

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; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Sarah Keck from CES Engineering; Mike Hannon and Micaela Mills from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; Probation Director, Len Hahn; Guest, Dortha Helton and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

EMA Director, Katie Unger and guests, Sherri Caw and Bob Traxel attended via GoToMeeting.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the minutes of the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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

There were two additions to the agenda. The first addition is consideration of approval to open bids for the Annex II HVAC project. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes). The second is consideration of approval for the resignation of Election Coordinator, Tammy Thompson. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID vaccines and to vaccinate their eligible children as well. Commissioner Sather noted that there will be no public meeting next week due to CCAP. Commissioner Walls announced that the election ran smoothly and that the Commissioners are pleased with how things went.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the solicitor, Solicitor Larry Newton opened bids for the HVAC project. Two general construction bids were received. The first was from CE Wood Construction Inc of Duncansville for \$115,915 lump sum payment or \$3/square foot unit price. The second was from Mid State Construction Inc of Altoona for \$6.50/square foot. Three electrical construction bids were received. The first was from Westmoreland Electric Services, LLC for \$46,500. The second was from Mid-State Construction LLC for \$119,800. The third was from Stelco Incorporated for \$44,600. Voting on these bids was tabled pending review by the engineer.

Under new business, Mike Hannon and Micaela Mills from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol requested consideration of approval for an MOU between Huntingdon County and Tri-County Drug and Alcohol to form an advisory council for the use of opioid settlement funds. Mr. Hannon noted that this is an 18 year settlement and Huntingdon County will be receiving \$60-75,000 per year. This funding will help expand drug and alcohol treatment services in the county. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Len Hahn, Probation Director, requested consideration of approval for the Juvenile Grant-In-Aid funding. Huntingdon County has been awarded \$50,036 for fiscal year 2022-2023. This funding will be used towards the salaries of the juvenile probation officers. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for the Shade Gap Area Joint Municipal Authority Sub-Recipient Agreement for the Pump Station #2 Upgrade Project. The total project cost is \$204,358 to be paid for from 2020 CDBG Funds. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Kelvin Abrashoff for the position of CYS Director effective December 12, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to re-appoint Deb Ridgeway and Casey McGraw to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a three year term. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to accept the resignation of Elections Coordinator, Tammy Thompson, effective December 23, 2022. Commissioner Thomas commented that Tammy came right as mail-in balloting was starting. She now processes thousands of mail-in ballots every year. She came at a time when the State mandated us to buy new machines in a presidential year. She has also worked through the political climate that has developed in recent years. Election workers like Tammy are falling right and left because of the nastiness of the public in dealing with election coordinators. Tammy is the most bipartisan and organized person in dealing with the elections. Our elections have run without a hitch and that is all due to Tammy's hard work. She will be very hard to replace. I can't say enough good things about Tammy. Commissioner Walls commented that his is a very detail oriented job and she did it so well. Commissioner Thomas commented that in the future we should look at putting another person in the Elections Office. We cannot continue to have just one Elections Coordinator. Commissioner Sather commented that Tammy did an exceptional job. She truly is bipartisan. She gets the work done efficiently. She really excelled in this position and she will be very hard to replace. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to accept her resignation with regret.

Katie Unger, EMA Director, requested consideration of approval for the Hazard Mitigation Grant commitment letter. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. The number of county cases stands at 13,211. The State total is 2,737,297. We are in the low level of community spread. SCI Smithfield has 24 inmates and zero staff members testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates or staff members testing positive. Hospitalizations are at 1,261. The incident rate is 75.3 for the County and 70.5 for the State. PCR is at 7.6% for the County and 10.4% for the State. There has been a slight increase in cases among residents and staff in long-term care facilities. 25,288 people have been vaccinated in Huntingdon County and 2,979 have received their booster. There was one additional death in the last week for a total of 267 since the beginning of the pandemic. There are three new variants.

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 10:21 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary