

January 21, 2021

1.

There was a Commissioners meeting at 2:00 AM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road Small Conference Room for the regular scheduled Commissioners meeting. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgeway and Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Kurt Brungard, Josh Nespoli, Treasurer Creveling, Matthew Repasky and Marcie Strachko. Via Zoom: Jon Guizar, Michelle Frye, Sheriff Chamberlain, Tom Stepanski, Jeannie Lapinski, Jenn Long, Don Coleman, Jack Hauser, Wade Mays and Eric Stahley.

A motion was made by Ridgeway and seconded by Kovach to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. The motion unanimously passed.

There was a 10:00 work session held in attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgeway, Kovach, Marcie Strachko, Treasurer Cindy Creveling, Rich Kisner, Josh Nespoli, Eric Boughner. Via Zoom: Mike Lester, Jenn Long, Tyler Dombroski, Tim Chamberlain, Jeannie Lapinski, Don Coleman, Tom Lawson, Wade Mays.

Jen started the meeting by providing a COVID-19 update informing the Commissioners that her group is still taking phone calls for the rapid testing however it has slowed down and there are still about 300 tests with March expiration dates. They used Twitter and FaceBook to remind residents. Mike Lester of the Press-Enterprise said if he is provided a press release he can put something in the paper. Long stated the Department of Health is scheduled to again have a testing site located at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds for February 5<sup>th</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be a drive thru. The concern is the plow and cinder due to inclement weather. Long congratulated the county as a whole for doing a phenomenal job. Long and Yoder have a call with information for vaccines on Friday. She mentioned once the nursing home facilities were vaccinated there may be additional vaccines for everyone else. She relayed a personal story about the Veterans and PCP calling family members for vaccination appointments. Ridgeway provided a phone number from GMC 570-284-3657 to distribute to individuals who do not have computer access to schedule through "mygeisinger".

Rich Kisner presented project plans for Mulberry Hill, and extension of Bloom Mills. It is housing for low-income senior 62+. There are 44 units on floors 2, 3 and 4, with a waiting list of a 100 people. The first floor will be a community facility with a commercial kitchen, activity room and conference room with tools for training. There will be an outside pavilion with WIFI. It will be available at no cost for commissioners, 4 H, CYS, etc. The offices of redevelopment, housing, chamber and united way will be housed here. Kisner is asking for \$225,150 from Act 137 funds. Ridgeway asked if there were any issues with vacant properties when people move into this housing. Kisner said it's never been track, but he's never heard a complaint. Discussion regarding Columbia County water mitigation money was started by Ridgeway asking Tom Lawson why is there only \$300,000 of the 1.6/1.8 million allocated. Lawson said there were several change orders with one costing \$646,000 for ash removal on Railroad Street. He was going to put together a report for the who, what, when and where the money was spent. Young said the explanation should have been before not after the project. Lawson agreed and committed to having the report by the work session on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.

In regards to the bids to be opened at 2:00, Kurt Brungard was asked if there were two times posted for the bid. There was discussion regarding the Datom Products contract. Jenn Long had Solicitor McDonald review the contract and she need the commissioners to approve and sign it. Long has used this company for years and has a good working relationship with them. Ridgeway noted their contact (Datom) information was not on the contract. Strachko reviewed the personnel changes and Finance Director Lapinski reviewed the bills. Lester from the Press-Enterprise asked about Larry Kopp and LERTA and Catawissa. Commissioners stated while they liked the idea, Kopp needed the backing of the school district and local municipality. Young suggested he reach out to Benton Boro as they revitalized based off of Ricketts Glen.

Young adjourned the work session.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Screener – December Report:

Courthouse:	Visitors	2,872
	Alarms	2,149
	Guns	4
	Knives	14
	Misc	4

Annex:	Visitors	2,548
	Alarms	2,198
	Guns	2
	Knives	21
	Misc	7

Sheriff – December Report:

Revenue:

Interest:	\$32.25
Civil	\$3,613.00
Lic To Carry	\$3,591.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$114.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$50.00
Personal Prop	\$231.00
Real Estate	\$2,598.18
Warrant	\$434.00
Total	\$10,663.43

Magistrates – December Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	186	\$3,555.83
Bloomsburg	365	\$7,675.42
Catawissa	235	\$6,228.56
Millville	214	\$3,875.29

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – December Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$11,591.05  
Total business all sources was \$15,863.93

Clerk of Courts – December Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$20,162.80  
Total business all sources was \$42,802.71

Register & Recorder – December Report:

\$33,489.74 was collected in commissions and fees  
\$2,316.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund  
\$1,544.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund  
\$10,622.09 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund  
\$1,831.29 was collected in Remote Access Fee

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve the use of \$225,150 in Affordable Housing Trust Funds for the Mulberry Mill Apartment Project.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Young; all approved

- B. Discussion regarding the Columbia County's water mitigation money that assisted in paying for the flood wall

- C. Approve the opening of the bids for bridge 154

K. Brungard clarified there were two different times: 1 advertised and 1 in the packet. Solicitor McDonald stated to open all bids received up to 1:00; do not open any received after 1:00. 13 bids received; 12 opened, 1 was late.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved the lowest bid with approval of Engineers.

- D. Approve the continued agreement with First Columbia Bank and Trust as the depository for County funds

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved, Young abstained

- E. Approve First Keystone Bank as an Auxiliary account for County Funds

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved, Young abstained

- F. Approve Attorney McDonald as Solicitor for the Columbia County Election Board for 2021.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- G. Approve the Chief Clerk for the Columbia County Elections Board for 2021.

Motion by Young seconded by Kovach; all approved

- H. Authorize Chief Clerk to act on any disputed electoral issues and to issue Watcher's Certificates to candidates and parties as entitled by law during 2021.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- I. Approve Matthew Repasky and Thea Karas to act as clerks on behalf of the Columbia County Board of Elections for conducting election matters.

Matthew Repasky thanked everyone for the hire of Thea. She is very good for the office. Young said she is awesome!

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

- J. Approval to notify Judges, Inspectors & Clerks of Poll School for the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Municipal Primary and Municipal Election Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Young; all approved

- K. Advertising Approval:

1. Public Test of the Unisyn System of Voting for Municipal Primary and Election.
2. The Return Board convenes Friday, after the Municipal Primary and Election
3. Casting of lots for tie votes (if any) at the Municipal Primary and Municipal Election.
4. "Notice of Municipal Primary" in the newspaper listing office titles which will appear on the Primary ballot.
5. "Notice Municipal Election" in the newspaper, listing office titles and candidates which will appear on the Election ballot.
6. Any and all additional advertising that may be necessary to conduct Election in 2021.
7. Notices of change polling places (if any) that may be necessary.

Young thanked all who helped with the election stating everyone did a great job.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- L. Approve the extension of our current agreement with Datom Products Inc. as the County's Primary Hazmat Response Team

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

- M. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES/STEP INCREASES/PROMOTIONS:

- Lynn Dixson, Clerk, Tax, 6 month Step inc, 2/10/21

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

N. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS/COURT EMPLOYEE HIRES/STEP INCREASES/PROMOTIONS:

- Denise Clouser, Admin Asst, Courts, 4 yr step inc, 1/17/21

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

I. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/RETIREMENTS:

- Richard Stofko, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 1/24/2021
- Christopher McClintock. PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 1/12/21
- Samantha Yeich, Caseworker 1, CYS, Resignation, 1/22/21
- Carol Fraley, Intake Officer, DRO, Retirement, 2/26/21

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 1-8-21 totaling \$432,191.78

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 1-8-21 totaling \$1,714.74

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

AJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach. The motion passed.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Witchev, Chief Clerk