

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, April 25, 2023
9:30 a.m.

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, Thomas, and Walls, Larry Newton, Deputy Chief Clerk, Stacie D. Cutshall, CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff, Planning Director, Jim Lettiere, EMA Director, Katie Unger, JVBDS Director, Kathy Whalen, Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson, and guests, Jason Goetz, Gillian Letson, George Flaherty, Curtis McConaughy, Sharon Reihart, Monty Davis, Kim Wiser Lecrone, and Kenneth Reynolds.

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

There were no additions or corrections to the previous week's minutes. 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 (Thomas, yes; Walls, yes; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There is one addition to the agenda: Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services for Proclamation 8-2023 in recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes; Thomas, yes).

Under announcements: Commissioner Sather commented on Tag Days in the community and the need for extra safety and awareness.

Under Public Comments: George Flaherty had asked about attendance of public in past meetings. Commissioner Sather had guided Mr. Flaherty on the process of the public comment portion of the public meeting section and stated the two (2) minute comment in relation to the meeting. Mr. Flaherty commented that he believes that there have been no other candidate in attendance in past meetings. Commissioner Walls also commented that the minutes reflect the attendance to those in attendance and they are available for review. Sharon Reihart had asked about a meeting or being part of the Agenda for the Public Meeting. Commissioner Sather had responded to Ms. Reihart to contact the Chief Clerk or Deputy Chief Clerk to schedule a meeting and or request to be put on the Agenda for the Public Meeting. Ms. Reihart did make the comment that she wanted to make the Commissioners aware that she wanted a meeting about the proposed solar power plant in Porter Township. Kenneth Reynolds had asked the question about the supervisors in Porter Township. Commissioner Sather did comment that there is separation in duties and responsibilities between the County and Townships/Municipalities/Boroughs. Commissioner Sather and Thomas both guided the guests from Porter Township to contact the office for a meeting with the Board of Commissioners to further questions and keep proper procedure in place.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business: Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, for consideration and approval for hiring of Caseworker I, Amanda Baldwin, effective start date 5/1/2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes). Commissioner Walls had asked Kelvin to elaborate on the internal foster care program for the public. Kelvin commented that the internal foster care program provides safe, efficient, and quick foster services to children with local families. This internal foster program saves one third (1/3) of the cost to the County.

Kathy Whalen, JVBDS Director, Presented Proclamation 8-2023 to designate May 2023 as Mental Health awareness month. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Walls, yes; Sather, yes). She also commented the following events, inviting the County to Light Up Green for the month of May, a kick off of an awareness billboard campaign, Out of the Darkness Walk on October 1, 2023. Green Ribbons will be added to the parking meters, Juniata

College will be lighting up the campus green. Also May events will include, Mayfest, an open house on May 3rd, Green Day, May 5th, Huntingdon Area School District is joining Mifflin and Juniata School Districts supporting mental health and well-being the children will be wearing green. In addition there is a reduced stigma straining for mental health. Harshbarger's Sub and Malt fundraiser on May 23rd. Kathy's last comment was announcing that Senator Casey would be at JVBDS on Friday, May 28th to discuss the first code responder program.

Local ABATE Chapter Highlands, Consideration of Proclamation #7-2023 for May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes). It was moved to have a short recess to go to Court House steps by Commissioner Walls and seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

It was moved to enter back in to regular session by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Walls

Katie Unger, EMA Director, Consideration of Approval for Emily Clevenger and Katie Unger to attend the Homeland Security Symposium Training in Altoona, PA, May 2nd-3rd, hosted by Regional Task Force. It was moved by Commissioner Walls seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes; Thomas, yes). Commissioner Walls wanted to address the coverage of the EMA office during the training. Katie replied that they will be monitoring emails and phone messages while in training and forwarding calls to the 911 center.

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, Guest Jason Goetz from Franklin County Planning Department presented information on Asian Tiger Mosquitoes. Thousands have been found in Franklin County. These are found in tiny collections of standing water, and small areas and bite continuously. The suggestion is to release an article of education to suppress the breeding. Consideration of approval of the April 20, 2023 Huntingdon County Planning Commission's 2023 Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy funding recommendations. There were eight (8) applications and four (4) are being recommended to be funded for the funding listing-1. Petersburg Borough, Juniata Valley Youth League Baseball Project, funding amount \$10,000.00, 2. Walker Township, Woodcock Valley Community Park Trash Receptacle Project, funding amount \$3,173.00, 3. Three Springs Borough Outdoor Pavilion Picnic Benches Project, funding amount \$6,727.00, and 4. Broad Top City Borough Community Building Renovations Phase 2 Project, funding amount \$10,000.00. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Thomas, yes; Walls, yes).

Solicitor Larry Newton commented on the opening of bids and recommended a recess to clarify day and time. I was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

It was moved to return by Commissioner Walls and seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Sather announced that the bids for the Courthouse Renovations and Annex II projects will be opened today at 11:00 am.

There was nothing discussed under matters for action.

There were no Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Sather to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Stacie D. Cutshall, Deputy Chief Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary