

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

9:30 a.m.

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; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; Daily News Intern, Maggie Fipes 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 Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Commissioner Reeder.

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 was one addition to the agenda: Informing the public of staffing changes at the Veterans Affairs Office. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no announcements.

Under public comments, Joe Thompson expressed concern that there is open and transparent information sharing. I know it is important to the Commissioners and to the taxpayers. He expressed concern that there was nothing on the agenda regarding the Veterans Affairs Office closure. Now it has been added to the agenda under additions, but I still have a concern about how a decision was made in these personnel matters. Commissioner Thomas commented that the Commissioners originally planned to address this under announcements but decided to add it as an agenda item instead to make it official. Commissioner Walls commented that this is the first public meeting since the separation from employment of the Veterans Affairs Office employees.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with the Keystone Adolescent Center Inc. They provide alternative specialized treatment settings, shelter services, and transitional living services. This is a renewal from last year with similar rates for contract year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to ratify a separation of employment for Veteran's Affairs staff. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Services will continue for Huntingdon County veterans. Please call the Commissioners' Office for appointments. There is someone from the State coming in to help with open claims a couple of days per week until we hire a new director. Veterans are also free to visit other Veterans Affairs Offices if another county has an office that is closer to where they live. You can go to Blair, Fulton, Bedford, Centre, or Mifflin County Veterans Affairs Offices for assistance. Commissioner Thomas commented that all of these counties have been contacted and are happy to assist Huntingdon County veterans until our office is staffed. We have someone

from the state who will be in the Veterans Affairs Office to assist residents on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. We will keep the public informed about other days when the office will be staffed. Commissioner Reeder thanked the other counties for their assistance. Commissioner Thomas commented that the position is posted. Heather Fellman confirmed that it is posted on the County website, in the newspaper, on Indeed, and on Careerlink. Joe Thompson asked how this decision was arrived at. Commissioner Thomas commented that he cannot get into specifics of personnel matters. Mr. Thompson clarified that he is interested in whether there was a special meeting, or an executive session, an emergency meeting. Ms. Fellman confirmed that there was an executive session of the Board of Commissioners where decisions were made.

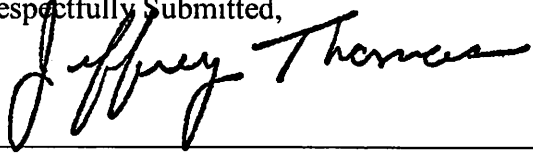
There were no Matters for Action.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowance.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary