

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Walls, Thomas and Reeder; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Planning Director, Laurie Nearhood; President Judge, George Zanic; Court Administrator, Angela Robinson; Alisha Henry from PNC Bank; Lee Zeger from CES Engineering and Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Lee Zeger from CES Engineering discussed the Courthouse renovation project. He noted that this project is necessary for a number of reasons, including that there is structural damage to the roof and parts of the ceilings on the 2nd floor. It makes sense to replace the very old HVAC system at the same time. There are also some code compliance and safety issues that will be addressed as part of this project. Judge Zanic commented that Mr. Zeger has been working closely with the commissioners for the last several years to modify the designs to make this project as efficient and cost effective as possible. Joe Thompson asked how much of this project will be funded using county funds. Commissioner Thomas responded that the County has \$1.4 million dollars saved to put towards this project. \$340,000 will come from the court and we will be taking out a bond to pay for the remainder. Commissioner Walls commented that there are some additional revenue streams that we will be looking into to help fund this project. Judge Zanic commented that the Court has a fund that is paid into by offenders that we will use to pay for a portion of the project. It is our belief that those that use the court system should contribute to the upkeep of the building. Commissioner Walls mentioned that there are also some grant opportunities that we will be pursuing. Commissioner Thomas also noted that they have successfully lobbied for an increase in the payments from the State for State Game Lands and State Forests. The County will now be receiving an additional \$1.20/acre for State Game Lands and \$.40/acre on State Forest Lands. This amounts to about \$90,000 more in county revenues which can be applied to this project. Commissioner Reeder commented that he appreciates the good foresight of the previous board that prompted them to save up \$1.4 million to be used for this project.

Mr. Zeger requested consideration of approval for a notice of award for Westmoreland Electric, LLC. The cost of their portion of the project is \$424,500 for relocation of electric panels, lighting and work on the addition as well as cleaning out the wiring from the old electrical system. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Mr. Zeger requested consideration of approval for a notice of award for Marc Service, Inc. The cost of their portion of the project will be \$89,500 for mechanical work and installation of the new HVAC system. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Mr. Zeger requested consideration of approval for a notice of award for K&K Plumbing. The cost of their portion of the project will be \$396,950 for installation of new public restrooms upstairs and renovation of staff and jury restrooms. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Mr. Zeger requested consideration of approval for a notice of award for Penn State Construction. The cost of their portion of the project will be \$2,679,697.90 for general contracting work including building a new addition to create an ADA entrance, creating a new sidewalk approach to the new entrance, repair of the parking lot, replacement of windows and other work on the upstairs renovation. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Commissioner Thomas commented that for this project the Commissioners have worked hard to ensure accurate up front pricing and he will not be willing to approve any increase change orders if they come up during the Courthouse Renovation Project. Joe Thompson asked when the project will start. Mr. Zeger responded that the start date for this project is April 15th with a completion deadline of May of next year. Court will be moved to another facility for five months during this time.

Susan Harry, Treasurer, requested consideration of approval to hire Travis Harrelson for the position of Clerk effective January 22, 2024. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Alisha Henry from PNC Bank requested consideration of approval for Resolution 2-2024. This resolution expresses the Commissioners' intention to issue debt for a capital project and will appoint PNC to serve as the underwriter and Eckert Seamans to serve as bond counsel. This is not approval or actual issuance of a bond. Bond issues take 60-90 days This resolution allows us to start working on the administrative portion of the bond issue. What we are currently considering is a \$2.65 million bond plus costs of issuing the bond. We will likely set it up with a 20 year repayment structure. There will only be one interest payment due in 2024 to remain budget-friendly. The estimated annual budget impact is \$205,000 per year for the next 20 years. Commissioner Thomas commented that this will be Ms. Henry's 3rd bond issue with us and she always makes the process very easy. Her work is appreciated. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for the Act 13 Legacy Grant Funding announcement. This will make \$30,000 available to municipalities to use on local projects. \$10,000 is the maximum amount of the award. A 6% admin fee will be withheld from each award. Commissioner Thomas commented that the DCNR C2P2 grants are also available during the same time so municipalities can effectively double their money. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to appoint Commissioner Thomas to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, 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 10:16 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeffrey Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary

