

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

10-2019

The regular weekly 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; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Children's Services Director, Shannon Walborn; Children's Services Fiscal Techs, Claudia Conrad and Chris Riling; Mapping Director, Sean Houck; Chief Assessor, Ken Tucker; Probation Director, Len Hahn; Farm Bureau members, Matthew Barnett, Raymond Morningstar, Rodney Davis, and Russell Kyper; Christine Boonie and Alisha Grove from the Center for Community Action; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitors, Jim Cassatt, Joan Rogers, Michael Hanna, and Gary O'Korn.

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 by Commissioner Thomas.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Public Meeting.

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

There was one addition to the agenda. Shannon Walborn will present the results of the recent CYS inspection.

Commissioner Walls announced that, through CCAP, the Commissioners were able to arrange for free electronics recycling for residents. Those recycling drop-off dates are May 25, July 13, September 28, and November 9 at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds. Commissioner Thomas wished to extend his congratulation to Warden Duane Black for receiving a 100% on his recent state inspection. Due to the history of excellence in these inspections, the Jail will not have to be inspected again for two years. This is three inspections in a row that the Warden has received a 100% for his facilities.

Jim Cassatt asked if there will be a fee for certain items at the recycling events like there have been in the past. Commissioner Walls responded that it will be done just like in the past where some large items will have a fee. That information will be available on the website.

Gary O'Korn asked for an update on how the 2015 unfunded debt, per Mr. Cassatt's request last week. Jim Cassatt clarified that he was not interested in the 2015 unfunded debt so much as the \$1.3 million reimbursement from the budget impasse. He wants to know who got that money and what was it spent on. Commissioner Thomas commented that because of the complexity of the situation, it will take a considerable amount of research before he could provide an answer to those questions. Related to this, Commissioner Sather mentioned that it is important to note that since 2006 the state auditors have been telling the county that they need to move towards generally accepted accounting principles. The Commissioners are looking into moving in this direction by switching from a cash-basis to a modified accrual basis. This would answer part of Mr. Cassatt's question because at the end of the year you would be carrying over into accounts payable, and it would facilitate answering these kinds of questions more exactly.

Commissioner Sather also wanted to address Mr. Cassatt's other question from last week about the stale checks. The Commissioners looked into that and there were a total of 68 stale checks. 35 were voided with no reissue. 33 were voided but reissued. The checks have a notice on them indicating that they expire after 60 days.

The Farm Bureau presented their annual report to the county. Matthew Barnett opened by saying that the purpose of their presentation was to reemphasize the importance of agriculture and point out some concerns. Raymond Morningstar expressed that he is glad to have the support of the Commissioners and feels that it is very meaningful that they attend so many of the meetings. Commissioner Walls emphasized the importance of bringing young people up in agriculture and teaching the public what agriculture does. Rodney Davis discussed how financially difficult last year was. He wished to encourage the Commissioners to do what they can and be open to new solutions. He expressed that it is the goal of the Farm Bureau to contribute their fair share to the county, but he would also ask for fairness in the taxes. He also appreciates the closer connection that the Farm Bureau now has with the Planning Commission. Russell Kyper discussed taxes and the heavy burden that local farmers feel from county, school, and property taxes. He wished to thank the Commissioners for their support of the Conservation District. He discussed the constantly changing nature of the agriculture industry. He further expressed that he hopes that local farmers can be made aware of grant monies available to them through the Conservation District to keep local farms environmentally compliant and competitive. Commissioner Thomas discussed his work with the Tax Assessment Committee, saying that other Commissioners throughout the state are working on a tax shift. They had come close with Senate Bill 76, which was just school tax. He also discussed work in the past to implement a 1% sales tax, which would generate \$1.4 million, which he felt would be a more fair system. Matthew Barnett emphasized that the county is just one part of the tax equation and that farmers get hit hard when it comes to taxes. He expressed the difficulty that arises from public misinformation. In 2005 the Huntingdon County Planning Commission put out a subdivision ordinance. At the same time the state had come out with ACRE (Agriculture, Community, and Rural Environment). The ordinance does not meet the state standards. He would like to request that the Planning Commission put together an ordinance related to "intensive agriculture" for the townships to operate under that would get everybody on the same page. On March 1, the Attorney General found the ordinance to be illegal and a violation of ACRE. The township can either appeal this through the court system, through the Community Legal Defense Fund, or the ordinance can be repealed. The Bureau would like the ordinance to be repealed.

Ken Tucker, Chief Assessor, asked for consideration of approval for Brandy Moore and Melissa Bousum to attend the Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania's Annual Conference on Assessment Administration. This conference is part of keeping their certifications current. \$540 in conference fees are paid out of UPI money. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Ken Tucker, Chief Assessor, asked for consideration of approval for Brandy Moore and Melissa Bousum to attend the Universal Standard of Appraisal Practices (USPAP) Class. This class is mandatory to maintain certifications. This training will take place at the CCAP office in Harrisburg over two days. The cost is \$275 per person and is UPI funded. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Sean Houck, Mapping Director, asked for consideration of approval to attend the annual PA Geographic Information System (GIS) Conference and two pre-conference workshops. The total cost is \$285 and is paid out of the 911 training budget. Jim Cassatt asked if he will be staying overnight. Mr. Houck indicated that since the conference is in State College he plans to commute there both days. Mr. Cassatt asked if he would be using a county vehicle. Mr. Houck indicated that he probably would. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Len Hahn, Probation Director, asked for consideration of approval for an Owner County Agreement with Central Counties Youth Center. This facility is used for juvenile detention prior to adjudication proceedings. Commissioner Sather noted for the public that Huntingdon County is a partial owner of this facility along with four other counties: Centre, Clearfield, Mifflin, and Clinton Counties. The purpose is to keep juvenile offenders out of larger jails and prisons. The county agrees to pay the provider for a total of \$173,858 for 2019, which is paid in four installments of \$43,464.50. Mr. Hahn noted that finding the space to house these juveniles would be very difficult without this agreement as more and more of these facilities shut down. Jim Cassatt wanted to know if this meant that we have unlimited availability to send as many people as we want there. Commissioner Sather responded that it does mean we have access to reserved beds that are specifically for the use of the owner counties, but that we also allocate for contracting counties at the rate of \$265 per day. A juvenile will typically be there for no more than two weeks. Jim Cassatt asked if the other counties pay the same rate that we are paying. Commissioner Sather responded that it is rated on a five year average. It is rated on the days per stay per individual. Each of the counties are contracted by their average. Claudia Conrad also commented that, although this is a facility that is used exclusively by juvenile probation, the invoicing is done through the Children's Services Department. Commissioner Sather further clarified that this means that a portion of the expense is reimbursed by the State. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Chris Riling, Children's Services Fiscal Tech, asked for consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement with the Children's Advocacy Center of Centre County. This agency provides forensic interviewing for child abuse cases. This is a renewal of an existing agreement that will cover July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Shannon Walborn, Children's Services Director, reviewed the results of the licensure inspection that happened last week. She indicated that this has been an issue in past years and there have been some provisional licenses. Ms. Walborn wanted the Commissioners and public to be aware that this review went very well. There was only one citation that came from an error made by a caseworker who has already been terminated. There was one recommendation. The inspectors expect a full licensure and indicated that Children's Services will be receiving it much more quickly than in the past.

Christine Boonie and Alicia Grove from the Center for Community Action requested consideration of approval for a contract addendum to the Department of Agriculture's Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Contract. The addendum clarifies participation and took effect October 1, 2016 and remains effective throughout September 30, 2021. In 2017, the USDA conducted a management evaluation of the administration of TEFAP and noted that the current program management provision, as required by federal regulation, is to be included. This is applicable and enforceable under the current program management, however the USDA has specifically instructed to include the federal requirement language in the program management agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk, asked for consideration of approval for Tammy Thompson, Elections Coordinator, to attend the Western Pennsylvania Election Personnel Association Conference. This conference provides an opportunity for Elections personnel throughout the state to discuss legal matters and upcoming concerns and questions related to elections. The cost of this conference is \$30 plus travelling expenses. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

There were no matters for Action, Consideration, and Discussion.

There were 4 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary