

Huntingdon, PA

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

22-2021

The regular meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Commissioner's Office with the following present via GoToMeeting: Commissioners Sather, Walls and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Heather Fellman; Solicitor, Larry Newton; Planning Director, Jim Lettiere; Daily News Reporter, Kylie Hawn and guest, Teri Provost.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Walls. Heather Fellman conducted roll call of all call-in participants and discussed policies and procedures for public comment during the meeting. All participants will be muted for the duration of the meeting except during public comment periods. During public comment periods, participants will be unmuted individually to ensure that everyone is heard. Prayer was led by Commissioner Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led 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 previous meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Walls, seconded by Commissioner Sather and carried (Walls, yes; Thomas, no; Sather, yes) to approve payment of bills.

There were no additions to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

There were no public comments.

Under matters to be addressed by the solicitor, Solicitor Newton announced there will be a special meeting of the Huntingdon County General Authority held tomorrow at 2:00PM. There will be two items of business discussed at this meeting. One is the indemnification agreement with Juniata College and the other is the cooperation agreement with the EBT.

Under new business, Jim Lettiere requested consideration of approval for a professional services agreement with Susquehanna Economic Development Authority Council of Governments (SEDACOG) for the purposes of completing environmental reviews for CDBG projects. Teri Provost is the Director of Housing Rehabilitation with SEDACOG is participating in this meeting as well. Mr. Lettiere consulted with Southern Alleghenies to see if they provide these services and they do not. There is nothing that would preclude us from entering into this agreement with SEDACOG. They are an approved COSTARS provider so we do not have to go through the competitive bidding process. Prior to utilizing SEDACOG services, environmental reviews were conducted in house by staff and Bucky Ziegler did some of them as well. At this point, we have run into some critical issues with the amount of projects that we have and trying to get these done. Our Community Development Administrator has the ability to do some of these but she has not had the opportunity to get adequately trained. It is anticipated that in the future she will take over. In the interim, we would like to enter into this agreement from June 15, 2021 through June 15, 2023 on an as-needed basis. There is no obligation to use their services for every environmental review. At this point, we have two projects we would like them to complete. One is a five-year tiered environmental review for housing rehabilitation county-wide. That also includes up to five tier-two, which are more particular environmental reviews based on the individual homes that will be rehabilitated at a cost of \$6,000. All other ERs will be at a cost of \$5,500. To fund this, we have some program income funds that were recaptured from previously invested monies for housing rehabilitation. We have about \$30,000 in there to use towards environmental reviews. Commissioner Thomas asked if Huntingdon County had worked with SEDACOG for ERs before. Ms. Provost commented that she is not aware of any time the Huntingdon County has worked with SEDACOG for ERs. Ms. Provost explained the process and rationale for environmental reviews at Commissioner Walls' request. Commissioner Walls commented that it is good for the public to know that we try to bring money into the County to benefit our residents. There is quite a lot of red tape and hoops to jump through. We appreciate the Planning Department and SEDACOG for all of the hard work they do behind the scenes. Kylie Hawn asked for clarification on the different tiers and their costs. It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Walls and carried (Thomas, yes; Sather, yes; Walls, yes) to approve the agreement pending solicitor review.

There were no Matters for Action.

There was 1 Veteran's Burial Allowances.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Walls to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Heather Fellman, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary