

Huntingdon, PA
Tuesday, July 7, 2009
26-09

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; Solicitor, Scot Gill; Chief Clerk, Cinnamon Bair; Richard Stahl, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Grants Administrator; George Germann, The Daily News; and visitors Charlie Coleman and Zach Gordon.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chairman Fluke followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Hoover.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve the minutes of the June 30 meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve payment of invoices for the week of July 6.

There were no additions to today's meeting.

There was no public comment.

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor. Scot did ask that a contract he received from Adam Miller, EMA Director be on the agenda next week.

First on the agenda, were Richard Stahl and Maureen Safko. Commissioner Fluke asked if he could first ask a question regarding the housing grants. He asked when applying for help the income would be based on the renter and not the owner. Maureen answered they can but it was not usual. Richard added they had once.

Richard proceeded to explain the reason for the meeting. The County has an opportunity to apply for Housing Preservation Grant funding. The grant will fund emergency moderate home repairs for very low income home owners. In 2007 the County received funding and they were able to assist approximately 5 households. The Planning and Development Department would apply for \$67,000. This amount would assist approximately 12-15 households. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if requests for help come to the County or to Municipalities. Maureen said a lot of the applicants go to Huntingdon County Housing Services formerly Weatherization. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked if Huntingdon County Housing Services did the work. Maureen said as with previous grants the County will enter into an agreement with Huntingdon County Housing Services. Huntingdon County Housing Services will administer the program for the County. Commissioner Fluke asked if Huntingdon County Housing Services did the physical work themselves or contracted the work out. Richard said he believed they had done the work in the past, but found contracting out was more cost effective. Maureen added that the Huntingdon County Housing Services can also help people receive money from other funding after they see the needs of the applicants. The Huntingdon County Housing Services administer the WARM, HOME and Weatherization programs. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes) to approve application for the Emergency Moderate Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$67,000 with no match being required.

Richard was next on the agenda to get approval to apply for the 7th year of administration support for the Enterprise Zone Program. The grant in the amount of \$50,000 will pay for the administration of the Revolving Loan program and allow JCEL to seek out businesses to come to the area for economic development. Richard said he would also ask for a two year extension on the basis of economic dislocation and layoffs in the area.

Richard said at this time the figures for this program are \$0 in the State Budget that has not been passed. Richard wants to have paperwork ready if this changes. He urged the Commissioners to call legislators on behalf of the program. Commissioner Kough Pittenger asked about the Revolving Loan Program, how would it be affected. Richard said it would continue as long as the money keeps returning, but they would need to decide where the administration money would come from.

Commissioner Fluke asked why the County would not be considered for having a "hot project" (Richard had explained there were two ways the County could get a two year extension. First economic dislocation, secondly a hot project.). Commissioner Fluke asked about the Seven D's building in the industrial park. Richard said that an entrepreneur must come forward and Richard was not aware of this project being brought to HCB&I or JCEL for assistance. Commissioner Fluke wanted to know if it was not a lack of HCB&I or the County Planning slighting these people. Richard answered No and the Planning Department is available, but it is not the principle economic developer. Richard speaks with people and refers them to HCB&I. Commissioner Fluke asked if this group had been made aware of the programs. Richard said he had heard the name but had not met with anyone. Commissioner Hoover said it is a good idea to check with HCB&I to make sure they talk to this group.

Commissioner Fluke asked Richard if the County knows how much renovations to the building have been done. Richard answered no that he had not been in the building since "ELCO" was there. Richard asked the Commissioners to make calls to government leaders to help keep the Enterprise Zone money in the State budget. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Hoover and carried (Fluke, yes; Hoover, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve Resolution 21-2009 application for an Enterprise Zone Grant.

Commissioner Fluke said the County Maintenance Department was working to repair a shed that houses electrical equipment for a 911 tower on Piney Ridge. A tree fell on the roof sometime and was allowing rain to run on the equipment. Commissioner Fluke added the County was not sure who owned the building.

The Commissioners approved payment for 2 Veteran burial allowances, 0 widow/widower burial allowances and 1 base.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Hoover second by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk Cinnamon L. Bair.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary