

Huntingdon, PA  
Tuesday, December 5, 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
45-2017

The special meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners meeting room for the purpose of receiving comment of the 2018 proposed budget with the following being present: Commissioners Sather, Walls, and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Barnett; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Register & Recorder, Jinny Cooper; Daily News reporter, Kylie Hawn; and Visitors, Jim Cassatt, Joan Cassatt, Julie Peoples, Travis Sather and Dean Fluke.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Sather

Commissioner Sather reminded visitors of the rules of the meeting and stated the comment time per item would be limited to 5 minutes, name and residency is to be announced.

Jim Cassatt questioned as to how he would be able to discuss the budget when he does not have a copy. Commissioner Sather replied that the public was notified at the Public Meeting on November 28 that the budget was available online or at the Commissioners Fiscal Office and that a Public Meeting would be held December 5, 2017 to discuss the budget. Michelle Barnett explained that copies could be purchased at the Commissioners office for \$.25 per page. Solicitor, Peter McManamon added that the County only has to make the budget available.

Jim Cassatt questioned how there was an additional \$800,000 revenue since the 2017 budget. Commissioner Sather explained that the Courts have added some additional fees that will generate revenue, the Assessment office has made available additional properties to increase revenue and an increase in TAN for 2018.

Jim Cassatt asked why the TAN was increased for 2018. Commissioner Sather explained that the TAN is to get us through until tax revenue starts to come in. Commissioner Sather said the budget is workable and balanced. Jim then asked why the County just hired the Public Defender employees. Commissioner Sather stated this would save the County approximately \$30,000 in expenses. The Public Defender's office was out sourced in the past. Commissioner Thomas explained this would also reduce the cost of conflict counsel. Jim also asked if the lines of credit had been paid for the year. Commissioner Walls confirmed that the payments had been made. Commissioner Thomas also explained to Mr. Cassatt that sometimes it takes nearly a year to get CYS state and federal reimbursements. Commissioner Sather explained that expenses for CYS was the big increase due to the opioid crisis. In most cases there can be multiple children involved and then in turn can inflate the jail population. Jim Cassatt stated the population was 150 out of county in the past and is now only 91. Commissioner Thomas stated that the jail population high has been 130.

Dean Fluke asked about the Provisional license for CYS and if it has affected our state reimbursements. Commissioner Sather confirmed that the Provisional license status does not prevent us from receiving monies owed to the County. Mr. Fluke wanted to verify that the budget was available for review for the 20-day requirement. Commissioner Sather confirmed and announced that approval of the budget is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> which allows for the 20-day presentation.

Jim Cassatt asked how much money is expected from UPI this year. Commissioner Thomas stated approximately \$130,000. Jinny Cooper explained the importance of the UPI fund for Register and Recorder office as well as for Mapping and Assessment.

Mr. Fluke asked about the expense of the CYS caseworkers that worked over the recent holidays. Commissioner Walls explained that Michelle Barnett has been monitoring the CYS Overtime closely and questioning expenses. Michelle Barnett also stated that there are state regulations in place that will result in some overtime in order to meet the regulations. Commissioner Walls and Sather confirmed to Mr. Fluke that we have put policies in place to monitor the amount of overtime.

Jim Cassatt asked how much the pay increases are for 2018. Commissioner Sather explained that raises remained the same as prior years. \$1000 annually for full time non-union employees and .25/hour for part-time non- union employees.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by Michelle Barnett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary