

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

3-2022

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, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; EMA Administrative Assistant, Doug Heart and Mike Hannon from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol.

Celina Seftas from the Conservation District and Kylie Hawn from the Daily News attended via GoToMeeting.

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

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 Thomas urged residents to get the COVID vaccine and the booster, if eligible. He also encouraged residents to allow their children to be vaccinated against COVID. He commented that he hopes everyone will do their part to help keep everyone safe.

Under public comment, Mike Hannon noted that his office has been hit hard with COVID. We have a staff of 10 people. Our office will have to close if there are too many positives and people will miss out on the services that we provide. People need to have access to these services. He echoed Commissioner Thomas's statement about the importance of the vaccine and urged the public to get vaccinated.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, consideration of approval was given for the 2022 PA SAVIN Contract. This is a maintenance service agreement for the victim notification system. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, and Celina Seftas of the Conservation District requested consideration of approval for the certification of funds for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements in the amount of \$5,119.62. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Vince Saylor for the position of full-time Custodian effective 1/18/2022. It was moved by Commissioner Wall, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Doug Heart, EMA Administrative Assistant, presented an update on COVID-19. For the week ending 1/15/2022, the average number of new cases per day in the county was 79 which is up from 51 the previous week. This is likely the highest weekly average since the beginning of the pandemic for Huntingdon County. During that same time frame, the State average was 26,415 which is up from 25,848 the previous week. SCI Smithfield reports 298 positive inmates. SCI Huntingdon reports 2 inmates and 47 staff. Juniata Valley School District went to virtual learning on Thursday and Friday last week due to a high number of students quarantining. The Department of Health reports a total of 46 COVID cases among school-aged children and 5 among children 4 and under. Penn Highlands reports a total of 11 in-house COVID patients. 4 are in the ICU. The ER volume has been up and down. They are seeing a lot of instances of people who are struggling with long COVID. COVID hospitalizations for the state currently stand at 7,165 which is up from 6,891 last week. The incident rate per 100,000 for Huntingdon County is 961, up from 605 the previous week. The state is showing 1,237, up from 1,074. PCR positivity for the county is 26.3% up from 17.3% the previous week. The state is at 35.3, up from 34.1%. Long-term care facilities are doing well with few reported cases among residents. Approximately 52% of the county population is vaccinated against COVID. 7,773 boosters have been administered, which accounts for 37.1% of fully vaccinated individuals. There were 7 COVID-related deaths in the County in the week ending 1/15/2022. Omicron is still the dominant variant according to the CDC. The national variant distribution stands at Delta Variant 1.7% and Omicron 98.3%. Commissioner Sather asked if there has been any talk at the state level about closing social services agencies. Mr. Heart responded that he has not heard any talk about closing those agencies.

There was nothing discussed under matters for action, information and discussion.

There were 3 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary