

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; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Planning Director, Laurie Nearhood; Register and Recorder, Kelsey Dunn; Prothonotary, Sarah Snare; VA Director, Brian Bassett; Deputy Director of Probation, Amber Snedeker and Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson.

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

The meeting was turned over to Solicitor, Larry Newton, for Election of Officers. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried to appoint Commissioner Walls as Chairman of the Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried to appoint Commissioner Reeder as the Vice Chairman of the Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried to appoint Commissioner Thomas as the Secretary of the Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, abstain) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas wished Huntingdon County residents a happy new year. Commissioner Thomas also welcomed and congratulated Commissioner Reeder to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Walls welcomed Commissioner Reeder to the Board and commented that he hopes that the board will be able to work as a cohesive team as they have in the past.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the Solicitor, Larry Newton informed the board that Walmart has filed a tax assessment appeal. Recommendations will be made to the appeals board from legal representation. We will need to work on getting a second opinion appraisal as the one submitted by Walmart appears to be very low.

Under new business, Amber Snedeker, Deputy Director of Probation, requested consideration of approval for the 2024 CCYC owners agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Amber Snedeker requested consideration of approval for the JCIS Services Grant Award. This is for contract year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$50,036. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to accept the resignation of Patrick Reeder from the Planning Commission. His term expires in January of 2026. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, abstain; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval to appoint David Gardner to fill the unexpired portion of Patrick Reeder's term on the Planning Commission. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Laurie Nearhood requested consideration of approval to reappoint Ron Rabena, Richard Walker and Brian Yingling to the Planning Commissioner for a four year term to expire on December 31, 2027. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Brian Bassett, Veterans Services Director, presented an update on the operations of his office. He is proud to report on the good work that his office is doing for the veterans of Huntingdon County. He noted that he processes paperwork for veterans in other counties as well. Commissioner Walls reminded him that his top priority needs to be the veterans of Huntingdon County.

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Larry Newton to the position of County Solicitor. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Ray Ghaner to the position of CYS Solicitor. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Heather Fellman to the position of Chief Clerk. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Melissa Smith to the position of Chief Assessor. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Kathryn Unger to the position of EMA Director. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Brian Bassett to the position of VA Director. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Susan Harry to the position of Tax Claim Director. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Fred Gutshall to the position of Public Defender. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint First National Bank as the depository of the general fund. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Community State Bank as the depository of the Liquid Fuels account. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Reeder to the Central Counties Youth Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Shirley Home Board. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls to the JVBDS Executive Board and sub-committees, excluding the Citizens Advisory Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Reeder to the JVBDS Citizens Advisory Board. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Southern Alleghenies Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the RC&D Counsel. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Library Board. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls to the LEPC. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Skills Advisory Board. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Ag Co-Op Extension Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Reeder to the HCBI Economic Infrastructure Board. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Reeder to the Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls to the Chamber of Commerce. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Reeder to the Courthouse Security Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Pennsylvania Counties Health Insurance Program Board (PCHIP). It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls as the alternate to the PCHIP Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls to the HCBF Executive Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioners Walls and Thomas to the SAPDC Board of Directors. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Reeder as the alternate to the SAPDC Board of Directors. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Walls to the SAPDC Finance Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the SAPDC Executive Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the SAPDC Personnel Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to reappoint Jim Foster to SAPDC at large. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioners Walls, Thomas and Reeder to the following boards and commissions: Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services, Area Agency on Aging, 911, Regional 911, Salary Board, Prison Board, Retirement Board, Election Board, Records Improvement Committee, Assessment Appeals Board, Tri-County Solid Waste Agency, Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Partners for Economic Progress, and CJAB. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to adopt the Rules of Procedure for Public Meetings. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Resolution 1-2024 to establish tax rates for general county purposes at 20 mills per each dollar of assessed value, for 911 at .59 mills per each dollar of assessed value, for the Bailey at .41 mills per each dollar of assessed value, and a per capita tax of \$5 per person for 2024. There was no tax increase, and even a small tax decrease this year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

There were no Matters for Action.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary

