

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

12-2021

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; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; CYS Fiscal Tech, Chris Dixon; Probation Director, Len Hahn; LEPC Chairman, Bob Shaw; EMA Director, Joe Thompson and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the March 16th 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 were no additions to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls commented that a few weeks ago the Commissioners approved funds from the federal government for rental assistance in Huntingdon County for those who have struggled to pay their rent and utilities. This helps the renters and the landlords in this county. If you are someone on either side, please contact the Center for Community Action office. Those funds are available. He commented that he does not always approve of all of the ways these kinds of funds are spent, but if it is not used in Huntingdon County it will be used by another county. If these funds can be used to benefit our residents we will do that here in Huntingdon County. Commissioner Sather announced the retirement of Peter McManamon from the position of County Solicitor. In acknowledgement and appreciation of 11 years of dedicated service to Huntingdon County, the Board of Commissioners presented a certificate to Peter McManamon with their congratulations and regrets of seeing him go. Commissioner Walls thanked Peter McManamon for his excellent service to the county. Commissioner Thomas expressed his congratulations. He has had the pleasure of working with Attorney McManamon for the last 10 years as a Commissioner and many years before that when Commissioner Thomas served on Borough Council. He cannot say enough good things about Mr. McManamon, noting particularly his diligence and responsiveness. He commented that the advice he has received from Mr. McManamon has always stuck with him. Mr. McManamon commented that he has enjoyed his time at the County and he has always looked forward to these meetings. He has worked well with the staff in the Commissioners' Office and noted that the staff is very good and the Commissioners' Office is in good hands. Larry Newton will also take good care of the Commissioners' Office.

Under Public Comments Shannon Walborn commented that Peter McManamon worked with CYS for years. It has been a pleasure to work with him and she offered her thanks for all of his hard work. Claudia Conrad offered her congratulations on Mr. McManamon's retirement. She further commented that his advice will stay with her long into the future. Joe Thompson congratulated Mr. McManamon on his retirement and wished him the best of health and happiness. Kylie Hawn offered her congratulations and best wishes. Len Hahn thanked Peter McManamon for all of his years of service and wished him the best in his retirement.

Under Solicitor Items, Mr. McManamon noted that there is a matter that needs to be discussed but it will have to be done in executive session because it involves litigation.

Under new business, Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Clerk, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with CenClear Child Services. They provide therapy, evaluation, and intake services. This is a new contract for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Commissioner Sather asked if this contract is at the state-approved rates. Ms. Dixon responded that these are for in-home services so the State does not have rates for this but the rates are competitive with other providers. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Dixon requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Children's Aide Society of Franklin County. They provide residential, shelter, and foster care services. This is a renewal from last year for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Len Hahn, Probation Director, requested consideration of approval for the Adult Grant-In-Aid Application through PCCD. This application is due on April 12th. The maximum amount on this grant is \$23,219. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Len Hahn requested consideration of approval for the State Offender Supervision Fund Agreement for fiscal year 2020/2021. Through the fiscal year that we collect these supervision funds, the Parole Board keeps half and the other half comes back to us in two payments through the year. This is to return all of the supervision fee funds that the Parole Board had kept that was from the period of May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021. This most likely will be the last Supervision Fund Fee Agreement that we will have to sign because the new advisory committee will be taking over this function from the Parole Board. Commissioner Walls asked if those funds are going away now or are they just handled by a different entity. Mr. Hahn responded that they are just going to be managed by a different entity. We will still collect the supervision fee. The Courts have imposed a supervision fee for all offenders. It will no longer go to the Parole Board but will go instead to PCCD's County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee. Those funds are used for operational costs and salary for the Adult Probation Department. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Michael Dilberian for the open Maintenance Crew Member Position. His start date will be April 5, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Joe Thompson, EMA Director and Bob Shaw, LEPC Chairman, requested consideration of approval for the LEPC roster for 2021. The County Emergency Management Agency is an organization that works overall to help with resources for dealing with all kinds of emergencies and hazards. Our work includes preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery. The Huntingdon County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a vital component of EMA. Every county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is required to have an LEPC and their primary focus is to develop emergency response plans, review those plans, and offer hazmat training for emergency responders. We have a good, active, and diverse LEPC. Mr. Shaw provided a list of the membership of LEPC that was presented for approval: Deb Fleagle, Robert Shaw, Katie Unger, Joe Thompson, Crist Fellman, Jack Harmon, Lt. James Wagner, Dave Arendash, Vince Lombardi, Jayme Houck, Commissioner Walls, Bill Benson, Roy Nagle, Sergeant Jamie Brumbaugh, Chris Gresko, Wendy Melius, Jeff Hackenburg, Stephen Brown and Wally Corcelius. Commissioner Thomas thanked the LEPC for their work. Commissioner Walls commented that this is a fine group of people and he appreciates the opportunity to serve with them. They are a benefit to the community and provide a lot of training and education. The work of EMA and the LEPC is very much appreciated. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Joe Thompson provided a COVID-19 update. It has been a few days past one year since we had our first cases of COVID-19 in Huntingdon County. It has been an incredibly challenging year for all of us. Throughout this time, working with many agencies, what we have tried to do is keep serving our community the best we can. We still need to continue that and we will be continuing that. There is some good news today. The PA Department of Health is reporting that we are now in the moderate level of community transmission. The case count to date now stands at 4,543 and we have had 126 COVID-related deaths. So far, as of this morning, we are approaching 4,000 partial and 6,500 full vaccines administered. That is over 20% of our population vaccinated. Our seven-day average of new daily cases is 7. Our three-day average is up a little bit at 9 cases per day. Our difference in confirmed cases is going down. The difference in average number of COVID-19 hospitalizations is going down slightly. The percent of hospital emergency department visits in the past seven days due to COVID is remaining low. Juniata College is continuing surveillance testing of faculty, staff, and students. They have administered over 15,000 tests and have had 86 positives. Schools are running as in-person or using a hybrid model. A lot of them are trying to do full in-person. SCI Huntingdon reports 1 active inmate case. SCI Smithfield reports 41 active inmate cases. Long-term care facilities have a few cases throughout the county, but no outbreak or surge. Penn Highlands Huntingdon is down to 2 inpatients in house right now with COVID. The high over the winter was 14. Governor Wolf has directed that the state's vaccine providers must schedule appointments for anyone who is currently qualified by tomorrow. Those appointments may extend beyond that date, but anyone who is currently eligible can call to schedule an appointment now. Local healthcare facilities are very likely to have some vaccine availability. That is Penn Highlands Huntingdon Hospital and Broad Top Area Medical Center at the Primary Care Office. Generally the vaccines are becoming more available. If there is anyone over 65 that is having difficulty obtaining the vaccine, they may want to contact the Area Agency on Aging for help getting an appointment scheduled. Please keep in mind that if we go out we are still required to wear a mask. Wash your hands and cover your coughs and sneezes. We do have to continue to do those things for a while to help keep our numbers down. If you do feel sick, please stay at home. Commissioner Thomas thanked Mr. Thompson for keeping the public informed. It is important to remember to still wear your mask while out in public. While there is light at the end of the tunnel, we do not want to go backwards on this and let our guards down. Hang in there a little bit more and we will beat this thing in the near future. Shannon Walborn thanked Mr. Thompson for keeping everyone up to date.

Joe Thompson announced that wildfire season is here. Huntingdon County EMA will be doing some PR in the next few days as people begin to get outside. Be careful with any outside fires. Outdoor brushfire season continues through mid-May. Mr.

Thompson further announced that the mandatory 10-digit dialing for all telephone calls in the 814 area code will begin this Saturday, April 3rd. Any time any of us make a call in our area, all calls must use the full 10-digit number. Make sure your numbers in your devices, and especially with any medical alert devices, are updated. 911 is not affected by this. You do not have to dial an area code when calling 911 from anywhere in the country.

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Larry Newton as County Solicitor. This agreement will be effective beginning on April 1, 2021. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There were no Matters for Action.

There were 7 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary