

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Office with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas and Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the following individuals were present via GoToMeeting: Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Sheriff, Jeff Leonard; EMA Director, Joe Thompson; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Treasurer, Susan Harry; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors, Bill Hoover, Connie Berrier, Jessie Leonard, Jim Troha, Travis Sather and Dean Fluke.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Chief Clerk Heather Fellman conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. 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 April 14th Public Meeting.

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

There was one addition to the agenda: consideration of approval to name two individuals to the Rural Technology Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas reminded county residents to fill out the census. You can fill it out online and doing so will financially benefit the residents of the County. He further reminded residents of the Broadband Taskforce survey. This is an important survey to assess internet access in Huntingdon County. Commissioner Sather reminded residents that County offices are still open by appointment only. The buildings are locked, but you can call the offices to make an appointment. We are trying to conduct business as best we can during this unprecedented time.

During the public comment period, Bill Hoover commented, "I can understand how you guys are between a rock and a hard place when it comes to being short of cash. You are strapped with big mortgage payments that are the result of one commissioner's deciding vote for buildings that didn't fix the real space problem. The biggest space problem is in the jail. Additionally to big mortgage payments for those buildings that didn't solve any space problems, they increase the county's operating costs every day. The chickens have come home to roost for spending millions of dollars on buildings without any thought being put into the long-term costs for the minimal benefit from those expenditures."

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Jim Troha, President of Juniata College, Jessie Leonard, Dean of Students at Juniata College, and Joe Thompson, EMA Director, requested consideration of approval for a memorandum of understanding with Juniata College to provide space for medical care for individuals in the event that the local medical facilities become overwhelmed. This agreement will expire in July 2020. This agreement was initially discussed at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak when it was indicated that we would likely have many more cases that we have seen to this point. If the hospital would become overwhelmed, the overflow would go to another building on the hospital campus, and then the overflow would go to Juniata College from there if another building was needed. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, provided a public update on operations in his office. The posture of the EMA office remains the same. They are continuing to coordinate planning and contact for social services agencies. They have worked in partnership with the Regional Task Force to help businesses get masks after mandatory mask use went into place. They continue to coordinate for PPE distributions to first responders. As of today, there are 13 confirmed cases in the county. During the public comment, thanks were offered to Joe and his team for their hard work.

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for Proclamation 3-2020 recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month. CYS is still fully functioning and out seeing children. They are continuing to respond to new reports. Keystone Engraving created and donated a face shield for each front line worker and Ms. Walborn thanked them for their generosity. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

The Commissioners discussed the liquid fuels audit. This is an audit that was conducted by the state of the 2018 fiscal year. The report was received this month. The report indicates that there are no deficiencies, material weaknesses, or issues of non-compliance and the county is in good standing. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to accept the findings of the 2018 Liquid Fuels Audit. Commissioner Thomas noted that the Liquid Fuels funding is used to maintain the 20 county bridges. Commissioner Walls thanked that county engineer and the bridge crew for their excellent work in maintaining the county bridges.

Bill Hoover asked if the telephone meetings will continue after today. Commissioner Thomas noted that meetings would continue by phone on May 8th, but beyond that we will have to wait and see what the guidance from the state is. Heather Fellman noted that there will be no public meeting next week as next Tuesday was originally supposed to be Election Day and no meeting was scheduled.

Consideration of approval was given to appoint two individuals, Debra Clark and Jim Lettiere, to the Rural Transportation Technology Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes). Commissioner Thomas commented that the Rural Transportation Technology Committee is a very important aspect for our community. Our county is involved with the Rural Planning Organization consisting of four counties: Huntingdon, Fulton, Bedford, and Somerset. These two individuals, along with the Commissioners and PennDOT will help with the needs of the County on the 20 year plan, the 12 year plan, and the four year tip.

Under matters for action, information and discussion, Commissioner Walls noted that the County is still working on the County Hazard Mitigation Plan on behalf of municipalities in the County. The municipalities are being contacted for their input on the plan. Please participate when you are contacted. Your participation is essential to getting this plan through. This plan helps us plan for disasters and get grant funding to help with any disasters.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary