

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; Planning Director, Laurie Nearhood; Community Development Administrator, Jen Bellis 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 Walls and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Commissioner Thomas.

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 to remove the agenda item regarding the Episcopal Church parking agreement as it was acted on last week. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes) to remove this item to the agenda.

Under announcements, Commissioner Walls commented that a lot of private groups are sending out applications for mail-in ballots. Any organization can send these out. Sometimes this causes confusion for members of the public, who think that our office is sending out multiple applications because of something wrong with the first application. If you have already completed an application there is no need to complete another one. Heather Fellman commented that when our office receives multiple applications from the same person we process each one. The first will be approved and all subsequent applications will be declined. If you have your email address listed on your application you will get a decline notice for each extra application submitted. You can always feel free to give our office a call to check the status of your application and we would be happy to look into that for you.

Under public comments, Joe Thompson asked if there will be sample ballots available. Heather Fellman responded that there will be. I believe we will have them available by the end of the week.

There were no matters to be addressed by the Solicitor.

Under new business, Laurie Nearhood, Planning Director, requested consideration of approval to appoint Nathan Querry to the Active Transportation Committee. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Reeder and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, yes; Reeder, yes).

Jen Bellis, Community Development Administrator, requested consideration of approval for Resolution 3-2024 for Fair Housing. April is Fair Housing month and this resolution is an annual requirement for the CDBG program. It was moved by Commissioner Reeder, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and carried (Reeder, yes; Walls, yes; Thomas, yes).

Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk, provided notice of removal of a candidate from the ballot for the 2024 Presidential Primary. We finalized ballots on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This was prior to the resolution of all litigation involving removal of candidates from the ballots. The reason that we moved forward when we did is that March 18<sup>th</sup> was the very last day we could finalize the ballots if we were going to have them in time for the primary. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into preparing for every election. After signing off on the ballots on March 18<sup>th</sup>, we had to provide all of the ballot data to our device programmers and receive the media for each of our machines from our programmers, test every machine, and then send the final print approval to our printer, who then has to print and ship our ballots. So even though we signed off on March 18<sup>th</sup> to move forward, we still do not expect to have ballots in house until April 4<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to begin sending ballots to mail-in and absentee voters is April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting that deadline. We expect to begin sending ballots on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The candidate that has been removed from the ballot is Joseph A Vodvarka. He is seeking the office of US Senator for the Republican Party. You will still see this name on your ballots, however any votes cast for this individual will not be counted, as he has been removed from the ballot by the Courts. If anyone has any concerns about that, they can contact the Election Office and we would be happy to discuss. Commissioner Thomas commented that we are not the only county that is in this situation. Frankly, we would normally have already started mailing of the ballots under normal circumstances. The failure of the Court system and the State to resolve these cases in a timely manner has created difficulties for all Pennsylvania Counties. Heather Fellman commented that the vast majority of counties did decide to move forward, as we did, prior to the settlement of this case.

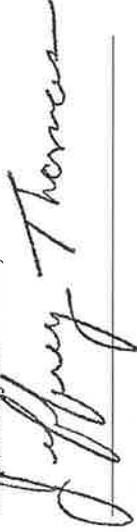
There were no Matters for Action.

There were 4 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary