

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 Walls, Thomas and Reeder; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; Christine Corl, Harper Zook, Hailey Zook, Russell Bard and Elliot Parker from the local 4-H Chapter; Natasha Brubaker and Samantha Ochs from the Center for Community Action and Daily News Reporter, Joe Thompson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Walls. Prayer was led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Commissioner Reeder.

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There was one addition to the agenda: consideration of approval for the FNB drive-through lease. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to add this item to the agenda.

Under announcements, Chief Clerk Heather Fellman updated the public on the status of ballots for the 2024 Presidential Primary. There is still one outstanding appeal related to a candidate's removal from the ballot. This impacts our ability to finalize and print ballots and get them out to voters. We will have ballots out by April 9<sup>th</sup>, which is the state-mandated deadline to begin mailing ballots to voters. Unfortunately, that deadline is very close to the election – only two weeks before Election Day. If you have applied for a mail-in or absentee ballot, please make sure that as soon as you receive your ballot you immediately vote it and send it back to our office. You may either return your ballot by mail or you may drop your ballot off in person at our office. If you choose to drop your ballot off in person, please remember that you may only turn in your own ballot. The deadline to receive those ballots back in our office is Election Day at 8pm. Postmarks do not count, so if you are mailing them back make sure you vote it and mail it in as soon as you get it.

Under public comments, Kelvin Abrashoff reminded the public that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. There are many events that month to raise awareness. Please always report suspected child abuse. We would rather have a report that ends up being unsubstantiated than have a situation where there is abuse that doesn't get reported. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, please wear blue to child abuse awareness.

Under matters to be addressed by the Solicitor, consideration of approval was given for the Annex 2 drive-through lease with First National Bank. The new lease is for \$18,000 annually. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Under new business, Christine Corl and students requested consideration of approval for Proclamation 6-2024 for 4-H week. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Natasha Brubaker from the Center for Community Action requested consideration of approval for Proclamation 7-2024 for Fair Housing Month. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for the resignation of Amy Benson effective 3/22/2024. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes) to accept the resignation with regrets.

Kelvin Abrashoff requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Kids Peace National Centers for contract year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for neuro-psych evaluations. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Pressley Ridge. This is renewal from last year for contract year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for foster care services. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with Jacob W. Diviney, Esq for solicitor services for the CYS department. This is in anticipation of Attorney Ghaner having to step down in the coming months from the position. Mr. Diviney has been made a partner at Mr. Ghaner's law firm and would be compensated at the same rate as listed in Mr. Ghaner's existing contract. Solicitor Newton expressed concern that this contract should not directly pass to another attorney in the same firm without putting out an RFP and reviewing resumes from other interested attorneys. A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas to table this item pending further review. It was seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk, requested consideration of approval for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Participation Forms. There are a few items that need to be clarified with RBA before we submit, but in consideration of the approaching deadline she requested consideration of approval pending this clarification. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Heather Fellman requested consideration of approval to attend the CCAP County Administration Conference at the Penn Stater on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. No hotel stay is needed for this conference. The conference registration fee is \$265 and it is a budgeted expense. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

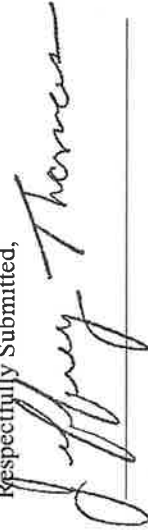
There were no Matters for Action.

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary