

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

23-2021

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; Deputy Chief Clerk, Tracey Rhodes; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Brandon Carson; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn. Attending via GoTo meeting: CYS Tech, Chris Dixon; CYS Fiscal Supervisor, Claudia Conrad; Upward Broadband Rep, Jacob Lester and Upward Broadband Rep, Austin Byler.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. 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 previous meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, no; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

Additions to the agenda: Consideration of approval in applying for the NTIA Broadband Grant. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approved to add this item to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Chris Dixon, CYS Fiscal Tech, Consideration of approval for Purchase of Service Agreement with Ray Ghaner, Solicitor for CYS from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This is a renewal from last year. Commissioner Thomas asked what the fee cost was per month, \$9,000 per month at a fixed rate for new contract. Current contract is \$90 an hour, it was settled on a fix rate for 2021/2022 contract. Commissioner Thomas asked for a breakdown of hours per month for Solicitor. It was moved to table for next week's meeting given the request for additional information. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Erica Shoaf, Guardian of Life Services, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Christopher Wencker, Guardian of Life Services, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Renewal from last year. Commissioner Thomas asked if rates are on an as needed basis. It was confirmed by Chris rates are as needed. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Robin Binder-Heath, Guardian of Life Services, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Family Care Services from Chambersburg, they provide Foster Care Services for CYS, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval for a Purchase of Service Agreement with Kathleen Herr for Rent of a Parking Lot located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Allegheny Street in Huntingdon. Total fee from June 2021 through May 2022 is \$4,500 additional cost based on taxes of \$563.96 total for lease agreement \$5,063.96, Renewal from last year. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Brandon Carson, Jacob Lester and Austin Byler, Upward Broadband Reps, Consideration of approval for applying for the NTIA Broadband Grant. Currently offering wireless broadband services in parts of Huntingdon County and expanding into Fulton County, interest in expanding further. Looking at a 3 Tier approach for the expansion, Tier 1 fix up some existing towers to allow for the expansion. Tier 2 areas that are lacking existing towers to provide the expansion into those areas, Tier 3 areas right for fiber deployment or some other technology that might be a good solution high population. Proposals are due July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for Tier 1. \$288 million available nationally. Requires a partnership between private sector provider and a government entity. Requesting a consideration between Upward Broadband and Huntingdon County who would need to service as the applicant for the funds. It is a requirement that the County would serve as the applicant. Looking to provide 12 new towers to the area, estimating each towers will cost \$250,000 to construct and another \$100,000 in equipment in high foliage areas, roughly \$350,000 per tower total estimate for all 12 towers would be roughly \$4.2 million. Estimate cost share would be asking the county to provide \$420,000 in funds to be shown in the proposal and submitted to the NTIA by early August. The 10% match is not needed to submit the application, it is more favorable with the 10% included with the application. In order to be competitive with other applications, it is strongly encouraged to have the 10% included with the submitted application. 10:05 a.m. it was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried to go into Executive session for further discuss. 10:18 a.m. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried to leave Executive Session. Discussion were held, no decisions were reached. (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes). August 17, 2021 the application is due. Timeframe to complete install is 12 months with a request for an extension for completion of project. Solicitor's recommendations is to submit application. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no public comments.

There were no Matters for Action.

There was 0 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Tracey Rhodes, Deputy Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary