

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, Thomas and Reeder; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Recycling Coordinator, Alonso Brown; Planning Director, Laurie Nearhood; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; Deputy Warden, Dan Weikert; Natasha Brumbaugh from Center for Community Action and Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson.

EMA Director, Katie Unger participated remotely via GoToMeeting.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas 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 were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas announced that the county, thanks to the lobbying of the Assessment Taxation Committee from CCAP, will be receiving an additional \$87-88,000 through Payment in Lieu of Taxes this year. The price per acreage was increased by \$1.20 for State Game Lands and by \$.40 for State Forest Lands. The municipalities and school districts will also benefit from this increase. It is good news and will help the county.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the Solicitor, at 10am today they are having the pre-trial conference in the Wal-Mart assessment appeal. The school district and township are joining us in this as well.

Under new business, Natasha Brubaker from the Center for Community Action presented that annual PHARE reports to the Commissioners. 2019 is now closed. 2020 is expected to be closed within the next six months. \$117,000 of the \$200,000 is spent. 2021 and 2022 funding has not been spent yet. They have applied for 2023 funding. Awards will be announced in June. Commissioner Thomas asked if Ms. Brubaker feels that all of this money will be able to be spent. Ms. Brubaker answered that she believes it definitely will be. Commissioner Reeder noted that it looks like the funds are reduced by about 45% every year. He asked for an explanation. Ms. Brubaker commented that they apply for the same amount every year and the state makes the determination on how much funding will be provided.

Dan Weikert, Deputy Warden, requested consideration of approval for the 2024 Inmate Housing Agreement with Mifflin County. The cost is \$69 per inmate per day with an additional \$5 for those who require segregated housing. The contract is for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to re-establish the Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee. The previous hazard mitigation plan was adopted in February of 2021. We received a grant contract to prepare our next hazard mitigation plan, so it is on an accelerated schedule. We need to complete it by August 2025. Suggested members of the committee are the same members that were on the last committee: Commissioner Walls, the Planning Director, the EMA Director and Debra Fleagle. We would also like to add the current chair of the LEPC. All 48 municipalities will also have to sign off. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval to publish an RFP for consulting firms for completing the hazard mitigation plan. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to remove from the agenda the resignation of Alecia Robbins. She has decided to stay with the County. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff requested consideration of approval to hire Nicolas Winfield for the position of Caseworker 2 effective 2/26/24. He is currently a Caseworker 2 at Mifflin County. This will leave us with two open Caseworker positions in the CYS office. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff requested consideration of approval for three staff members to attend the March PCYA conference. There will be no hotel costs as this conference is being held in State College. The total cost for registration for three staff members and a single-day registration for the CYS Solicitor is \$425. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Heather Fellman requested consideration of approval to hire Kenneth Wise Jr. for the position of Custodian effective 2/20/2024. 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 were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey Thomas in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary