

Huntingdon, Pa.
Tuesday July 19, 2011
26-2011

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 Hoover, Fluke and Kough Pittenger; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; George Germann, Daily News; Adam Miller, EMA Director; Rich Stahl, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Grant Administrator; James Kasun, Architect; Deb Cramer and Terry Sheffield, MATP Program; Ed Dibble and Robert Dehart, Huntingdon County Housing Services; and visitors Bruce Pergament, Charlie Coleman, Ginny Cooper, Gary O'Korn; Bob Pittenger, Jim and Joan Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Hoover followed by Prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Hoover.

There were no additions or corrections to the July 12th minutes. However, Michelle noted that the date was originally incorrect but she changed it.

It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to approve the minutes of the July 12th meeting.

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

There were two additions to the agenda today. Terry Sheffield and Deb Cramer will be providing information on MATP reimbursements. The Commissioners received a request at the Area Agency on aging meeting yesterday to pass a resolution.

Commissioner Hoover offered comment today regarding the retirement fund. One of the bills paid this week was a contribution of \$300,000 to the County retirement fund. This is the second time in the last few decades that money was contributed to the retirement fund from the general fund. There was a contribution of \$179,000 made in 2010, however, that was not the total recommended contribution amount. Commissioner Hoover stated that while he is not pleased that we have to make such a large contribution, he is very pleased that the issue was addressed because it had been left go for several years.

Bruce Pergament addressed Commissioner Fluke regarding his most recent letter to the editor. Bruce feels that by signing the letter as Commissioner, he violated his oath of office. Gary O'Korn asked a question regarding the retirement fund contribution. He asked if the actuary made a suggestion on the amount of money contributed. Commissioner Hoover stated there was a recommendation but he could not recall the amount. He feels the suggested contribution was approximately \$550,000. Charlie Coleman stated that it was commendable that the Commissioners are addressing this debt. However, he asked if it was wise to grant cost of living increases last year given the condition of the fund. Commissioner Hoover stated that the increase granted last year only goes to current pensioners, not future pensioners. He also stated that while the increase was deserved, he felt it was not a wise decision and he voted against it. Joan Cassatt asked if there have been any steps taken to insure the pension funds stability in the event of a stock market crash. Commissioner Hoover stated that the funds are divided between stocks and bonds. The Board meets regularly with the money managers and monitors their success.

Solicitor McManamon had no items to address today.

Terry Sheffield and Deb Cramer were present with information on MATP reimbursements. They stated that as in past years, they will not be able to provide MATP reimbursements until they receive a reimbursement from the State. This will affect 350 to 400 people but Deb stated recipients of usually understanding. They asked for the approval from the board to send letters to this effect to the effected recipients. It was moved by Commissioners Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to give approval for Deb to send letters to all MATP recipients informing them of the situation.

Adam Miller was present today with a request for the Commissioners to accept the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). The grant is for fiscal year 2011 and will be used to reimburse salaries of the EMA Director and his assistant. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes) to accept the EMP grant in the amount of \$40,744. Adam also commented on the current weather situation. He provided information and tips to residents on dealing with the intense heat wave. He will also be contacting AAA about opening cooling centers throughout the County.

Maureen Safko requested permission to apply for the housing preservation grant (HPG) that is offered through the Department of Agriculture. The grant will be used to provide low income families with emergency home repairs. It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) to apply for the housing preservation grant.

Rich Stahl requested permission to apply for the Enterprise Zone grant for the 9th and final year. The program will be maintained for several more years but utilizing the interest on the funds to continue offering loans. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to apply for the EZ grant in the amount of \$50,000.

The Commissioners were asked to approve the advertising of bids for the Bailey building elevator. The schedule presented by Rich Stahl and Jim Kasun allows for the advertising and bidding process to take place in July and August. Construction is set to begin in September and be completed by the end of the year. Rich has dedicated \$60,000 in CDBG funds for FY 2010, \$210,000 in FY 2011 and \$84,000 for 2012 to be used for the elevator project. The County match for the elevator is projected at \$132,885. It was moved by Commissioner Hoover, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes, Kough Pittenger, yes) to accept the schedule as presented and approve the advertising of the bids.

Commissioner Fluke suggested that Rich make requests from Smithfield Township and Huntingdon Borough to commit a portion of their CDBG funds to the project as well. It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Kough Pittenger and carried (Fluke, yes; Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes) for Rich to make that request from Smithfield Township and Huntingdon Borough.

The Commissioners received a request for the adoption of a resolution at the Area Agency on Aging meeting yesterday. It was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Kough Pittenger, yes; Hoover, yes; Fluke, yes) to adopt resolution 7-2011 granting Alan Smith permission to make executive decisions on behalf of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton County Area Agency on Aging.

There were five County veteran burials and one base installation to be approved today.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Kough Pittenger second by Commissioner Fluke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Minutes prepared by Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Kough Pittenger, Secretary