

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

4-2020

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioners Meeting Room with the following present: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Shannon Walborn, CYS Director; Veterans Affairs Director, Brian Bassett; Register and Recorder, Virginia Cooper; Planning Intern, Stan Willis; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitor, Jim Cassatt.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the January 21st 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 were no announcements.

Under public comment, Jim Cassatt had questions about the report on the tax payments for the Bailey Building that the Commissioners provided him with at the prior week's meeting. He commented that the residents of Huntingdon County are diligently paying taxes and there is no change to the Bailey Building debt. Every penny of taxes collected on the special millage for the Bailey Building is supposed to be paid to the Bailey Building debt but 2018 and 2019 are exactly the same. Commissioner Sather noted that Mr. Cassatt was provided a document on the debt service, which remains consistent from year to year. There is consistent payment to the Bailey Building debt service and the special millage has not changed. Commissioner Sather reiterated his request that Mr. Cassatt put his questions in writing.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Virginia Cooper, Register and Recorder, provided an overview of the work her offices completed in 2019. 215,374 images were indexed, digitized, and made available online including 222 deed books from October 1982 through September 1995, 24 years of estate files and Orphans Court files from 1982-2006, and 2,551 Marriage Licenses from 1961 to 1963 and 1970 to 1973. Additionally, 35 years of adoption files, from 1954 through 1989, were digitized but are not available to the public. In the Recorder of Deeds office, 5,624 documents were recorded with 1,383 of these being Deeds. 1,623 documents were received through eRecording and 2019 saw a 36.5% increase in revenue from online traffic searching for information from outside the Courthouse. The Register of Wills Office opened 223 new estate files in 2019 and processed 2,903 filings against existing files. Over \$1 million in inheritance tax was collected for the state. The Clerk of Orphans Court office issued 203 marriage licenses, which is a 13% decline from the previous year. 31 new non-adoption files were opened and 2019 was the first full year of the Guardianship Tracking System. Commissioner Sather asked if files are digitally backed up in more than one location. Virginia Cooper confirmed that all of the indexes and digital images are preserved in four ways in three separate locations. Commissioner Thomas thanked the senior volunteers who have put so much time into the digitization project. Virginia Cooper agreed that they work through a great program through the Center for Community Action. Commissioner Thomas further thanked Ms.

Cooper and her staff for all of their hard work. Commissioner Walls commented that Ms. Cooper runs a good office.

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to hire Linda Cressman for the position of Caseworker I effective February 3, 2020. Pre-employment screenings have been completed and this hire will bring the agency to full staff. After hiring for this position is approved, the agency can move forward with new programming, including foster care and supervised visitation. They will just need space to do that. By bringing services in house, Ms. Walborn projects that the County could see 58-62% savings on foster care (approximately \$50 per child per day) and 75% savings on supervised visitation. Commissioner Thomas commented that when those services were taken over by other companies, the County budget went up by approximately \$1 million. It has been the goal of the Commissioners to bring these services back in house. The savings will not be instant, but over a couple of years there will be substantial savings while providing better care to the kids. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were 3 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary