

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 and Reeder; Chief Clerk, Alayna Clark; Solicitor, Larry Newton; CYS Director, Kelvin Abrashoff; EMA Interim Director, Joe Thompson; Sheriff, Jeff Leonard; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis; IT Director, Damon Miller; Vice President/Director of Transportation-Keller Engineers, Brian Wiser; County Auditor, Jaime Ewell-Irvin; Deputy Treasurer, Cathy Bilger; Register & Recorder, Kelsey Dunn; Prothonotary, Sarah Snare; District Attorney, Dave Smith; District Judge, George Zanic; DCA, Angela Robinson; MUNIS Tech, Joe Parent and guest, Danny Davis, Jinny Cooper, Greg Householder, Gary O'Korn, Ellis Griffith, Andrea Smith, Steve Calowick, Kurt Granlund, Curt McConaughy, and Michael Miller.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Reeder, yes) to approve the July 14th meeting minutes.

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

There were 2 additions to the agenda: Consideration of Approval for Courthouse paving project and Consideration of Approval for agreement with Winslow Technology.

Under Announcements, Commissioner Walls asked that MUNIS Tech, Joe Parent, would join the Public Meeting via Zoom. Commissioner Walls stated that he had a conversation a few weeks ago where he had a call with Joe Parent and Susquehanna Accounting. MUNIS also known as Tyler Technologies, provides the county financial software. Commissioner Walls stated that "Susquehanna Accounting has worked with Huntingdon County for 10 years and has done quite a lot for the county. Two CPAs from Susquehanna come into the office every week, and work with 8 other counties. When we did conversion from cash base of accounting to accrual, they provided us with that. I got Joe Parent and Susquehanna Accounting on the phone and brought Commissioner Reeder into my office because there was an issue for what all you could provide and what all Susquehanna Accounting should provide for the county." Commissioner Walls asked Joe Parent to tell the public his recommendations going forward in redoing our Chart of Accounts of what is best for the county. Joe Parent, MUNIS Tech, stated that "Ultimately what we did at your request was provided a professional service quote to rewrite the county's Chart of Accounts. To do that, leveraging our professional services, it is important to have someone who is knowledgeable, Susquehanna, helping in directing these org objects, projects, and cross walking the original Chart of Accounts into a new version of the Chart of Accounts. There are a lot of back and forth that require experience and knowledge within the county's Chart of Accounts which I believe Susquehanna will be able to provide best since they have been working with you for the past 10+ years." Commissioner Walls responded with "Thank you, yes. Originally it was thought that you would handle the whole project, and our Chief Clerk was supposed to ask you for a quote for everything, but you provided us with a quote to do your end, which you generally do the software. You recommended that we have Susquehanna take care of the rest of it for us, correct?" Joe Parent responded with, "That is correct". Commissioner Reeder asked to speak upon that and he stated, "I think you misheard what I was saying. I was saying that for two years I've been talking about this Chart of Accounts. We were supposed to hire a Fiscal Director who would have done it. But since we don't have a Fiscal Director, of course, our only option is Susquehanna Accounting. It was never a question if they could do it, the question was whether we should pay \$70,000, \$80,000, \$100,000 or should we hire a Fiscal Director. I understand you clearly and understand we must give you the data. The main question was, should we have someone in house or should we have Susquehanna Accounting?" Commissioner Walls responded with, "I'm not going to get into the weeds, but if we had a Fiscal Supervisor today, they are not trained on MUNIS to specialize programs like the Charts of Accounts and get them done this week, it would take a learning curve." Commissioner Reeder responded, "Yeah, I agree on that. That's why I said about two years ago, but yes, I agree."

Commissioner Walls addressed the comments that Commissioner Reeder put in the paper last week. Commissioner Walls stated, "First of all, I want to express my gratitude to many elected officials and others who have contacted me after the outrageous opinion articles that were submitted by Mr. Reeder and published by the Huntingdon Dailey News. To say that I'm shocked and very disappointed with the statements of Mr. Reeder is an understatement. I've been around county government for many years. I've never witnessed an elected official making such unsubstantiated and baseless claims against a colleague. First, I'd like to address the first letter you put in. You claim you're all about transparency and openness. One of your first statements was "the work is already split between a stretched Chief Clerk and an outside accounting firm". What work are you referring to in that letter?" Commissioner Reeder responded with. "We can go to every one of our authorities. That might be Center for Community Action. In other counties, these are done by the county, but what I am saying is, the biggest one is Susquehanna Accounting. Normally, almost every county that I've called, there's only one in a town in the state of Pennsylvania, Snyder County, that doesn't have a fiscal director. So just by making a normal call, we just look at Bedford and Mifflin counties, they have a lot larger staff, and they have a Fiscal Director. So that was my point; we give all our actions to outside firms. When SCMP or DCD were here, they asked, here's the ten authorities that other counties have, do you have any of them in Huntingdon County?" The answer is no. We hand it over to other people. I believe the Commissioners should be overseeing it in the county because as electors, you elect us, you would want us to oversee everything. At the end of the day, the only reason I bring this all up is for discussion. I don't say we should or shouldn't, we should at least discuss the idea and in our county we don't discuss anything, that's just a fact of it. Some ideas shouldn't be "hey, it's off the table, we shouldn't discuss it." We should discuss everything, I believe."

Commissioner Walls makes a statement to Commissioner Reeder that in his statement in the newspaper it states, "an already overwhelmed Chief Clerk". Commissioner Walls announces "In a previous job description for Chief Clerk, we did not have any fiscal management. Our Chief Clerk admitted that she did not have fiscal background. In the new job description, that was a strong requirement to have a fiscal background to assist with budgeting and to oversee the Fiscal Department. We hired Alayna. She met the description and she feels confident that can provide a lot of reporting for us. In your article you said the board voted to create the position. The board is made up of three Commissioners and the Treasurer. Your two Republican colleagues, the Treasurer and I, voted against creating that position. You and Commissioner Thomas voted for it. The only way it passed was because the Chief Clerk was allowed to vote for that. I brought it up for several months that I've talked to a lot of other counties, Chief Clerks, and appointed officials. The Chief Clerk and appointed officials who work under our supervision are unable to come to the Salary Board and vote for their own rates. It has gone on for years and I've questioned it, but I never knew. You came to me at a County Commissioner's Conference and said "Scott, I think you're right, the Chief Clerk probably can't vote. I've talked to a lot of counties." You left that ride because it doesn't suit you to not have the Chief Clerk vote on some of these issues." Commissioner Reeder commented back "If you want me to address that, you put that completely off until that meeting. Then, in that meeting, you only did it to serve what I believe your own will to, because you wanted the vote to go one way. I said we should have discussed it beforehand." Commissioner Walls stated "I did bring it up. I gave you paperwork probably month before that meeting." Commissioner Reeder stated "Our Solicitor, even looking at the county code and everything, it does say agency, which would take form our agencies. So yes, I caught you there and I did say that, but then after research, agency it is a legal term and agency means and that's how the law reads, so I go by the law." Commissioner Walls stated, "The vote would not have passed if the Chief Clerk was not allowed to vote." Commissioner Reeder stated back "I just go by the letter of law and listen to my staff."

Commissioner Walls stated "And as far as the Chart of Accounts, that you keep bring up, we heard Susquehanna Accounting was highly recommended to do this work for us. Now, I believe it's a responsibility that Commissioners could be involved in Fiscal oversight. We had a 12-year veteran in our fiscal office that was very well-versed. We have new people there now, two new people that are doing a great job, but they need to be educated. They need to receive the training. All these reports that you're citing that we need, we have the software to provide that. We don't need to pay a person; You're stating \$69,000 a year. The salary range is \$60,000-\$80,000. If you believe that we are going to get a CPA here for \$80,000, I don't know where you're coming from because I don't think we're going to keep anybody here for \$80,000. But that said, I think we have the tools, we have the programs. If we hire a physical supervisor, they are going to use the same programs that our Chief Clerk and the Fiscal Department have access to, to give us those reports." Commissioner Reeder responded, "We wouldn't know because we didn't have the interviews." Commissioner Walls commented back "The majority still rules in this county. It takes two commissioners to make a decision. The decision didn't go your way. I am sorry that makes you sad, but we looked at the application, and we didn't think that individual was qualified." Commissioner Reeder expressed "I've stated in a meeting that you voted, allow me to think we're hiring one and then didn't. You also say about we're fiscally sound. Our staff is complaining we're missing a lot of things every day with our fiscal. I will say, I have internet access, we didn't get pay statement for 6 months and the Commissioners didn't know. That should be concerning for everyone. That just goes back to having 2 clerks in the Fiscal Department. We have a \$32 million budget. I believe there is no accountability there. They are the ones doing all the bills. They have even said that they just look it over. Susquehanna isn't even paid to do that. So we have nobody, where is the money going? Nobody in our county looks at that. That is a fact. No one can prove that's not a thing. We only have 2 clerks looking over a budget that is around \$32 million. We do have staff at CYS, Fiscal Directors. But it is concerning to me, and I just

want the public to know that, because I don't think most people know that. I didn't know before I came in here. I sent this email that's in the paper month ago to my other staff, to sit down and discuss things. To this day, I've never gotten a discussion. I think in the last two weeks we haven't spoken a word. That should be an issue for everybody. The door is always open; we should always discuss everything. Disagree or agree, we should discuss things. I think the Taxpayer would want that. Commissioner Walls responded with "Commissioner Reeder, if you think by publishing things in the newspaper, disparaging me and the Board of Commissioners is going to help communication, I think you're way off base." Commissioner Reeder stated, "You see it as disparaging, but technically, I would see it as against the law, but I don't know. We have secret meetings that the public don't hear about, and we make a lot of decisions in those. For me personally, I don't like those meetings." Commissioner Walls responded, "If you're alleging there's violations of Sunshine Law, then I guess you should come out with that." Commissioner Reeder responded "Well, that would be up to the public, but I just think everything should be discussed that these meetings in front of the public. I think the public being informed would be a great help."

Commissioner Walls also addressed the second statement Commissioner Reeder put in the paper. Commissioner Walls commented "Basically, I believe it's a bunch of garbage. I don't believe it's worthy of a lot of discussion, but I do have a statement. Much like the members of media who want to attack someone for critical reasons, Mr. Reeder cited unnamed sources that state that money is missing or squandered from our County Treasury. To put an outrageous claim the newspaper not only implicated me but implicated our elected Auditors and our Treasurer's office, as well as the requirement by state to hire an accounting firm and auditing firm every year to comb our books to see if there's any misappropriation. Mr. Reeder disagreed with me about how our county should spend their money so he's making accusations that Huntingdon County citizens are questioning my integrity. His libelous rhetoric will have legal consequences. It is the job of the Commissioners to be stewards of the Taxpayer's money and that is what I do every day. I am here every day. I feel I work tirelessly on behalf of the County. If you, Mr. Reeder, came to work more often you would have a better understanding of how the county's budget operates. You want to replace with Artificial Intelligence and use that to govern. It does not replace hard work and hands-on every day. That's all I have to say about that. I've been advised by my legal team to have no further discussion on this libelous nature of the above-mentioned comments until a further path forward is determined." Commissioner Reeder responded to this statement with, "We are public officials. We can say things and you say about the sources. A squandering example is that we paid \$15,000 to a company for our printers. It was brought up about 6 or 7 months ago to stop paying this company. It's on BBB that they are a terrible company, they charge freight. We can't decide to stop it. In my statement, I said no money was taken. I truly believe nothing was taken. But at the end of the day, with our two clerks not looking into things, I can't say that for sure. Once again, you just talked about an audit. I don't know if you understand how those work. An audit just shows that bills go to one place. An investigative audit shows where that money is at. You would have to pay for an investigative audit, which we don't pay for. There are two separate audits. Our Auditors are doing an amazing job on showing money is put into one place and where it goes, but where is that place That's where an investigative audit comes in. In my view, we just have two staff, Staff could enter account information. They could pay for it from different places. I truly believe they didn't, but once again, we don't have the checks and balances that a normal company would have here, it's what I believe, it's my belief. I am an elected official. I've been told many times that I should keep to myself and not say to the public. People elected us to talk to the public. We shouldn't keep it a secret. At the end of the day, what we're supposed to do is inform the public and the public hold us to the fire. Here, I don't think it works like that. I've been told times that I/we shouldn't speak to the public. I feel like it is very confusing. That is what we do, that is what we should be doing. If you believe in something different, that is okay. At the end of the day, I as Commissioner think everyone should have their own's views and we should discuss things. It's okay to be in a disagreement." Commissioner Walls stated, "you quote if we hire a fiscal supervisor we're going to save so much money. We're paying around \$129,000 to Susquehanna Accounting now for general accounting. Then, we are paying extra for the NTIA grant which is funded through the grant for them to administer. You failed to put in your letter that after we do the Chart of Accounts, we get that lined up. Susquehanna Accounting came to us and said we're probably going to be here 40% of the time that we are now so that's going to be like \$55,000 a year instead of paying a Fiscal Supervisor maybe \$80,000 plus benefits which could be \$105,000 if we go to the top tier. You didn't put any of that in your letter that prices can be reduced." Commissioner Reeder stated "From 2019 they're charging us this. I've been bringing up for two years about these Charts of Accounts. If you don't understand our Chart of Accounts, it's not like any other county, our income doesn't match up with our expenses. It's crazy how it is set up." Commissioner Walls believed that we need to find efficiencies and the office has enough staffing in it to take care of all these things if they are properly trained. Commissioner Reeder believed that we have over a \$30 million dollar budget and don't have an accountant. We have a company that does 2-3 tasks, but it's not the overall accounting a normal accountant would have. Commissioner Reeder states "We have staff that don't have CPAs, that don't have degrees in that field, dealing with a budget that high. We don't apply for grants, and I wish we would get a Grant Writer. We apply for grants through Directors, but we don't have a dedicated Grant writer. It is scary to me that we have staff that don't have the education."

Under Public Comments, District Judge, George Zanic, expressed his concerns about hiring a Fiscal Supervisor. Judge Zanic stated, "The District Attorney's office has less staff than any District Attorney's Office in the state. My guess is it's the same in the Prothonotary, Register & Recorder, and the Commissioner's Office. We have a multi-million-dollar

budget. It is my job to oversee that budget. If I don't think I can do that, I should resign as President Judge. I want to explain what happened with the Jury Commissioners. For years, we had two Jury Commissioners. The Commissioners voted to get rid of the Jury Commissioners. That job then fell on the Courts. We've been doing that job. The Commissioners didn't just give us anybody new to perform those duties. It fell on my staff who I now have, who work, do more jobs than they're required to do. The county gives us one person in Court Administration. I don't complain because it is my job fiscally to protect the Taxpayers of Huntingdon County. What I want to know is where did the job become too great for the Commissioners to handle it. Commissioner Walls is on call 24/7. He's here every day. It's the Commissioner's job to handle the budget. If you're going to spend more money to hire fiscal people, the Courts should be able to hire more people, and the Prothonotary's office should be able to hire more people. Our jobs are all more overwhelming than they were 10 years ago. I will give you that, but it is my job. I was elected to do this job, and if I can't do it, I'm not going to come to the Commissioners and ask for more people. We have less people now working for the Courts than when I started 13 years ago. The job has probably tripled the caseload, all the fiscal responsibilities, the requirements for the state, all of that is tripled. Maybe they complain about it, but we're not doing anything about it. They just buckle down and show up for work and do their job." Commissioner Reeder responded, "I want to ask, in 2019 we hired this company, so we were having issues then in 2019, that's why we hired this company." Commissioner Walls responded, "We hired the company originally because we were 1 of 3 counties in the whole state that was still on a cash basis of accounting. They wanted us to get to accrual, or they were going to threaten our CDBG Grant Funds and other funds. That was something we had to do. We brought them in and we seen all the expertise they had from other counties. At that time, we said why don't you guys stick around and give us your expertise on other fiscal matters." Commissioner Reeder stated, "It grew from \$37,000 to 164,000 over the years."

Jinny Cooper, Henderson Township visitor, announced, "I am a retired elected official, and there are other previous elected officials in this room as well. I must wholeheartedly agree with the Judge, Commissioner Reeder. It's your job. That's what we elected you for. It's your job to maintain and make sure that our county's budget is being handled the way it should be handled. It was Sarah's job to handle my budget. It is Sarah's job to handle hers. It is Kelsey's job to handle hers. It is the Sheriff's job to handle his. You are responsible for that. Anybody who thinks that a Commissioner's job is not a 40 hour plus week job is surely mistaken. If you are not able to be here that amount of time, you should not have run for office." Commissioner Reeder responded back "I work 60-100 hours a week. I agree with that 100%. That's why I want this fiscal supervisor." Ms. Cooper snapped back, "Not fiscal, you have to look at that budget. You are responsible for that budget. If you think that funds are not being paid where they should be paid, it is your job to investigate that. The comment about everything needs to be discussed in public, there is not a corporate official that you will ever talk to that tells you that's the way they handle their business. Larry Newton does not talk to his staff about everything he's going to do in his business before he does it. You must discuss things between the 3 Commissioners. That's not a secret meeting, that's just a discussion, that's what managers do." Commissioner Reeder responded, "The Pennsylvania Law was set in place to stop those kinds of things. You should discuss strategies and things like that. If I am hiring someone or anything like that issue, by law that has to be discussed to the public. Discussion with things like Union Contracts can be discussed privately but we have to say we're in a second session and talk about that, so the public is at least aware." Ms. Cooper expressed, "You have meetings on Mondays before the Tuesday Public Meeting. That's the way things operate. You don't bring everything to the public, and you certainly don't make a statement in a public meeting that there are secret meetings going on between the Commissioners. Your own Solicitor will tell you that's not a good idea. You're implying that things are happening that are not happening." Commissioner Reeder responded, "I just try to be transparent and tell the truth. If you guys don't want to hear it, that's okay. Just to let you know, these letters in general were sent months ago and we didn't have a single discussion. So at the end of the day, discussion is crucial for everybody. I think people like to be transparent and that's all I'm doing."

Cathy Bilger, Deputy Treasurer, stated, "I am taking a little bit of offense." Deputy Treasurer Bilger handles crucial accounts for the county. She keeps track of grants. Deputy Treasurer Bilger states, "If there's something that's not coming in, usually the Commissioners will talk to me, and I help look for it. I take big offense to what was put in the newspaper. I think my job is important. I am willing to do more. If you need more, I need to be asked. The Treasurer's office is a part of this too. I do all the bank accounts. I am in charge of 100 bank accounts. I keep weekly financial reports and keep the Commissioners informed on how much is in each account. No one has ever come to me and said that my reporting is not sufficient." Commissioner Reeder responded, "The Treasurer's office and our office is technically separate, so we're different elected officials. Your office does amazing. I would say our workers, especially you in general, do 10 times what other workers do. I 100% would make a public statement that our employees do an amazing job." Commissioner Walls apologized to Deputy Treasurer Bilger if there was any offense taken and that he could speak for Commissioner Thomas and himself that they appreciate all the work that is done in the Treasurer's Office.

Steve Calowick, visitor, asked Commissioner Reeder, "Do you know what Accrual Accounting versus Cash-Based Accounting is? Do you know what that meaning is versus solvency and stuff like that with the financial side of it? Do you know what approval accounting is?" Commissioner Reeder answered, "Yes. When we get the money this year, we match it back to last year to make the budget which our Chart of Accounts doesn't, so when they throw it in there. I always told

everyone, you can Right-To-Know to get our budget and I have every county around us in Mifflin, Bedford, and match them up.” Mr. Calowick responded to Commissioner Reeder, “You always talk about other counties. Whenever you’re the Commissioner of Huntingdon County, so why do you always bring up other counties? Why don’t you work with our county and help make it better instead of always bringing up what other counties do?” Commissioner Reeder stated, “I learned from other counties that you don’t want to reinvent the wheel and we have CCAP multiple times a year who have a county for the whole state in which they have Blueprint Laws. I do write the documents and give them to other Commissioners. Everything I put in email; I put in documents. I don’t know if they read them because we don’t discuss them normally. But yes, I believe it’s just looking at other counties to not reinvent the wheel. Some things they do bad. Some things they do good. We can learn from everybody. I talked to 10 counties during the week. I call all the other Commissioners from other counties and get their views on things and trade ideas.” Commissioner Walls asked Commissioner Reeder “You’ve wrote a 130-page manual, correct?” Commissioner Reeder corrected Commissioner Walls “320-page manual.” Commissioner Walls continue to explain “300-page manual on how Commissioners should conduct business and get some pointers and ideas for them. So yeah, he’s written a 300-page manual for us.” Commissioner Reeder corrected Commissioner Walls again stating that is a “manual of ideas”. Commissioner Reeder continued to explain “CCAP was looking at it; it might be a state-run book that we’re trying to put in place. So, the whole county will go off this booklet that I put together. A lot of time and the things that I learned from being in this office that I put into a manual that hopefully the whole state can look at. I think it is fine for our county to be able to put that out there. That’s a Huntingdon County manual.”

Gary O’Korn, former Commissioner and former Interim Auditor, explained “The first thing is that when you form a board, any board, but especially a board of Commissioners, you have to build that trust. You bring up Sunshine Laws, there’s a fine line there. You need to have these meetings so you can have discussions. See what the other Commissioner’s opinion is on things so that you can make informed decisions. I think you’ve broken that trust. I think you’ve broken the trust of a lot of people in this room, department heads, because you went public with things that aren’t necessarily needed to go to the public. That’s your opinion on what you want to do. But I would think that you’re going to have a long, long time building trust again with the people that you serve. I am sorry that you have gone through that, but hopefully you learned from it. If you have my experience, if I have a question on how money is being spent or if something doesn’t look right, I go to that department. I have discussions. I go to Auditors and say, “look out for this. Have you seen anything along these lines?” That’s how you investigate things. I don’t know if you’re doing that.” Commissioner Reeder responded, “I agree 100%. You said it perfectly. That’s how I found the printers. I do go to the staff and we do track things down, like the lake money, the forestry money, the printers, and anything I see, I go to the staff. That is being done on the Commissioner’s side. It’s not an issue of that; it’s just an issue of we can always discuss things and run more. That’s just one of the things. I’m hearing my staff complain about things. You don’t just push your staff off. You don’t say you don’t like to discuss things. It’s always been, and I hear this a lot, “it’s always been done this way, so let’s not even do it.” It’s one of those things; we can look at everything and just discuss it and come to a better way.” Commissioner Walls asked Commissioner Reeder, “Should we discuss it privately or should we discuss it in public?” Commissioner Reeder responded “In public. I believe everything should be.”

Danny Davis, visitor, stated, “I’ve been at office for a long time. It seems to me there is a major rupture. I think it’s time for you guys, on account of honest, hardworking people back here, that are obviously very good at their job, to give their time and effort to explain their positions very well. It’s time for you two, and Jeff too, to lay your swords down. It’s not working, and it’s obvious, and I’m not going to point fingers, I am not here for that, but you can do better than that. Mr. Reeder, it seems somebody’s got to offer an olive branch. I’m not much for budget, I’m not good with numbers, I have ADD bad. But it’s going to start with you. I’m not throwing stones, but it has to really be somewhere that there’s only one solid. I know Scott somewhat, and I know Jeff somewhat, and I know very well-qualified attorney here, Larry. It’s time to put this to bed. You can’t do your job by arguing, thrashing and even hypothetically insinuating. I’ve been around long enough and that doesn’t work. You guys must bury that. If you are going to get the job done, use Judicial Christian value in this, you’re going to have to bury the sword. It is obvious to everyone. It’s like a major leak.” Commissioner Reeder responded, “I will say again, I hold, because I’m a man of the Lord, and I hold no grudges, and right now today, I hold no grudges about what was done in the past. I will gladly do discussions, and I’ll say I agree with you 100%.” Mr. Davis stated, “I would suggest staying out of the paper for a while. I am willing also, and I think the good people in this room are on your side also to a certain respect. We expect you to offer an offering, shake hands. If it’s hard to do, then we shouldn’t be here. We’ve all had to do that. You win some, you lose some. But here, when you guys lose, we all do. That becomes person and that’s not fair. It’s not fair to you, because I think you really do have people in mind, you’re just going the wrong way about it. Do something about. We live in Huntingdon County, a small rural county. We are so lucky to live in Huntingdon County.”

Jaime Ewell-Irvin, County Auditor, made a statement to Commissioner Reeder “First I want to say, when you say secret, it’s inflammatory. When you publish that, you can say in one line that you don’t think this is happening, but you put it out there. The seed is planted; I’m not just saying that as the County Auditor, I am saying that as a constituent. You have opened a can of worms now and I think you’ve heard that, so I am just going to piggyback on that. Words are

inflammatory and as far as being the County Auditor, bring us anything you want. You want us to dive into anything, we will. I brought the Commissioners after our October convention; it was brought to our attention as Auditors in the state to audit the Visitors Bureau. I brought that up to the Commissioners and we gave them three-quarters of a million dollars. It runs through the Treasurer's office under the Hotel Excise Tax. We gave them three-quarters of a million dollars, \$748,000 last year. I brought that to the Commissioners and cited the county code. I've heard nothing. We audit the library." Commissioner Reeder responded, "This would be my point, that should be in a Public Meeting. We should talk about that. That could have died in a back room where it should have been talked about here." Auditor Irvin asked, "Where was it killed in the backroom?" Commissioner Reeder responded, "I didn't make the agenda. I don't do the agendas, but it should have made it to an agenda, and we should have talked about it. I was all for the audit. That was probably something that was talked about outside this meeting room, and that is a very good point. We could have discussed that in public and made a formal decision. That's how it should work. It doesn't work in our county like that. But I believe that this is my personal opinion, that's how it should work." Someone made a comment, "As a Commissioner, you have the right to bring anything to the agenda." Commissioner Reeder replied, "How it works here is if I bring an idea, and the other two don't vote, it doesn't go on the agenda." Commissioner Walls explained "You have the right to ask at the Public Meeting to do an addition to the agenda. The chairman does set the general agenda. I have the right to decide the order and what goes on the agenda. I've been in favor of that. I think our Tourism Bureau has spent funds, I'll state it publicly, and I think we need to know where those funds go to. I did request information from the Visitors Bureau on all their financial dealings, and first I was told I only need to be given you what portion that we spend on the County Funds. I then finally did get a full accounting."

Ellis Griffith, Todd Township, stated, "I have dealt with a number of these people in this auditorium tonight. Let me tell you something, when these people speak, I've learned from experience, listen and do what you need to do and stay out of the newspaper."

Commissioner Walls made one last statement, "I do have one other thing I'd like to read. We have been approached by the Army Corps of Engineers. They're looking at different ways to ensure that their facilities are open when there's a budget in place. Yesterday, it showed up on Facebook, Commissioner Reeder, a young guy, he likes to use social media, and that's certainly his right. I got a letter on Monday from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers: "Good afternoon, Commissioner Walls. Thank you to Commissioner Reeder for reaching out with follow-up questions, and to the Huntingdon County Board of Commissioners for providing us with the opportunity to meet on July 9th. We appreciate the County's interest in exploring potential recreation partnerships. To ensure we are aligned, I want to clarify that USACE is strictly in an exploratory, fact-finding phase. We are currently engaging in preliminary, informational conversations with multiple potential partners to gather feedback and determine the best strategic direction for the long-term sustainment of our recreation areas. Because we are in this initial phase and do not have a formal framework in place, it is premature to define a specific operational scope, negotiate fee structures, or accept formal submissions. However, to provide general context on the operation concepts raised by Commissioner Reeder: Under typical cooperative joint management frameworks, the scope can include various combinations of Project Service Areas (PSAs). Fees collected within the agreement boundary can generally be utilized across any of the cooperative sites covered under that specific agreement, rather than being restricted to the single point of collection. The exact parameters of operations, maintenance responsibilities, and fee retention are determined by the specific legal instrument used and would remain subject to federal statutory guidelines and agency oversight. Because we are not yet at the stage of negotiating formal terms, we do not feel that regular monthly coordination meetings are necessary at this time. To help us maintain a streamlined and unified channel of communication during this exploratory phase, we kindly request that any future formal correspondence or official declarations of the Board's position be routed to USACE through you, as the Board Chairman. We truly value the County's enthusiasm and look forward to keeping you informed as our internal planning processes move forward."

Commissioner Walls stated, "I thought I would just clear the air. When things are put on social media, you see one side of things and there's a lot of judgement and things created." Commissioner Reeder responded, "From that post, you, the public, finally got to know about the lake that's been talked about for a long time. You guys would have never known if this wasn't said. Huge opportunities here. The idea right now at our stages, like you read the email, is at the exploration phase. We just have to submit a letter saying that for the next year we can have discussions. That's all I ask for is to have discussions. In my view, we should always have discussions, especially about the lake. I will not say that I know everything about the project. I may even say, don't have to give us that information over the next year, but we should discuss it. We shouldn't just say that you know what, we're not going to talk to anybody because this is how we've done it. That's all I'm asking for it to hold us to the fire, do our job, and have the meetings." Commissioner Walls explains, "The Army Corps clearly states don't call us, we'll call you." Commissioner Reeder replied, "Well, they say go through you, and I am hoping you don't stop at all right there. That is a concern of mine, and I hope, like this, we've never sat down and had a discussion. This was brought up a year or two ago, but now they're formally coming up. We've never sat down and had a formal discussion between the Commissioners, it's been years."

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Joe Thompson, EMA Interim Director, asked for Consideration of Approval of PEMA Virtual In-Service Training. Commissioner Reeder commented that ever since Director Thompson stepped into these positions, he's been doing an amazing job, he's been amazing with the updates, and he's really show what he can do in this position. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Reeder, yes).

Kelvin Abrashoff, CYS Director, asked for Consideration of Approval to hire Zeynep Ozdemir as Caseworker I effective 7/27/2026. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Director Abrashoff asked to make a few quick comments about the prior discussion. Director Abrashoff stated, "I do kind of tread lightly because I am an appointed official as opposed to elected, so I am at the mercy of this board. I've been doing this job, I think, for just about 4 years now. I think this is kind of like the most uneasy, I thought as a department head, just listening and I have no skin in this game. Today, what I will say is that I think it was mentioned as a department head I want to know that this board is effective and it's working together. I want to highlight for my department and other departments that this Commissioner's Board can be financially sound and responsible. Last year, my department saw the financial issue with CCYC and the financial restraints that were going to happen with the county. If something did not change due to the state's change in which they were not going to reimburse us, if children were not placed in CCYC and our costs continue to increase over time. Patrick, you took this and the contract was able to be completely renegotiated. Looking at finalizing the 2025-2026 budget year, we're looking at paying CCYC half of what we paid in the following year. I just want to reiterate and promote that good work can be done, financially responsible work by catching it at the level. I think as Judge Zanic stated, it is my responsibility to catch issues. I brought it to the board, and I think resolution has happened as we start to see those things. I strongly encourage that this board moves forward. I respect all of you in the position that you hold because I wouldn't want to do your job and you probably wouldn't want mine, but that's the job that we all have. I just wanted to hopefully spin the atmosphere that was continuing through this meeting to say that good work can be done. Hopefully we can look at that and say that department heads can be financially responsible, and this board can be financially responsible as well to make changes because I have seen it done. Just that example has saved the county \$200,000, just by catching that. If I could put a plug in CCYC, they all look for employees. It's 5 counties. We really dug into there and redid that entire contract. It was \$440,000."

Jeff Leonard, Sheriff, asked for Consideration of Approval to hire Bryanna Metz as Deputy Sheriff effective approximately 8/04/2026. Sheriff Leonard noted that he has open positions. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Reeder, yes).

Brian Wiser, Vice President/Director of Transportation- Keller Engineer Strategies, asked for Consideration of Approval to apply the required Resolution to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the County Bridge No. 8 (St. Mary's Covered Bridge) Rehabilitation Project. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, asked for Consideration of Approval for Modification #1 for HB CDBG FY 2025. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Walls, yes; Reeder, yes).

Consideration of Approval for agreement for Courthouse Paving Project. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes).

Damon Miller, IT Director, asked for Consideration of Approval for agreement with Winslow Technology. Director Miller explained that this program monitors the county's network, monitors all activity on the computers as well as emails, and alerts him of any suspicious activities. The program is pricey but is a lot cheaper than what it would cost the county in the event of a ransomware attack. Commissioner Reeder explained that it doesn't fully stop the act. Director Miller argued that. Director Miller explained that an agent is installed and if suspicious activity is detected, the agent is instructed to isolate that machine. It stops the activity from hopping to another machine. Commissioner Walls commented, "We hired Damon for his expertise in making recommendations to us. I totally trust his recommendations. I have to go with them and I appreciate your work. I cannot rely on other opinions that may not have the technical ability and knowledge you have." It was moved for discussion by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Walls and failed (Walls, yes; Reeder, no).

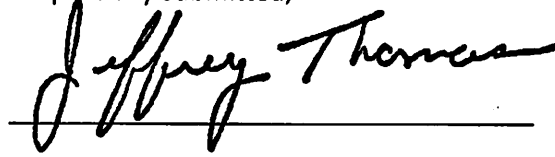
There were no Matters for Action.

There was 1 Veteran Burial Allowances

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Reeder to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Alayna L. Clark, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary