

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

3-2020

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Public Defender, Fred Gutshall; Shannon Walborn, CYS Director; EMA Director, Joe Thompson; Warden, Duane Black; Veterans Affairs Director, Brian Bassett; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; Planning Intern, Stan Willis; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors, Jim Cassatt and Dean Fluke.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the January 14th Public Meeting with one correction. Commissioner Thomas noted that when the \$30,000 in Marcellus Shale funding was released, there was also \$5,000 released to Ag Land Preservation.

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

Commissioner Walls announced that the Standing Stone VFW will be hosting free in-person tax preparation for senior citizens and low income families every Tuesday from 9AM to 5PM February 11 through April 14.

Commissioner Thomas offered congratulations to Dalton Bennett for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Commissioner Sather responded to a question Jim Cassatt asked about an increase to the Bailey mortgage at the last public meeting. The Commissioners had originally looked into the question when it was first asked on December 10, 2019 and had an answer prepared for the December 17, 2019 public meeting. Mr. Cassatt was not present at that meeting, and the Commissioners did not bring the documentation to answer the question to the meeting on January 14, 2020. Upon looking into Mr. Cassatt's concern, the Commissioners found that there was no \$68,000 increase. It remained the same. Jim Cassatt commented that if the mortgage remained the same, that means that the Commissioners collected a millage increase to pay the mortgage and did not pay it. Commissioner Sather commented that it has been paid and it has remained the same as shown on the fiscal report provided. The special millage was taken out in 2017 and it has been allocated and separated for its own purpose. Commissioner Sather requested that Mr. Cassatt prepare any detailed questions like this and submit them in writing so that the Commissioners would have an opportunity to respond to them with the appropriate information in the future.

Under public comment, Dean Fluke asked if he could ask questions throughout the meeting. Commissioner Sather responded that questions can be asked at designated times when they pertain to the item under discussion.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Fred Gutshall requested consideration of approval for a conflict counsel agreement with Timothy Burns from the Burns Law Firm for up to 50 cases for \$20,000. Commissioner Walls asked if this firm would receive the entire \$20,000. Mr. Gutshall responded that they would receive the full \$20,000 over the course of the year. Even though the year has already started, Mr. Gutshall believes that his firm will be used for all of his 50 contracted cases. He further noted that Mr. Burns is willing to contract for \$50/hour to work on cases that exceed the original 50 cases. Mr. Gutshall stated that this is a very reasonable rate. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to hire Christie Shawley for the position of Caseworker I effective February 10, 2020. All pre-employment screenings have been completed. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, requested consideration of approval to attend the PEMA Central Area In Service Training. This training is required for Mr. Thompson's certification as well as for some of the grant funding that his department receives. There is no fee to attend and he plans to use a County vehicle. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Duane Black, Warden, requested consideration of approval to hire Dalton Miller for the position of Corrections Officer effective January 27, 2020. All pre-employment screenings have been completed. This is an existing part-time position. Completion of this hire will bring Warden Black's department to full staff. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Mark Colussy, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to hire Stacia-Fe Gillan for the position of Community Development Administrator effective January 21, 2020. 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 Mark Colussy effective February 10, 2020. The Commissioners expressed their regret at his leaving and offered well wishes for his new position. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, no; Sather, yes) to accept Mr. Colussy's resignation.

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 Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary