

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

33-2020

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: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Warden, Duane Black. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the following individuals were present via GoToMeeting: County Grant Writer, Kelly Benson; County Treasurer, Susan Harry; Guest: Dean Fluke, and News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the September 8th 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.

Addition to the agenda: It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to take on 2 additions, request from the Public Defender, Fred Gutshall as well as an announcement from County Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman on the state of ballots.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas reminded residents that this year is a census year. The deadline to participate up to September 30, 2020. It is important that all residents participate. For each person that opts out of the census \$2,000 in funding for the area is lost every year. You can complete the census online, via telephone, or using a paper form.

Under Public Comments, Dean Fluke asked the Commissioners if there is any approved bills that the county matches. Commissioner Sather noted that at this time the Commissioners have not been alerted of any CDBG matches for this week.

There were no Matters addressed by the solicitor

Under new business, Duane Black request consideration of Approval for Medical Services Contract with Dr. Mark Minor. Dr. Minor provides medically needed medical services to the inmates of Huntingdon County Prison. Dr. Minor visits at least twice weekly, more often as needed. Route medical request handled by the nurse on staff. Checkups and follow up visits preformed as needed. Physical exams and evaluation on all new commitments. All inmates currently in prison will receive an initial evaluation. All visits are scheduled with the Warden so that the visits do not conflict with other prison business. For the sum of 35,000 per year for services payments will be made in equal monthly installments on or about the 30th day of each month. Warden, Duane Black added that Dr. Minor does a wonderful job, always available when needed. Dr. Minor does provide his own medical malpractice insurance, the county does agree to reimburse Dr. Minor for a portion of the basic malpractice insurance for the premium up to, but

not to exceed the sum of \$5,506.50. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and Carried (Sather, Yes; Walls, Yes; Thomas, Yes)

Consideration of approval for Parking Lot Lease Agreement with Kathleen Herr. This is a renewal of contract from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021, and the rent amount is \$4,400 and the real estate estimated is \$554.21. Renewal for a parking space on the street across from the Probation Dept. and Children and Youth Services Agency. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, Yes).

No Public Comments.

Kellie Benson, County Grant Writer presented update on the Cares Act Funding. The application deadline was August 28, 2020. Kelly received 154 application and currently the consultants are reviewing and processing them to determine eligibility. Commissioner Walls followed- up with once all application are reviewed by the consultants the Commissioners will review and approve them and get the money distributed. Commissioner Thomas added that after he spoke with the consultants, they felt it would be roughly 2 weeks until we hear anything back because the guidelines are continuously being changed on how the money can be disbursed. Kelly added she is working on the grant for funding broadband, the application deadline was a 2 week process that started Sept. 4, 2020 through Sept. 18, 2020, this coming Friday.

No Public Comments.

Addition to the agenda, Public Defender, Fred Gutshall consideration of Approval to attend a Symposium via webcam online. Effective Monday, Sept. 21st and Tuesday Sept. 22, 2020, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm each day. The cost is \$324.35 which has been budgeted. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Pete McManamon and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, Yes).

Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman has a discussion on the state of ballots. At this time the state has not certified ballots, we received notification this morning, Tuesday Sept. 15, 2020, that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered the Department of State not to certify ballots until such time as the existing litigation has been resolved. Commissioner Sather added that the ballots are prepared to be sent as well as to be distributed. There is a deadline to send military and overseas ballots, the deadline is this Saturday, September 19, 2020. Heather has reached out to the Department of State to ask for guidance regarding the current situation we are in with having no certified ballots, on how we should meet that deadline since we do not have the ballots at this time. Commission Sather asked what kind of turn around the Election Office expects once the OK is given. Heather Fellman estimates a week considering the volume going to the printers. There is an emergency write in ballot, for military, if needed. Commissioner Sather added that we do have voices from our legislator and the Senate that we can reach out to, but also we have the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania which represent all 67 counties. Commissioner Sather assured that they will be reaching out to have this matter resolved. Commission Thomas is asking the public to watch the county website and watch for a press release, as soon as we have ballots the Election Office will notify the public. Commissioner Walls reminds everyone that if you already filled out an application for absentee you do not need to fill out another one. The County Election Office does not send out absentee ballots unless requested. There is currently at least 3 or 4 other parties that is sending out these ballots, but again if you already returned an absentee ballot you do not need to fill it out again.

Public Comment, News Reporter Kylie Hawn asked for confirmation that the mail in ballots were prepared to be mailed out next week but with the Supreme Court's order the Election Office is not sure when they will be able to start mailing them. Heather Fellman, confirmed that is correct.

There were no Matters for Action, Information, and Discussion.

There was 3 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Tracey J. Rhodes, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary