

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

8-2019

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; Solicitor, Peter McManamon; Coroner, Paul Sharum; Community Development Administrator, Melody Mason; Tiffany Jones and Bob Henry from the Center for Community Action; Louanne Fisher from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol and guest; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and visitor, Jim Cassatt.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather, followed in prayer led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag 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 February 19, 2019 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 was one addition to the agenda. Melody Mason would like to ask for approval for a contract amendment. Commissioner Sather suggested that this be added under Matters for Action, Information, and Discussion.

There were no announcements.

Jim Cassatt asked for a status update on the money for the 911 grant. Commissioner Sather answered that we are still awaiting funds, but have received notification of approval. That was previously stated by Senator Corman when he was here. We have been talking to our financial consultants, which is the bond council. Typically, you can do an early maturity on bonds, and that way you can reduce the debt. At this point in time in discussion, working through council, that bond maturity cannot be redeemed early. What will happen then is that award will then go in and retire that debt early. Commissioner Thomas further responded that it may take until 2020 or 2022. Jim is referring to the RACP, Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant. They take a very long time to get all the paperwork. The hospital has been working on theirs for five years. The good news is we will receive it and it will reduce our debt. The Career and Technology Center has been working with theirs. It's a good thing when it comes it, but it's just like everything else with the government. It takes a while for the funding to come through. Commissioner Walls further responded, we separated down into a separate millage for that. Promises made will be promises kept. Mr. Cassatt inquired further, asking if the county were to apply that money to the payments how much money would the county save over the total life of the project? Commissioner Thomas responded, when the Commissioners sat down with the bond people he believes when this is applied to the bond in 2020 it will reduce the millage .25. These are approximate numbers and for more accurate numbers Mr. Cassatt may check with the Commissioners after the meeting when they have a chance to review. Commissioner Sather further replied that that millage is a special millage because it is a project. It was set aside and legally we have to apply that because it was set aside for that purpose. It would reduce that debt and millage because it is a special. Mr. Cassatt expressed concern that the life of it is still 15 years. Commissioner Sather responded that that was required because of the bond. Even to secure the bonds the Commissioners had to work with the equipment manufacturers to make certain that the equipment and shelters would have a life expectancy of at least 15 years.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Tiffany Jones, Bob Henry, Louanne Fisher asked for the consideration of approval of the county's Human Services Plan. Ms. Jones reported that the due date is February 28th. The only thing that changed for the Center for Community Action was that they had an RFP from FIRST (Families Involved in Recovery, Support, and Transformation) for their website to help with web conferencing for \$2,500. Mr. Henry commented that this is an annual report that details what has been done, what is currently being done, and what is planned for the future. Commissioner Thomas stated for clarification that the proposed plan has to be submitted before there is an idea of what kind of funding will be received for the year. Commissioner Walls expressed his appreciation for the good work these agencies do. Commissioner Sather asked that Mr. Henry detail for the public about the outplacement services his organization provides. Mr. Henry responded that they are working with TIU11 to establish an outpatient provider license and implement school services in Southern Huntingdon School District and New Day Charter School. There is currently a school-based behavioral health program in Mount Union. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Coroner, Paul Sharum, asked for consideration of approval to attend the Annual Spring Law Enforcement Seminar in Cambria County along with his Chief Deputy on March 29. This counts as 8 hours of continuing education credits. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Consideration of approval was given to hire Tammy Thompson, of Henderson Township, as the new Elections Coordinator. We are requesting that she begin as soon as possible. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration was given to sign a letter of support for the ClearWater Conservancy. Last year the Board was approached from the ClearWater Conservancy for the acquisition of a conservation easement. The grant was submitted under the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation program, but the application was not accepted. The ClearWater Conservancy is asking for consent to apply for the grant this year to enhance the water quality in Spruce Creek. Property ownership will not change and Clearwater will accept the stewardship and legal defense of the easement conditions. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried. Commissioner Walls indicated that this has gone through the Planning Commission and been approved by them as well. Jim Cassatt asked why the grant was denied last year. Commissioner Thomas noted that the letter they received last year did not specify a reason for denial, but speculates that it is because so many apply and there is only so much funding available. (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Consideration was given to approve a proclamation to make March 1, 2019 CHAMP Day. CHAMP (Creating Hope and Making Progress) was founded five years ago to aid Huntingdon County residents in overcoming the financial burdens of costly medical treatment. County schools work together to fundraise for this cause and were able to raise \$140,000 between 2015 and 2018 to aid local families. Nine recipients have been selected to benefit from the organization's fundraising this year. Commissioner Sather wished to acknowledge the great work Jeremy Crouse has done as the founding member of CHAMP. Commissioner Thomas also wished to applaud the efforts of all of the students that have been involved. Commissioner Walls considers the program a great thing and a source of pride for the county and feels honored to participate every year. Commissioner Sather noted that this year it is Juniata Valley's turn to host the annual dance-a-thon. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Under Matters for Action, Consideration, and Discussion, Melody Mason asked for approval to amend the contract with Bedford County for the Wood/Broadtop well project. Bedford has requested an amendment to the original agreement because they are now able to provide more funds. There were some additional costs associated with the project and Bedford has added an additional \$43,900 to the project from FY 2016 CDBG Entitlement Funds. The hard cost of the project is \$1.2 million. There is about \$207,000 in engineering costs that the Authority is still paying out of pocket. The residents of the area are very thankful for the assistance from both counties. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Sather, yes; Thomas, yes).

There were no Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary