

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, January 2, 2018
01-2018

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners meeting room with the following being present: Commissioners Sather, Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Barnett; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; Community Development Administrator, Melody Mason; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors Dean Fluke, Tom Ritchey, Dave Edwards and Jim Cassatt.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the December 19th 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 were no additions to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

During the Public Comment session, Jim Cassatt referenced a question he asked at the December 19th meeting as to how the County generated \$20,000 interest on the TAN loan. Jim stated he learned that the County put the money in a Money Market which is to gain .0112 interest as well as other tax money was deposited and stated the Commissioners called it interest on the TAN. Jim asked if the 911 tax payments are being applied to the loan. Commissioner Sather explained that the TAN is actually being deposited into FNB, generating .90% interest and he is not sure where the Money Market information was obtained. Jim Cassatt commented that he obtained the information from the Treasurer when he visited the Treasurer's office. Jim stated he feels there is no transparency. Commissioner Thomas explained that the TAN account is open all year and all money is deposited into the FNB account. The Bailey payment is paid quarterly and the money is transferred into a special account monthly. Jim stated he cannot understand how \$20,000 in interest can be generated on 1.75 million.

Dean Fluke asked what the meeting minutes contain. Michelle Barnett explained that the minutes contain all information relating to actions taken and a summary of the discussions of the meeting. Dean also asked if the meetings are recorded and how long the recordings are kept. Michelle confirmed the meetings are recorded and recordings are kept for 30 days. Dean stated he had a question for the solicitor. He read a section of the County Code relating to the Solicitor and asked Solicitor Peter McManamon if he is required to sign an agreement each term. Peter explained that he receives payment for services similar to a salary. All fees for his services are included in his salary. Peter stated that if he was to make an advance payment on behalf of the County he would be reimbursed. Peter explained that he has not signed an agreement but the agreement is assumed by his relationship with the County as the Solicitor.

Tom Ritchey was present and requested clarification on the separating of the Bailey Building payment on the tax bills. Commissioner Sather explained that in the past the Bailey building payment had always been included in the General Fund as operating expenditures by the past Board. The current Board took action to move it to a Special Capital Improvement account as determined by law and the revenues must be encumbered to the repayment of debt services. The unfunded debt was not shown within the budget in the past. Tom asked if there was any reduction of the General fund due to this move. Commissioner Sather explained that it was maintaining the operating expenditures of the general fund as it was and simply moving the debt service for the Bailey to a special account. Commissioner Walls stated there was a payment of approximately \$269k for 2014 and 2015 that was not included in the budget in the past. Commissioner Sather also stated that in the 2018 budget, we do show the Bailey payment separate from the general fund.

Dean Fluke also commented that Jim Cassatt was treated rudely at the December 5th meeting by an employee and wanted to know why it was not included in the minutes. He referenced an article that was printed in the Daily News. Dean asked if the County was responsible for the article or if the Daily News was responsible. Commissioner Sather explained that the meeting was for the special budget meeting and the minutes were previously approved. Tom Ritchey stated that the article was in reference to a comment from Jinny Cooper. Kylie Hawn from the Daily News provided clarification.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to table a request by Ashley Smyder, CYS Administrator, as she was not present.

Planning Director, Mark Colussy was present to request approval for Taylor Pollicino and Melody Mason to attend the 2018 Community Development and Housing Practitioners Annual Conference. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve attendance to the Conference to be held March 26th and 27th in State College. Cost for both to attend is \$550.00.

Mark Colussy also had a request to consider an update to the Community Development Block Grant Three Year Plan. The includes projects to be funded over the next three CDBG applications. Each time the plan is reviewed, previously approved projects are re-examined to determine eligibility due to changes in the CDBG program guidelines. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve the Three Year Community Development Draft Plan as presented.

There was a motion by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve an agreement with Keller Engineers to continue providing engineering services for 2018. Keller Engineers currently provide engineering services for bridge maintenance, repair and replacement.

There were 8 Veterans Burial allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Barnett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary