

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 and Reeder; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson and guest, Ted Simpson.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to approve 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 was one addition to the agenda: Hiring a new Mapping Director. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls commented that the Planning Commission reviewed the building permits for the Courthouse renovation. They commented that they were disappointed that there were no drawings of the plan for the addition. They hope that the opportunity will be used to improve the appearance of the rear entrance to the Courthouse. Commissioner Walls commented that there are not plans to make the back of the Courthouse look like the front. The Commissioners will address the needs of the building and its users while maintaining good stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Under public comments, Ted Simpson commented that he saw that the Commissioners are soliciting for ideas for Jail projects. He recently acquired an 8 acre tract of land. He would like to negotiate a long-term lease with the county and build a Jail using all local resources. He noted that the liquid capital is available for this project. He has talked to a number of people who have built similar facilities in other states. He envisions a 126 bed facility that could house both male and female inmates. By Mr. Simpson's estimate, this would save the county \$1.2 million per year. He commented that he can build this a lot cheaper than the last estimate of \$28 million. He would like to privately discuss this further with the Commissioners. Commissioner Walls commented that we are only just beginning to look into this. Commissioner Reeder commented that it is good to explore all options, but that we are in the very beginning stages now. Solicitor Newton asked where the property is located. Mr. Simpson responded that the land is not actually his yet, but that he expects to receive it in a court settlement soon. Commissioner Thomas thanked Mr. Simpson for his comments. He noted that the proposed land and facility does not sound large enough to meet the County's needs, but we will be considering proposals from all qualified vendors if the project moves forward. If you are a qualified vendor, you may submit a proposal if and when we put out an RFP.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Stephanie L. Cooper for guardian ad litem services. She will be paid at the rate of \$80/hour, which is the same rate that other guardian ad litem are paid. This contract is for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Michael Kipphan, Domestic Relations Director, to attend the ERICSA Conference. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Alyssa Bandzuh for the position of Mapping Director effective 3/11/24. She is well qualified and seems like she will be a good fit for this position. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).


There were no Matters for Action.

There was one Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary