

Huntingdon, PA  
Tuesday, April 28, 2009  
17-09

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following being present: Commissioners Fluke, Hoover, and Kough Pittenger; Scot Gill, Solicitor; Chief Clerk, Cinnamon Bair; Chris Wysocki, MH/MR Assistant Administrator; Brian Young, Mapping Director; Deb Cramer, Employment and Training; Richard Irvin, Treasurer; George Germann, The Daily News; Jeff Gill, Altoona Mirror; and visitors Randy Carper and Barry Hoover.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chairman Fluke followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Hoover and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Kough Pittenger.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the minutes of the April 21 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve payment of invoices for the week of April 27.

There were no additions to today's meeting.

There was no public comment.

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor.

First on the agenda was Chris Wysocki, MH/MR Assistant Administrator to update the Commissioners on the status of the three areas in the Juniata Valley Tri-County MH/MR Program. The first area was Mental Health. Chris told the Board that there were no current major issues. They are currently serving 1164 people and of the total 375 or 32% are Huntingdon County residents. Chris said with new structuring they were receiving help from Health Choices. Last fiscal year MH had paid for 100% of psych rehab and this year Communities Care will pay for approximately 68%. They have with these changes been able to fund the mobile crisis unit. However they are finding it difficult to staff the unit. Chris also said that Health Choices was helping with programs to help council youth before they need to go to expensive group homes. Commissioner Fluke asked if this was preventative. Chris said no it was a therapy treatment. Commissioner Fluke clarified that he understood this to be a method to keep them out of institutional care. Chris said yes and that after a two year period they would see a cost savings also.

Next Chris went on to explain about the second area, mental retardation. A total 520 people are in this program; 219 or 42% from Huntingdon County. Chris said fiscally they were holding their breath concerned about paying the bills. Chris said they have been notified that they will receive the funding in a timely manner. Chris said that the Operating Agreement the State is requesting was still in the process of being reviewed. Several Counties went to CCAP with many concerns and CCAP attorneys have presented these issues to the Office of Mental Retardation. Chris said they were working on sticking points and he hoped to know more in a couple weeks. Commissioner Fluke asked if Chris had any contact with Richard Gold. Chris said not directly, but they work with Children and Youth who have had many changes in guidelines. The last area Chris discussed was Early Intervention (EI). A total of 157 children are in the program; and 70 or 45% are from Huntingdon County. Chris noted the number was down from last year. Fiscally this program is comfortable, but they were working to get more admin money to cover office costs that are currently covered by MH or MR. Commissioner Hoover asked if they can show that EI has helped lower costs when these children get older. Chris answered that depending on the health diagnosis, children with retardation will have it their entire life, but autism has shown with getting very early diagnosis and treatments older children cope better. Chris noted that a symptom of difficulty swallowing may develop speech problems later. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked Chris to give the ages for the EI program and where was Sam Whitesel's office. Chris said 0-3 years of age and Sam's office as with everyone was located in Lewistown, but he is on the road for the majority of the time.

Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if the percentages for Huntingdon County indicate a problem from income or higher population. Chris said the MR numbers do not change much; MH can go up and down even as the economy is a factor; and EI changes with higher birth rates.

Commissioner Kough Pittenger added to wish the retiring Administrator Pat Serra the very best from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Fluke stated that the Fisher Bailey Building roof project was to be extended for an additional 23 days due to weather and asbestos removal delays. Scot reviewed the MPE agreement with Southern Contractors and the County and the Commissioners signed them.

Next, scheduled on the agenda was Mapping Director Brian Young. Brian was asked to update the Commissioners on his department. Brian said that with the completion of the 911 addressing project, he was now working on completing the mapping book. Brian said he would be advertising for bids for printing of the map book. Brian said that 911 funds and municipalities were paying the cost of printing. The first map book was printed in 2000 with the help of Indiana University of PA (IUP). Brian said he would need to work out the costs of updating the book when changes happen to the data. Brian said his technician was working on updating municipal maps for the web. The County had contracted Kimball Associates as a GIS consultant and they had prepared a "needs assessment" for the County. Brian asked that the Commissioners look over the assessment and he would meet with them to go over the recommendations of Kimball. Brian mentioned several GIS programs available and projects he would be interested in pursuing along with GIS mapping of County data on the website and the options available. Brian told the Commissioners he was still reviewing subdivisions. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if Brian had seen an increase of users or requests for GIS data. Brian said the most requested information is for tax parcel data. He said that his department is tracking the requests and data sales to show the need for data. Commissioner Hoover asked if the Mapping Department could use the lower detail aerial images. Commissioner Hoover was referring to a conversation where Brian had mentioned that the State had cancelled aerial flights. The images were being used to aid in addressing and digitizing tax parcels. Brian said the images could help locate housing, but he did not think it was good to go back instead of forward with digital data. George Germann asked Brian if the 911 map book would be on the County website. Brian answered "no" the file was too large for the web.

Last on the Agenda was Deb Cramer, Employment and Training and Richard Irvin, County Treasurer. Deb Cramer was asked to update the Commissioners on the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP). Deb has operated the program for several years. The State Department of Public Welfare asked the County to only use one outside provider for the program. Center for Community Action (CCA) had previously administered the program. CCA had sent a letter to the Commissioners asking to run the entire program, later they withdrew all interest in the program. The County now needed to administer the program at the County level. Deb explained to the Commissioners that the program was about to close the doors to area residents due to a lack of funding from the State. The very next day a check was received for the next quarter. Rich Irvin was familiar with the program from his seat on the CCA Board. Rich was asked by the Commissioners to look into the situation of the MATP program. Rich worked with Deb to get ready for the County to administer the program. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to name Richard Irvin as the authorized County representative for the MATP program. Rich said CCA had requested an additional \$254,400 and only received notice that \$188,000 will be paid. Rich said that CCA was owed nearly \$14,000 with the last quarter 08-09 check he asked the Commissioners to first pay CCA. Commissioner Fluke asked if that was the full total owed. Rich and Deb agreed but would check to be sure. Deb told the Commissioners the other money would be used to pay down the Employment and Training's line of credit. Deb said she was waiting for the reports to come, they were usually submitted in April. She said she was ready for them. Rich also asked that a new account be opened to deposit the money for distribution to Employment and Training. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve a new account for the MATP program. The bank will be First National Bank.

The Commissioners approved payment for 3 Veteran burial allowances, 1 widow/widower burial allowance and 1 base.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger second by Commissioner Hoover and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk Cinnamon L. Bair.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary