

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

9-2020

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; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Treasurer Intern, Katrina Sinninger; Deb Ridgeway, Tara Grejeda and Jeff Hackenberg from Penn State Extension; News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors, Jim Cassatt and Dean Fluke.

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

Commissioner Sather introduced Tracey Rhodes as the new Huntingdon County Deputy Chief Clerk.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the February 25th 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 additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Thomas announced the PA Broadband study. He encourages everyone to fill this survey out, especially if you live in a rural area of the County. The survey can be completed by mail or online. The deadline to participate is March 13. Commissioner Walls noted that there is currently a lot of discussion around viruses. EMA is working with PEMA and will be involved in a CCAP and Department of Health conference call tomorrow to discuss preparedness and response. Commissioner Sather reminded the public to use common prevention practices for the flu to reduce your risk.

Under public comment, Jim Cassatt asked for a status update on the extended warranty for the elections equipment. Commissioner Sather noted that a five year warranty is mandatory for a Costars contract. Extended warranty and biannual maintenance fees cover the hardware after year two at the cost of \$47,380. For year two through year five the cost is \$11,845. Dean Fluke asked questions concerning the Army Corps project in which they acquired 30,000 acres for flood control when Raystown Lake was created. Commissioner Walls noted that it would be appropriate to direct those questions at the Army Corps as the Commissioners do not maintain records related to Army Corps projects. Susan Harry introduced Katrina Sinninger who is interning in her office through the CareerLink Youth Program. Dean Fluke commented on the potential new Army Corps project, noting that the Commissioners had said they would be using Act 13 money as well as non-profit or foundation funds and there would be no private individuals funding the project. He asked if there had been any grants or funding coming through Huntingdon County that was used to pay for the project or if the Commissioners are allowed to take money designated to a project out of Act 13 and change that use? Commissioner Sather responded that Act 13 Legacy Funding comes back from the State to the County. Originally it is from the Marcellus Shale Oil funding. This funding is for environmental improvements to be designated for open spaces and green spaces only. Dean Fluke asked if any of that money had ever been transferred to the General Fund. Commissioner Sather responded that it has not as long as the current board has been in place. Jim Cassatt commented that the Commissioners have previously stated that there is no access to the lake from the eastern side. He commented that this is not an accurate statement as there is a place designated for handicapped hunters on that side of the lake. Commissioner Walls commented that there is access to that side of the lake for two months out of the year. The plan the Commissioners are endorsing would provide year-round, ADA compliant access to the lake from the eastern side.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Jeff Hackenberg, Tara Grajeda, and Deb Ridgeway from the Penn State Extension Office presented an update of the Penn State Extension in Huntingdon County. Tara Grajeda is a nutrition educator and advisor for Fulton, Huntingdon, and Chambersburg. She provides free nutritional education opportunities for low-income families and schools. Deb Ridgeway is the Master Gardener County Coordinator and organizes educational opportunities for Earth Day and at farmer's markets as well as poison prevention programs for elementary schools, wellness garden projects, wetlands maintenance, a gardening hotline, and spotted lantern fly awareness programs. Jeff Hackenberg offered his thanks to the Commissioners for their support of extension programs as well as to the citizen volunteers, without whom these programs would not be operational.

There were no matters for action, information and discussion.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary