

Huntingdon, Pa.
Tuesday April 16, 2013
9:30 a.m.
15-2013

The regular weekly meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners meeting room with the following being present: Commissioners O’Korn, Fluke and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Dr. Fay Glosenger, Juniata College; Amanda Mercado, Rachel Gingrich, and Jamie Jaber, Juniata College; Kathy Armillei, United Way; Sam Whitesel, Early Intervention Coordinator; Louise Ketter, Carol Allenbaugh, Susette Bilger, Nicole Huntsman, Wendy Cave, Bernice Duvall, Christine Emel, Ranse Suchan, Karen Ansell and Shauna Hess, Representatives of Huntingdon County Adult and Child Development; Daily news reporter Garrison Crow; visitors Bruce Pergament, and Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by prayer led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Commissioner O’Korn.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes;) to approve the minutes of the April 9th public meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the payment of the bills.

There were no additions to the agenda and no items addressed by the Solicitor.

Commissioner Thomas congratulated Justin Levi Walker from boy scout troop 71 for gaining his rank of Eagle Scout. He also asked that everyone keep the victims of the Boston bombing in their thoughts and prayers. Commissioner O’Korn announced that the 911 center will be hosting an open house on Saturday, May 20th from Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Bruce Pergament gave the definition of terrorism and commented that people should be aware of their surroundings. He further commented that the recent acts of terrorism should not be allowed to change our way of life.

Louise Ketner thanked the Board for proclaiming this week as “week of the young child”. Louise is the Executive Director of the Child and Adult Development in Huntingdon County and she has planned several events for this week in honor of the children and the programs that serve the children.

Several representatives and children from the agency were present for the reading of the proclamation, photos and face painting activities. Commissioner Thomas also read a book to the children.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes) to proclaim the week of April 15th as week of the young child.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas to recess the meeting at 9:50 a.m. to allow time for photos with the children.

The meeting reconvened at 9:56 a.m.

Lori Sheffield, Elections Director provided an update on the status of the Jury Commissioner positions. She stated the positions will not appear on the primary ballot. There is a possibility that they will appear on the general election ballot and will be chosen by nominations from their respective parties.

Lori also provided deadlines for the primary election. The last day to register to vote is Monday April 22nd. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is May 14th and the voted ballots are due back by May 17th at 5:00 p.m. Lastly, Lori stated that the voter ID law for this years election will remain the same as it was last year.

Joe Thompson, 911 Dispatcher was present to ask the Commissioners to proclaim this week as “telecommunicators week”. The local 911 center will be hosting an open house in honor of telecommunators week. They will be offering various activities including tours of the center and educational information and door prizes. Joe also stated that the County recently acquired a 911 simulator that will be used for training. The simulator is a valuable tool to teach individuals, especially children, what to do and say if they have an emergency and need to call 911. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to proclaim April 14th through April 20th as Telecommunicators week. Joe graciously accepted the proclamation on behalf of all dispatchers and thanked the Commissioners for the time. Commissioner Thomas thanked Joe for his work on attaining the 911 simulator. Jim Cassatt asked

if the credentials of the staff will be displayed during the open house. Jim stated that several of the dispatchers hold high credentials and complimented them on doing a great job. Joe stated he is working on a display and thanked Jim for his compliments. He also stated that he is very proud of the dispatching team.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (Fluke, no; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to approve the hiring of Kierstine Boozel for the part-time, as needed position in the Commissioners Office effective April 22nd, 2013. Commissioner Fluke expressed opposition stating that he personally feels the position is not needed. Commissioner O’Korn stated there is currently a person out on medical leave and he feels the position is necessary. Commissioner Thomas stated that since the position is part-time, no benefits will be paid.

There were two county burial allowances, installation of a headstone and lettering of a private headstone approved today.

Commissioner Fluke asked what the County paid for the Veteran burial allowances. Michelle stated the cost is different for each service and she will obtain a list of the Veterans Affairs director. Commissioner Fluke mentioned a recent indigent burial case and stated he felt the cost should be approved at this meeting. Michelle stated it has not been paid yet but it would be covered under the approval of payment of bills. She also stated she received additional information yesterday and the expense may not need paid by the County. Commissioner O’Korn stated he checked with the Solicitor and he felt there was no need for separate approval of an indigent burial. He further stated that per the County code, the county is responsible for the cost of indigent burials. The amount allowed was set at \$300.00 in 1967 and is not adequate to cover the cost. Commissioners O’Korn and Thomas both stated that this is not an appropriate time to discuss an indigent burial.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. Minutes prepared by Michelle Cerett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary