

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Office with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Fiscal Clerk, Stacie Cutshall; EMA Director, Joe Thompson; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn and Ryan Prater from the Central PA Food Bank. Attending via GoToMeeting: CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad and CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Dixon.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. Tracey Rhodes conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. 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 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 (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls asked everyone to stay tuned to the weather and stay safe as the storms come through.

There were no public comments.

There was one matter to be addressed by the solicitor. Mr. Newton reviewed the Data Collection Services Agreement presented by Vision Government Solutions Inc. I am recommending that we remove or change paragraph 18 that requires a dispute to be resolved through the American Arbitration Association. That process is very costly. In lieu of that, I think that any disputes should be resolved in our Court of Common Pleas. There is also a typo on 6A which refers to Vision as a contractor instead of Vision. With these changes, I am comfortable with the contract.

Under new business, Ryan Prater from the Central PA Food Bank requested consideration of approval to accept the proclamation for 2021 Hunger Action Month. This item was tabled until the first meeting in September. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to attend the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Association Conference. This meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in-person on October 13-15th. She is requesting permission to attend for herself, Claudia Conrad, and Attorney Ghaner. Total cost would be \$1,145. This is budgeted and an allowable expense that is partially reimbursable. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Tech, requested consideration of approval for an agreement with Avanco International, Inc. This is for the AFCARS Final Rule 2020 work statement. AFCARS is a federal program that is for reporting children in foster care and adoption. Avanco runs our CAPS program. The expense for this depends on the number of users. Since we are a smaller county, the expense to us is minimal. It is a budgeted expense paid for through the IT grant. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Ryan Prater of the Central PA Food Bank requested consideration of approval for a Proclamation for Hunger Action Month, a time when Feeding America food banks across the country set aside some time to recognize hunger in our communities. Commissioner Thomas thanked all of the volunteers who staff the food banks. Commissioner Walls noted the importance of these services. He asked where the data comes from to show how many people in our community are experiencing food insecurity. Mr. Prater answered that the data comes from Feeding America. They look at a number of factors including price of

food, distance, food deserts, unemployment, COVID, median income, TEFAP data, etc. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director, provided an update on COVID-19. We are unfortunately in another surge. Statewide, the number of confirmed cases is continuing to increase. In Huntingdon we have had 93 new confirmed cases in the past 7 days, about 19 per day on average. Our incident rate has quadrupled. The Huntingdon County PCR testing rate is 13.6%. The state rate is 7.8%. There are also a few more hospitalizations being reported – 3 in the last week. There is also an increase in ER visits for COVID. A total of 1500 eligible residents are partially vaccinated and almost 18,000 eligible residents are fully vaccinated. We are aware that there have been COVID cases confirmed in schools. Huntingdon Area School District announced yesterday they will be instituting universal masking for students, teachers, and all employees. In all other Huntingdon County school districts masking is optional but masks are required on buses under federal law. Juniata College is continuing their testing program. They have reported very low COVID numbers. They are requiring unvaccinated students to wear masks indoors. There is nothing exceptional to report at this time from the correctional or long-term care facilities. There is concern in our long-term care facilities for the potential of cases. There have been a few reported cases and those facilities are taking all of the appropriate precautions. Commissioner Thomas urged residents to get the vaccine so that we can put this pandemic behind us. The Pfizer vaccine is now FDA approved and the Moderna is not far behind it. Commissioner Sather further urged people who have questions to talk to their primary care physician.

Joe Thompson provided information on the weather system that will be hitting the county in the coming days. He has been in touch with the National Weather Service. The remnants of Ida will bring rain and we do expect flooding in Huntingdon County. Mr. Thompson urges people to pay attention to the weather. As of this morning, the system is expected to bring 3-5 inches of rain locally. Some communities could even see 6-7 inches. This storm may park over a portion of central PA that includes Huntingdon County. We should have some updated information to share after a meeting with PEMA and the National Weather Service today. The rain is expected to start tonight with the heaviest rainfall occurring tomorrow and into tomorrow night. We continue to follow the forecast and we are trying to communicate what we know to the public through social media and the local news. I would like to stress that everyone should be preparing for flooding-related impacts. At this time we do not anticipate major flooding from the rivers to occur, there is going to be small stream and creek, poor drainage area flooding, areas adjacent to the river. Some roads will be covered with water and some will be completely closed off. The Juniata River at Huntingdon is expected to reach minor flood stage of 12 feet around noon on Thursday. Some increase is expected, although we do not have an exact crest level yet. We are hoping to stay shy of moderate flooding level. That is where we really start to see our most significant impacts. The Aughwick Creek in Shirleysburg is expected to reach minor flood stage of 10 feet at 5AM Thursday, continue rising and go into moderate flood stage of 12 feet around noon on Thursday to a crest of about 12.8 feet at around 2PM. The US Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that they are well-prepared at the Raystown Dam. Please avoid floodwaters. We have great volunteers that are available to help but please just avoid those flood areas so they do not have to put their health and safety at risk. Mr. Thompson requested consideration of approval for a declaration of disaster emergency. This is very precautionary and there has been no indication from the state level of this occurring, but I have prepared one for this event. This is a declaration of disaster emergency, not a declaration of a state of emergency. This declaration allows emergency management agency to communicate openly regarding this emergency and to make decisions about the emergency outside of a public meeting. Any action taken will be reported back to the public. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were 2 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary