

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

11-2021

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Office with the following present via GoToMeeting: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; EMA Representative, Doug Hart; Jim Larkin from Pennsylvania One Call; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen; Treasurer, Susan Harry and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

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

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

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

There was one addition to the agenda. This addition is a CDBG modification package which contains a three year engineering agreement with Levine Engineering, LLC for Smithfield Township's CDBG program and two supplements. It was moved by Commission Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas announced that four recycling sites throughout Huntingdon County will be closing due to lack of funding. The Porter Township bin will be removed by March 30th and the Oneida Township, Dublin Township and Jackson Township bins will be removed by March 31st. Two sites will remain open: one in Marklesburg Borough and one in Smithfield Township. Commissioner Walls announced that there will be no public meeting next week due to CCAP's virtual conference.

There were no public comments.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Jim Larkin from Pennsylvania One Call requested consideration of approval for Proclamation 2-2021 to proclaim April as Safe Digging Month. Pennsylvania One Call received about 992,000 calls last year from people preparing to dig, which saves lives and the PA pipeline system. We are thrilled that Huntingdon County has supported this year in and year out. Please call 811 before you dig. We are having a free virtual safety day on April 21st. Commissioner Walls asked where the virtual safety seminar can be accessed. Mr. Larkin responded that they can register at www.paonecall.org. There are different tracks that you can attend to get different kinds of training. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Allison Hall was not able to attend to discuss the received PCCD grant. Commissioner Thomas commented that this grant is received annually and funds a number of different things including the salary of the victim witness coordinator. We will have her on a later date to discuss further. Commissioner Walls commented that these funds have come in and they do help with many projects. It is very welcome when it comes into the county.

Consideration of approval was given to hire Madalyn Cisney for the position of Paralegal in the Court Administration Office effective today. She will be working for the Senior Judge as well as Court Administration for the President Judge. The salary for this position will be set at Salary Board. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Doug Hart, EMA Representative, reported on COVID-19 in Huntingdon County. The total cases to date in Huntingdon County are 4,449. Our three-day average is 6 new cases per day. Our seven-day average is 17. There has been one death reported in the

last 11 days. That is definitely moving in the right direction. SCI Smithfield became a regional hub for the Department of Corrections. They are gradually working through that process. Their inmate cases right now are steady at about 20 cases. That has been consistent over the last couple of weeks. Several of those cases will resolve this week. Their staffing levels are good. They have very few out. SCI Huntingdon, where we saw a large uptick in cases a few weeks ago, remains high with about 128 active inmate cases. Quite a few of those are set to resolve. Those cases are contained to one wing and there is very little change of it spreading to other wings. At the educator clinic that TIU 11 held, they administered 605 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine over three days. This is the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Penn Highlands currently only has two COVID-related patients in house. Their staffing level is good. They held vaccine clinics Friday and yesterday. Over those two days they were able to administer 1,071 total doses. They will also be holding clinics Wednesday and Thursday of this week as well in the education building on their campus. The total number of people that have received at least one dose as of yesterday was 8,171. Our PCR or percent positivity rate, is 9.7%. That is up from 6.3% last week. That is something that we would like to see go back down. Our incident rate for the most recent seven days per 100,000 residents stands at 268, which is up from 206 last week. We are still at the substantial level of community transmission. AstraZeneca is seeking emergency use authorization for late March or early April for a vaccine for COVID. It is likely that they will be approved. Once they are, they will have 30,000,000 doses ready for immediate distribution. Commissioner Thomas expressed his thanks to the EMA department. They have been amazing through this whole pandemic. They have made it easier for the Commissioners to perform their duties throughout the pandemic by keeping us well-informed. Commissioner Sather also thanked the EMA office for their hard work. There is a feeling of security knowing EMA is there.

Stacia-Fe Gillen requested consideration of approval for a three-year engineering agreement for the on-behalf-of community of Smithfield Township for their CDBG program. We have completed the RFP process. Engineers submitted their proposals and Levine Engineering was selected. The purpose of the supplemental agreement is to subdivide the approved CDBG projects. Commissioner Walls asked if the agreement just constitutes the agreement. The actual funds expended are included in the two supplements? Ms. Gillen responded that that is correct. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Ms. Gillen requested consideration of approval for supplement number 1 for the 913 Pike Street demolition project. This is Smithfield Township's approved 2018 project. The cost for this project will not exceed \$8,000 which is consistent with the budget set for the project. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Ms. Gillen requested consideration of approval for supplement number 2 for the flood levy culvert rehabilitation project. This is a 2019 CDBG approved project for Smithfield Township. They have a separate grant so that they can run the cameras into the levy culvert to assess any improvements that need to be made to ensure that the levy retains its purpose of protecting Smithfield Township. The engineer is responsible for information collection and assessment of the facilities and final design for any changes that need to be made. This is a unique project in that until we have the inspection of the culvert, we will not understand the scope of the work that needs done. The not to exceed amount is set at \$17,000 for this project. Commissioner Thomas thanked the Planning Department for their hard work and their thorough explanations. It was moved by Commissioner Sather, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, 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 10:11 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary