

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 Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Barnett; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Victims Witness Coordinator, Allison Hall; Recycling Coordinator, LouAnn Shontz; Planning Director, Mark Colussy; President Judge, George Zanic; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors Jim Cassatt, Bob St. Germain and Lonnie Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather, followed in prayer led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner Sather.

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 4, 2018 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.

There was one addition to the agenda.

Commissioner Walls announced the Spotted Lanternfly Meeting to be held October 1, 2018 in the Bailey Building Ballroom. Commissioner Sather thanked the United Way and all participants in the Touch- A - Truck event that was held at the fairgrounds.

During the public comment period, Jim Cassatt asked how the public was to know the County Offices were closed due to flooding on Tuesday. Commissioner Sather replied that the employee base was notified first, then the media to include television and radio were notified to provide notification. Commissioner Thomas explained that TV does not run government closings across the banner. Government closings are announced on their website only.

Bob St. Germain, resident of Petersburg, retired Marine and member of American Legion Post 150 was present to provide a copy of a proposal to place a monument for five Medal of Honor recipients. Bob explained they are requesting permission to place the monument on the grounds of the Courthouse. Bob also stated "Post 150 would handle all the money, we haven't raised any funds yet but we are aiming for March 25, 2019". Commissioner Sather replied "we appreciate you bringing this to our attention and there have been discussions with Lonnie in the past, and working with the Veterans Association for proper placement".

President Judge, George Zanic was present and commented "I just received an email that regarding the Courthouse closure on Monday, I closed the Courthouse Monday at noon after I couldn't contact the three of you". "I understand all three of you were out of cell phone service". "I also consulted Emergency Management I determined that the public was in danger and I determined that my staff was in danger if they did not go home". "I just received information through email that the Commissioners are directing the employees that went home to take vacation time when the Courthouse was closed and they were ordered to go home". Commissioner Sather replied "Just to clarify, the Commissioners closed the County offices on Tuesday". Judge Zanic replied, "Yes that's right and I closed all Court offices on Monday after consultation with Emergency Management". "All court employees to include Probation office, Domestic Relations and Magistrates offices were ordered to go home for what I consider a safety concern". Commissioner Sather, "Let me provide some background information". Judge Zanic: "I know the background and I talked to all of you about the background information". "I want to know, did you have a meeting to decide not to pay my employees". Commissioner Sather: "Chris Miller and I were the last to leave the County facilities at 6 p.m. "Prior to that, the Commissioners were attending an Area Agency on Aging and Waste Management meeting in Hopewell and were out of cell coverage". "We came back to cell coverage, an email from our Chief Clerk went out at 12:13p.m, followed by your email at 12:15p.m". "At 12:13p.m. the offices were still open and it went back to the department heads to make the decision and they know their employees best, that if their employees were at risk then they could dispatch that employee on the their own recognizance based on using comp or vacation time". Judge Zanic: "so the Commissioners put employees in the position to make the decision, the Commissioners did not make the decision, I made the decision because I consulted with Emergency Management and felt my employees and the public were in danger and now you're telling them they are going to be financially burdened because I ordered the Courthouse closed". Commissioner Sather: "you have rights and responsibilities

for the courts, the Courthouse is under the Commissioners so in terms of employees, the offices of the County were still open as of 6 pm Monday". Judge Zanic: "the Courthouse was closed and my employees had nowhere else to go except home and should have gone home according to Emergency Management". "I attempted to contact every one of you and there is no procedure in place for me to get ahold of you". "Are you telling me and did you have a public meeting where you elected not to pay my employees"? Commissioner Sather: "there was no meeting and an email had gone out at 12:13p.m. on Monday advising that if their employees were at risk and our County is a vast County". Judge Zanic: "so rather than the leadership deciding you put it on every employee to make their own decision whether they were in danger". Commissioner Sather: "they know best their situation". "We have access to EMA and we did confer with EMA". "The department heads had the responsibility and they know their employees better than anybody". Judge Zanic: "the treatment of the employees is outrageous". Commissioner Sather: "we closed the County on Tuesday and the County was still open on Monday". Judge Zanic: "this is the same reason why you have problems with the Union and have spent". Commissioner Sather: "this has gone beyond" Judge Zanic: "yes this has gone beyond and you have not heard the last of this" Commissioner Sather: "you are disrupting the decorum of this meeting". "I appreciate your comments but this could have been taken at another time." Judge Zanic: "No, you sent an email and you done this without consulting the courts, you sent an email again this morning". Commissioner Sather: "the employees are not all of the courts Judge, the court employees you have responsibility for but you do not have responsibility for County employees." Judge Zanic: "Do the Domestic Relations not get paid"? Commissioner Sather: "Actually by looking at the payroll, they had noted they were in service, if I recall". Judge Zanic: "they were not in service, I ordered them home at noon". Commissioner Sather: "then there is a discrepancy in what they filed in their payroll, and it showed that they were working and you are saying they were not working"? Judge Zanic: "I advised them to let you know exactly what happened, I closed the Courthouse and all court offices at noon." Commissioner Sather: "then we need to know who filled out the payroll, because they were in error, you said they were not working and the records show that they were working." Judge Zanic: "I told them how to fill out the payroll records Mark, and I want to know if there was a public meeting that made the decision not to pay employees, that's what I want to know, when did you discuss this with the public"? Commissioner Sather: "there was an email that went out at 12:15 p.m on Monday to the department heads that if their employees were at risk, because at that time it was not flooded, we got out at 6 pm that evening". "So from noon until 4:30 p.m., depending on the safety of those employees, the department head could dismiss those employees, pending if they had comp time or vacation, it was up to the department head." Judge Zanic: "So are you paying those people that were at risk and decided on their own to go home"? Commissioner Sather: "They get paid in terms of comp time or vacation". Judge Zanic: "so you are taking money out of their pockets, they are using time they earned for a weather emergency". Commissioner Sather: "Judge, at this point I do not know where you are coming at". Judge Zanic: "I entered an order to close the courthouse and you are not paying my employees". Commissioner Sather: "with all due respect, you have responsibility for the courts, you do not have responsibility for the County employees". Judge Zanic: "Domestic Relations and Probation are my employees." Commissioner Sather: "then I would review those payroll records that showed those employees working". Judge Zanic: "Because they are directed to get paid." Commissioner Sather: "If you are saying you advised them to go home then there is a discrepancy." Judge Zanic: "I didn't advise them, you knew very well and just for the record I closed the Courthouse and all of my employees were ordered at noon after consultation with EMA to go home." Commissioner Sather: "our email from the Chief Clerk went out at 12:13 pm and your email was seen at 12:15 pm". Judge Zanic: "that email was advising you". Solicitor McManamon commented "I would suggest an executive session, I am just learning of this and I would like an opportunity to discuss after this meeting". Judge Zanic: "the problem is that they sent an email this morning" Commissioner Thomas commented "there was no meeting, but when the fiscal department asked me how to handle this, while I was not thrilled that the courts were closed, but if the Judge closed the courts then those people should be paid". Judge Zanic: "so the decision was made without your input"? Commissioner Thomas: "the fiscal had asked me and I voiced my opinion". Commissioner Walls commented "we would never put any employees in jeopardy and we do allow the department heads to use common sense and any employees if they feel they are in danger certainly have the latitude to go home". Judge Zanic: "that is why we have Emergency Management". Commissioner Sather, "we deferred with our Emergency Management". Commissioner Thomas: "we talked with Joe Thompson on a regular basis that day to find out the river stages and we were in Hopewell for an Area Agency on Aging meeting and the County offices did not close but the courts did". Commissioner Sather: "the courts are with the Judge, County buildings and County employees are with the Commissioners".

There were no matters addressed by the Solicitor.

First on the agenda was Planning Director, Mark Colussy with a request to attend the 2018 Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference. The conference is to be held October 14, to October 16, 2018 in Erie. The cost of the conference is \$385.00 for the early bird registration, a cost savings of \$50.00 over the regular price of \$435.00. The hotel cost is \$159.00 per night, with parking included in the room rate. One meal will not be included. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve attendance to the conference.

Victims Witness Coordinator, Allison Hall requested approval to submit the 2019-2020 Rights and Services Act and Victims of Juvenile Offenders (RASA/VOJO) grant application. The grant is submitted every two years and is effective in January. The grant covers victims of juvenile and adult offenders and covers 100% of the Victims Witness Coordinator salary. The amount of the grant is over \$32,000 in the variable penalty. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve submission of the grant. The VOJO grant amount is \$17,964.00 and the RASA is \$103,848.00 for the two years.

Recycling Coordinator, LouAnn Shontz was added to the agenda to request approval to submit the 2017 904 Grant application to the Department of Environmental Protection. The total tonnage is reported as 6884.465. 1792 ton being residential, 268.8 ton Residential residue, 5961.54 ton Commercial and 600.275 ton Commercial residential. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve submitting the 904 application as presented. Jim Cassatt asked how does that number considered for 2016, if that is 2017, is it an increase or decrease? LouAnn replied, "It is a decrease, other than certain people do not always send in their report". Jim commented, "There's got to be a point in time when people are accountable for the numbers". LouAnn explained, "This is just the act 101 materials, plastics, aluminum, glass and paper". "This does not include all the electronics and other stuff". Jim commented, "The container at the fairgrounds location is always full and people are handling more of these items then they did in the past, this doesn't seem reasonable that there would be a decrease the funds". LouAnn explained, "A lot of the things are going to plastic over glass and glass is heavier". Jim commented, "the people in Huntingdon County should be rewarded for the amount of effort that has been given". Planning Director, Mark Colussy replied, "A glass bottle from 1979 is a lot bigger than a glass bottle today, there is less metal in each can, the containers are smaller and this is based on weight not quantity". Commissioner Sather explained, "For Smithfield Township and Huntingdon Fair Board, quarterly reports show the tonnage received from the Smithfield location far exceed any of the other three counties". LouAnn replied, "I could come up with more tonnage but I do not have the weight or business receipts to back up my numbers". Commissioner Walls commented, "This is at the state level and LouAnn has to follow the state level rules". Commissioner Sather commented, "We appreciate what is being done and the accolades go out to that site as it is the largest of the three counties". LouAnn announced the electronics collection event scheduled for Saturday September 22, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There was a request to consider hiring a Veteran Affairs Director upon LouAnn's retirement. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve hiring Brian Bassatt, a retired member of the Navy as the full time Veterans Affairs Director. Brian will need to attend the certification training to be held September 30 through October 5<sup>th</sup>.

There was a request to award the 2018-2019 fuel oil bids. Two bids received were previously read by the Solicitor. K.L. Lamberson offered a bid of \$.12 off the going price per gallon for the day and Bumgardner and Flasher Oil offered a bid of \$.15 over rack price for the day. Upon comparison, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to award the bid to Bumgardner and Flasher Oil at the rate of \$.15 over rack price of the day.

It was suggested by Solicitor McManamon and moved by Commissioner Walls at 10:30 a.m. to enter into Executive Session. No decisions were made. It was moved by Commissioner Walls to come out of Executive session at 10:55 a.m.

There were 8 Veteran Burial allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Michelle Barnett, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary