

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

7-2022

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 Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; CYS Director, Shannon Walborn; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; EMA Staff, Katie Unger and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Chris Dixon, Claudia Conrad and Debra Clark attended via GoToMeeting.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There was one addition to the agenda: Ratification of the intergovernmental agreement between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Huntingdon County. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to add this item to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas urged residents to help get the county back to normal by getting the COVID vaccine and the booster, if eligible. He also encouraged residents to allow their children to be vaccinated against COVID.

There were no public comments.

There were no items to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Debra Clark from Huntingdon County Business and Industry, requested consideration of approval for 6 months of interest-only payments on the EZ Loan for Stone Town Gallery and Café. Commissioner Thomas commented that this is a program that the Commissioners started years ago. The loan is through the Commissioners' Office but administered by HCBI. We have authorized interest only payments for other businesses in the past. Commissioner Thomas requested that Ms. Clark set up a meeting with the Commissioners and the Planning Director for a quarterly report sometime in March. Commissioner Walls asked if all payments were current with Stone Town. Ms. Clark confirmed that they are current. They have almost reached the life of the loan. It runs through to November 1, 2023. The deferred principal payments will be a balloon payment at the end of the life of the loan. They can make additional payments on that any time prior to that date. Commissioner Walls commented that there are funds available to help struggling businesses and business-owners can contact HCBI for assistance. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jeff Leonard, Sheriff, requested consideration of approval to ratify the Lake Raystown Law Enforcement Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers. This is option year 2 in this contract increasing the contract by \$27,478.80 for a total of \$80,864.90. Commissioner Thomas commented that this contract has been in place for many years. It is good that the County can provide some high visibility law-enforcement over at the Lake to help with security for our residents and visitors. Sheriff Leonard commented that this contract covers the expenses for the Sheriff's Department for their overtime. Commissioner Walls asked if it accounts for wear and tear on the vehicles as well. Sheriff Leonard responded that there is funding building into the contract for maintenance of the vehicles. Commissioner Sather asked if we have the labor available for these services. Sheriff Leonard answered that we do. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Shannon Walborn, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval to hire Charli Henry for the open Caseworker I position. The proposed start date is February 22, 2022. She has met all pre-employment requirements. One this position is filled, we will only have one vacant caseworker position. Commissioner Thomas commended Ms. Walborn on an incredible job with the staff and keeping positions filled. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Shannon Walborn requested consideration of approval for an addendum to the Evolution Counseling Contract. This will add two new rates in an effort to keep costs down. The first rate is for support and transport of children to and from the counseling sessions. The other one is for administration activities. We are adding additional categories with lower rates for services provided. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to accept the resignations of Community Development Administrator, Stacia-Fe Gillen. She is moving to a position with the State effective March 18<sup>th</sup>. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for the engineering services proposal for the HVAC Feasibility Study for Annex 2 from Lee Zeiger. This proposal will provide options for HVAC systems with approximate costs. This agreement is for a not to exceed cost of \$3,750. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Burke Bishop for the position of part-time custodian. His start date will be 2/21/2022. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to ratify the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Corrections and Huntingdon County. This is an agreement for food services at a cost of \$2/inmate/meal provided to the Jail by SCI Huntingdon. This extends the agreement for a period of one year. Commissioner Thomas commented that this is the sixth year of this contract. Over the life of the contract we have saved approximately \$1.4 million. We appreciate the State for their work on this. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Katie Unger, EMA Assistant, presented an update on COVID-19. The average number of new cases per day in the county was 21. The State is at an average of 4,560. SCI Smithfield currently has 71 inmates

and 2 staff testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has 6 inmates and 5 staff. There is nothing to report with the schools. The Department of Health reports a total of 30 COVID cases among school-aged children and 6 among children 4 and under. Juniata College reports a total of 35 cases for this semester. COVID hospitalization for the state stands at 2,630. Our incident rate for the county is 354 per 100,000 and the state is 175. The PCR percent positivity is 13.4% for the county and 12.7% for the state. Long-term care facilities continue to do well. 23,922 vaccines have been distributed in the county. 10,125 boosters have been given. There was one death in the last week. The dominant variant is still Omicron. The first Omicron accounts for 96.4% and the BA.2 is 3.6%. Hospitalization numbers for the county are down. Currently there are 6 in-house patients at Penn Highlands with none in the ICU.

There was nothing discussed under 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 10:01 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary