

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

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 Walls, Thomas, and Reeder; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Planning Director, Laurie Nearhood; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; guests, Kathy Whelan, Natasha Brubaker, and Constance Andresen and Daily News Reporter, Byron Mantoan.

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

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

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

There were two additions to the agenda. The first is consideration of approval to accept the resignation of Ben Steines, VA Director. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to add this item to the agenda. The second item is consideration of approval for an application for certification of payment for the county bridge work. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls commented that we are getting calls with questions about the burn ban. He noted that we use verbiage from DCNR. For clarification, burning in campgrounds is allowed only in certified campgrounds, not home fire pits. Commissioner Thomas commented that in the future it would be good if we could work with PennDOT to notify the public about burn bans. Commissioner Walls commented that the State budget impasse continues. July 1<sup>st</sup> was the last time the County received any reimbursements from the State. If this continues to be ongoing, this may delay payments from the county to others.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Kathy Whelan requested consideration of approval for a proclamation for National Disability Employment Awareness Month to be recognized in October of 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Kathy Whelan also commented on Sunday's Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention, stating that it was a well-attended event that raised over \$25,000.

Debra Clark was unable to attend the meeting today. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to table this item until Ms. Clark is able to attend.

Natasha Brubaker from the Center for Community Action requested consideration of approval for Resolution 14-2025 for authorization to apply for PHARE funds in the amount of \$200,000. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for the resignation of Jennifer Caputo from the position of Caseworker 2 effective 10/3/2025. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for the Shady Run Landfill Capacity Agreement for 750 tons per day. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval for the Laurel Highlands Landfill Capacity Agreement at 2,000 tons per day. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval for the CCRRA Transfer Station Agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval for the Parks Transfer Station Agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval for the Altoona Waste Management Transfer Station Agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval for a partnership with Penn Highlands Huntingdon for an application for LSA funding for a 3d mammography station. The hospital needs an entity to apply on their behalf but they will administer the funds and take care of maintenance. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to table this item until more information is received.

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for modification request #2 for CDBG Fiscal Year 2024 to reallocate funds to the Huntingdon Community Center for a chair lift, Detwiler Field for lighting upgrades, and the Huntingdon Library for ADA improvements. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Jen Bellis requested consideration of approval for revision request #3 for CDBG Fiscal Year 2023 to reallocate funds to the Detwiler Field Project. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Commissioner Reeder requested discussion on authorizing recruitment of a County Finance Director. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder and failed due to lack of a second.

Consideration of approval was given for the resignation of Ben Steines effective November 7<sup>th</sup>. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for certification of payment to Glenn Hawbaker for the bridge project to be paid out of liquid fuels funds. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

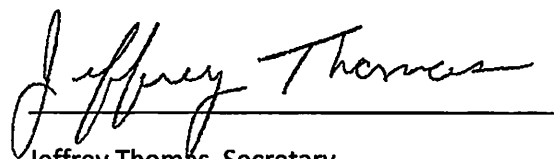
There were no Matters for Action.

There were no Veteran’s Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary