

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

44-2021

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Office with the following present: Commissioners Sather and Walls; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; EMA Administrative Assistant, Doug Hart; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and guest, Ted Simpson.

Attending via GoToMeeting: CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Dixon.

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

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

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

There was one addition to the agenda: Nominating Commissioner Thomas to the Conservation District Board. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to add this item to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls noted that he has been receiving calls about the swearing in ceremony for elected officials. Those individuals who have been elected to positions will be receiving a notice in the mail with details about the ceremony. Commissioner Sather reminded the public that today is Pearl Harbor Day. 80 years ago at Pearl Harbor 2,403 service members lost their lives. Please take some time today to pause, reflect and honor these servicemen and their sacrifice.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, one fuel bid was received in the County Commissioners' Office from Bumgardner and Flasher Inc. The bid is for deliveries from December 13, 2021 through October 3, 2022. The variable rate bid is \$.15/gallon above the rack price on day of delivery. Option 2 is a fixed rate of 2.599 per gallon for heating oil and 2.649 for blended fuel deliveries. Commissioner Walls expressed that he would like to check the rack price and make a decision at the next meeting.

Bids received for the 2022 Tax Anticipation Notice (TAN) were opened. 6 bids were received. Community State Bank of Orbisonia offered a loan interest rate of .95%. F&M Trust offered a loan interest rate of .45% with a deposit interest rate of .15%. First National Bank offered a loan interest rate of .79% and a deposit interest rate of .11%. Juniata Valley Bank offered a loan interest rate of 1.34% and a deposit interest rate of .1%. Kish Bank offered a loan interest rate of 1.25% and a deposit interest rate of .1%. Mid Penn Bank offered a loan interest rate of 1.66% and a deposit interest rate of .15%. These bids will be reviewed by the Solicitor and Treasurer. They will make a recommendation and the Commissioners will review their recommendation at the end of the meeting.

The 2022 Proposed County Budget was presented for public inspection. This is the first year that the County finances have been fully migrated to the modified accrual method from the old modified cash method of accounting. This transition in accounting methods was required by the DCED and we have worked with Susquehanna Accounting and Consulting throughout this process. This proposed budget will be on public display for 20 days. The anticipated expenditures for next year are approximately \$28 million. This is a balanced budget with no tax increase. The Commissioners will take action on the budget at the last public meeting of the calendar year – December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for an extension to the Mt. Union Boro Act 13 Community Garden Project. This project was approved for \$9,000 - \$8,460 in project costs and \$540 was for administration costs. 40 raised garden beds have been built so far. It has been a very successful project however due to supply chain shortages previous estimates for the fencing has more than doubled so that has halted the project. They have a balance of \$4,664 now. Mt. Union Borough is in agreement with the extension and will take formal action on their portion at their meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The requested new completion date is June 30, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Stacia-Fe Gillen, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for a sub-recipient agreement for the FY 2018 CDBG Mapleton Reservoir Improvements Project. This was initially a FY 2015 project. \$52,358 was originally allocated from the CDBG Program. That is going to partially fund the rehabilitation of their water source. The bottom of the reservoir is old and leaks. DEP has identified that they need to make some corrections to it. This agreement stipulates that if there are costs incurred above the amount designated, Mapleton Borough will be responsible for those costs. It further stipulates that we cannot pay for engineering costs as they have chosen to retain their own engineer instead of putting it out for bid. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Tech, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Fulton County Family Partnership. They provide daycare services for children in foster care. This agreement is for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and is a renewal from last year. There is a very slight increase in the cost from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for the Huntingdon County Jail Planned Services Agreement for 2022 with Johnson Controls Fire Equipment. The total cost of this agreement is \$215.99 per year for a five year contract. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for the Huntingdon County Bailey Building 2022 Planned Services Agreement with Johnson Controls Fire Equipment. This is for inspection and service at a cost of \$1,265.85 per year for a five year contract. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for the Huntingdon County Probation Building 2022 Planned Services Agreement with Johnson Controls Fire Equipment. The annual amount of this contract is \$747.03. Commissioner Walls commented that these are required inspections and the fees are based on the amount and type of equipment in each building.

Doug Hart, EMA Administrative Assistant, gave an update on COVID-19. There continues to be an upward trend in cases everywhere. For the week ending 12/4/2021, there was an average of 29 new cases per day in Huntingdon County. This is up from 26 per day in the previous week. SCI Smithfield has 46 positive inmates and 5 staff. SCI Huntingdon has 1 inmate and 7 staff. There is nothing significant to report from the schools. We are continuing to monitor changes to the masking mandates. During the week of 11/24-11/30 there were 12 new cases among school-aged children and there were fewer than 5 cases in children 4 and under. Juniata College reported 3 positives. Penn Highlands has 14 patients in-house. Three of them are in the ICU. Two are being maintained in the Emergency Department because there is nowhere else to put them. The Emergency Department continues to run above capacity. State hospitalizations are up to 4,177 from 3,734 last week. This is, to Mr. Hart's recollection, the highest hospitalization rate for the state in 2021. The incident rate per 100,000 for the county is at 350, which is up

from 275 last week. The state is at 277, which is up from 255 last week. PCR is 9.2% which is up from 8.4% last week. The state stands at 15.3%. Long-term care facilities continue to remain stable. There is nothing to report from those facilities. The total number of fully or partially vaccinated individuals in Huntingdon County stands at 22,261. This is 49.3% of the eligible population. 5,239 boosters have been administered, which accounts for 25.9% of the vaccinated population. Unfortunately there were 6 COVID-related deaths in the county during the week ending December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Doug Hart announced that the submission deadline for public assistance funds from Tropical Storm Ida is December 13<sup>th</sup>. We did receive a report yesterday and we have a total of 6 municipalities that have submitted or tried to submit so far. PEMA has indicated that they will not request another extension.

The Commissioners received a recommendation from the Treasurer and Solicitor to select the F&M Trust bid for the 2022 TAN in the amount of \$1,750,000. F&M Trust had the highest bid for deposit interest and lowest bid for loan interest rate. There is no deposit requirement. Per the agreement, we will pay the expenses of note counsel. In their proposal, they indicated that that would be \$2,500, which is what we paid last year. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to nominate Jeff Thomas to the State Conservation Commission. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary