

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; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; Probation Director, Len Hahn; 911 Director, Chris Stevens; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Treasurer, Susan Harry; Mike Hannon from Tri-County Drug and Alcohol; Representatives of Local Emergency Services Agencies, DJ Drenning, Dave Dick, and Sean McGill; WTAJ Reporter, Courtney Murphy and Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn.

Jen Caron from Eckert Seamans; Debra Clark from HCB&I and EMA Director, Katie Unger participated via GoToMeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Sather. 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, yes; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There was one addition to the agenda for Len Hahn to present the CCYC Owners Agreement. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Under announcements, Commissioner Thomas asked residents to get their COVID and flu vaccines and to vaccinate their eligible children. Commissioner Sather wished everyone the best in 2023.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters to be addressed by the solicitor.

Under new business, Debra Clark from HCBI requested consideration of approval for an EZ Loan for The Meadows Frozen Custard of Huntingdon, LLC in the amount of \$132,000. Commissioner Thomas asked how much is left in the Enterprise Zone account. Ms. Clark responded that there is \$478,085.60 as of December 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Walls urged businesses who need assistance to contact HCB&I to take advantage of this program. Ms. Clark gave an overview of the Enterprise Zone program. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

The Commissioners presented Emergency Services funding totaling \$450,000. This funding is for emergency services personnel, fire and ambulance companies. \$15,000 will be given to each agency. Commissioner Thomas thanked first responders in the County for everything they do. He commented that there was a strain put on these services during COVID, and their fundraising abilities were curtailed at the same time. We hope that this funding will help. Commissioner Walls commented that all of the departments have different needs and the Commissioners wanted to be able to help everyone. There are 20 fire departments and 10 ambulance services and each will receive \$15,000. Commissioner Thomas commented that these volunteer services are having a hard time recruiting. A lot of work goes into making sure that services are provided to these areas. Kylie Hawn asked where this money is coming from. Commissioner Sather answered that it is coming from the general fund, however we would not have this opportunity had it not been for other funding through our ARPA from the federal government. Ms. Hawn asked if this is a one-time payment. Commissioner Sather confirmed. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Consideration of approval was given for Resolution 1-2023 for the TAN. This resolution authorizes the issuance of a tax and revenue anticipation note in the maximum principle amount of \$1.75 million. The note will be held by Juniata Valley Bank. It will bear interest at a tax exempt rate of 4.19%. As all TAN notes must mature in the same year in which it is issued, this note will mature on December 31, 2023. The closing and the first draw required under the tax code will take place this Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Sather asked if this can be paid off at any time without penalty. Ms. Caron confirmed.

Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, requested consideration of approval for a purchase of service agreement revision for the contract with Attorney Robert Covell. He will be taking over as the appeals attorney for the agency. This contract will run through June 30, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff requested consideration of approval for the resignation of Sara Gongloff. There will now be six open positions in the agency. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Len Hahn, Probation Director, requested consideration of approval for the Adult Probation Grant in Aid in the amount of \$23,219 through PCCD. This is for operational costs of the Adult Probation department. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Len Hahn requested consideration of approval for the CCYC owner agreement for 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Sather, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Susan Harry, Treasurer, requested consideration of approval to hire Clerk, Tayler Starr, effective 1/9/2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Sather, yes).

Jim Lettiere, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval for the selection of the EADS group as the consulting firm to prepare the County Active Transportation Plan. The contract amount is \$25,000. The plan must be completed by September 30, 2023. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes).

Kathryn Unger, EMA Director, presented an update on COVID-19. The number of county cases stands at 13,569. The State total is 2,818,439. We are in the medium level of community spread. SCI Smithfield has 21 inmates and 3 staff members testing positive. SCI Huntingdon has no inmates or staff members testing positive. The incident rate is 95.4 for the County and 90.1 for the State. PCR is at 9.1% for the County and 15.4% for the State. There has been an increase in cases among residents and staff in long-term care facilities. 25,458 people have been vaccinated in Huntingdon County and 4,374 have received their booster. There were two additional deaths in the last week for a total of 273 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Under matters for action, Commissioner Walls provided a correction that there are 24 total agencies that will receive the emergency services funding – 16 fire departments and 8 ambulance companies. Each group will receive \$18,750.

There were no 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 Heather N. Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary