

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

19-2022

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 and Walls; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Assistant Public Defender, Marge Nollau and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Debra Clark from HCBI and EMA Director, Katie Unger attended remotely via GoToMeeting.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the previous week's minutes as presented.

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: Consideration of approval for a notice to proceed for the New Fording Bridge Replacement Project. 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 school is finishing up and kids will be out and about more. Please use extra caution while driving. Commissioner Sather commented that we should all stop to remember to give thanks for our veterans for their service during this upcoming holiday weekend.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Debra Clark from Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCBI) requested consideration of approval to modify the Enterprise Zone RLF. The Huntingdon County Enterprise Zone was officially designated in 2003 and encompassed the Sill Business Incubator, Historic Downtown Huntingdon, Riverview Business Center, the greater Mount Union area, the Route 22 Corridor and parts of Alexandria. The initial purpose for the creation of the zone, was to provide incentives for continued revitalization within the zone sectors with significant attention to the Historic Downtown Business District. Additional purposes were to create new businesses and job opportunities, increase business tax revenues and the county's tax base. HCBI has worked to secure financing for more than twenty-five clients within the zone. Resulting in the opening, expanding or relocation of many businesses within Huntingdon County. Total funding dispersed towards those projects at this time has been \$1,875,000. My proposal is to change the terms to no less than \$10,000 and not to exceed \$200,000. These changes will provide adequate opportunities to fund some smaller business projects, like upgrading or purchasing minor equipment needs. The increase in the borrowing limit will give us the ability to fund larger projects in the Enterprise Zone, without needing to utilize our other revolving loan funds, saving time and resources for our clients, the organization and the financial institutions we partner with. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Brian Basset, Veteran's Affairs Director, to attend the PSACDVA Conference June 20-24<sup>th</sup>. This is a continuing education requirement for this position. The total cost is \$529.60. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for CDBG FY 2018 Smithfield Township Budget Revision #4. This revision would reduce the funding in the amount of \$34,776.62. This funding will then be added to other approved CDBG projects. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for the New Fording Bridge Replacement Project. If approved at this meeting Mr. Lettiere will approve it in the ECMS System. He noted that he expressed to PennDOT the Commissioners feedback that they want this bridge to be replaced and repurposed elsewhere in the county. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Shannon Walborn to attend the Permanency Conference. The total cost is \$519.78 for the hotel stay and \$200 for the conference expenses. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Margaret Nollau, Assistant Public Defender, requested consideration of approval to appoint an intern, Allison McClain. She is a senior at Lock Haven University. Her internship will last 7 weeks beginning 5/23/2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Maddie Rishel for the position of Adult Probation Officer effective 5/23/2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. She noted that the CDC has not updated the numbers since the 17<sup>th</sup>. The average number of new cases per day in the county was 8. The State stands at an average of 5,642. Huntingdon County remains in the low level of community transmission. SCI Smithfield currently has 32 inmates and 2 staff member testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates and 1 staff member testing positive. There is nothing to report from the schools. Penn Highlands has one inpatient COVID case this week. Juniata College continues surveillance testing and has had a total of 57 positive cases this semester. COVID hospitalization for the state stand at 1,156. Our incident rate for the county is 124 per 100,000 and the state is 166.6. The PCR percent positivity is 8.5% for the county and 16.6% for the state. Long-term care facilities have had a few additional cases. 24,623 vaccines have been distributed in the county. 10,795 boosters have been given. There have been 1,103 that have received a second booster. The county is 49% vaccinated. There was one death in the last week for a total of 249. The dominant variant is still Omicron.

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There was 1 Veteran's Burial Allowance.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary