

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

21-2020

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Office with the following present: Commissioner Walls Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman and Solicitor, Peter McManamon. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the following individuals were present via GoToMeeting: Commissioner Sather; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Tiffany Jones from the Center for Community Action; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors, Connie Berrier and Dean Fluke.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Walls. Chief Clerk Heather Fellman conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. Prayer was led by Commissioner Sather and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Walls.

It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the minutes of the June 9th Public Meeting.

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

There were two additions to the agenda: accepting the resignation of a county employee and the CARES Act Rental Relief Program. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Sather commented that it will be a welcome relief to get back to business as usual. He urged the public to stay health conscious and to follow CDC guidelines. Commissioner Walls commented that the County Offices are now unlocked and open to the public. Elected officials have the authority given to them by the State to run their own offices as they see fit. While County buildings are open, each individual elected official may have criteria to access their office, so please call ahead and check on that before arriving.

Under Public Comments, Dean Fluke asked why the Commissioners are still holding public meetings remotely. Commissioner Walls answered that it was advertised in the paper that the offices were open and he could have come to the meeting in person today if he had chosen to do so. We are continuing to offer virtual access to meetings through the end of June for those who wish to participate that way who may have health issues or otherwise cannot come in.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for an agreement for legal services between Reager & Adler and the Huntingdon County Commissioners on behalf of the Planning Department. This is an agreement for limited legal services relative to residential and commercial real estate and subdivision and land development. The fee is \$500 per quarter. For the remaining part of this year, it will be \$1,000 beginning July 1. Each year thereafter will be \$2,000 per year. Commissioner Walls asked if Mr. Lettiere has worked with this firm and if they are familiar with CDBG issues. Mr. Lettiere responded that he has worked with this firm on land use issues but is not aware of what their experience may be with grant administration issues. Solicitor McManamon asked what the term of the agreement is. Commissioner Walls answered that it is a one year term and is prorated for 2020. Mr. Lettiere further commented that this contract will renew annually. Commissioner Walls asked if the fees will still be paid if services are not used. Mr. Lettiere confirmed that that is correct. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, asked for consideration of approval to accept the resignation of Linda Cressman, caseworker, effective June 18, 2020. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Tiffany Jones from the Center for Community Action, requested consideration of approval for a letter of support for the CARES Act Rental Relief Program. The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is releasing funds to all of the counties to provide rental assistance to individuals or households affected by COVID-19. They have to be receiving unemployment or show that they have had a decrease in income of 30% or more. This program allows for rental assistance up to six months at \$750 per month for a grand household total of \$4,500. This is a direct service dollars only fund. There is no admin or piece management. The Center for Community Action would like to apply on behalf of Huntingdon County. Commissioner Walls asked if there is any county match or use of general fund dollars. Tiffany Jones confirmed that there is not. Commissioner Sather commented that this is a relief for families struggling to make ends meet, particularly in these unprecedented times. Dean Fluke commented that he has a problem with his tax dollars going to this program. "Actually what you're doing when you approve something like this is you're putting more people that's paying the taxes for the Huntingdon County, you're putting them in dire straits too. More than you're helping." Jim Lettiere expressed a concern that his office has been working with CCA on a similar program for CARES Act funding. He would like to discuss with Ms. Jones further after the meeting is over. Commissioner Walls commented that this is money that the federal government is giving out. If Huntingdon County does not take it, it will not go back into the pockets of the taxpayers. It will be given to someone else. There are a lot of people looking for this kind of assistance. He is glad to be able to bring this to Huntingdon County instead of it going somewhere else. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes).

Commissioner Walls announced the sale of 2 county vehicles by bid. One is a 2006 Ford Focus that has 178,255 miles on it. The other is a 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan with 80,596 miles. Both will be sold as is. Sealed bids must be received by June 26th at 4:00PM in the office of the Chief Clerk. Please mark on the outside of the envelope which vehicle you are submitting a bid for. Name and phone number must be included in the bid for contact purposes. Bids will be opened at the public meeting on June 30th.

There were no Matters for Action, Information, and Discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Sather to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary