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for change order #2 for the Courthouse renovation project. This will remove the shower that was part of the original plan for the second floor and will decrease the project cost by $1,915. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to renew the parking lot lease agreement with Kathleen Herr. The total cost for this contract is $5,225.64 for contract year June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for the 2025 County Holiday Calendar. There are no changes to the calendar from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

There were no Matters for Action.

There were no Veteran’s Burial Allowance.
There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary