

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

20-2022

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; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Mike Hannon from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol; Jeff Reel from ABI; Dwayne Zimmerman from Crowsnest and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Debra Clark from HCBI, Tim Beiler from Upward Broadband 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 Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Thomas.

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

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 residents to remember those who have sacrificed, those who have served and those who are still serving in our military. Yesterday was a good reminder that we should be doing that all the time. Commissioners Sather and Thomas seconded those sentiments. Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID vaccines and allow their eligible children to be vaccinated as well. Commissioner Sather reminded residents that with schools getting ready to close for summer break more kids will be out and about. Please use extra caution while driving.

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 for an Enterprise Zone Loan for Patterson Real Estate Holdings in the amount of \$150,000. Commissioner Thomas asked what position we are at in the lien. Ms. Clark responded that we hold second position and Kish Bank holds the first position. The building appraised for over \$380,000. Commissioner Thomas expressed concerns about not being the 1st lien holder because if there is a default that can wipe out our Enterprise Zone for other businesses in the county. I would request that when we're giving out that amount that we try to be first lien holder. Commissioner Walls agreed that we need to be cautious about loans of that size. Solicitor Newton also agreed because realistically as the second lien holder we may not recoup anything in the event that the borrow defaults on the loan. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn requested consideration of approval to attend the PCYA quarterly meeting along with Claudia Conrad, Fiscal Supervisor. The total cost for both of them is \$651. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Susan Harry, Treasurer, requested consideration of approval to hire Galen Scott Jr. for the position of full-time Clerk effective June 1, 2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint 2 members to the Tri-County Area Agency on Aging Citizens Advisory Council: Deborah Meitrott and Virginia Cooper. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given on an extension for the contract between ABI and Crowsnest. This agreement extension will be like the one completed for Upward Broadband. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the extension pending solicitor approval.

Consideration of approval was given to table the CES Engineering agreement as Lee Zeger was unable to attend the meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Katie Unger presented an update on COVID-19. She noted that the CDC has only updated the numbers twice since the 16th but she will provide the numbers she has available. The average number of new cases per day in the county was 5, however that is only because the numbers are not complete. The State stands at an average of 920. Huntingdon County is now in the medium level of community transmission. SCI Smithfield currently has 44 inmates and 2 staff member testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates and no staff members testing positive. There is nothing to report from the schools. The DOH is reporting less than five cases among infants-4 year olds and less than five cases among school-aged children. Juniata College continues surveillance testing and has had a total of 57 positive cases this semester. COVID hospitalization for the state stand at 1,286. Our incident rate for the county is 126 per 100,000 and the state is 175. The PCR percent positivity is 9% for the county and 17.3% for the state. Long-term care facilities have had a few additional cases but are starting to get that back under control. 24,656 vaccines have been distributed in the county. 10,839 boosters have been given. There have been 1,387 that have received a second booster. The county is 49% vaccinated. There were two deaths in the last week for a total of 251. The dominant variant is still Omicron.

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowance.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary