

February 3, 2022

There was a Commissioners meeting at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road Small Conference Room for the regular scheduled Commissioners meeting. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling and Julye Wemple. By zoom: Alex Karpinski, Eric Stahley, Eric Boughner, Sheriff Chamberlain, Jen Long.

Commissioner Young called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the prior meeting.

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.

There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Eric Boughner, Harry Mathias, Commissioner Finn, Jennifer Wakeman, Carrie Poff, Melissa McGarry, John Dolmetsch, Roger Hayes Bob Christianson, Matt Hess, Rachael Swartwood Julye Wemple, and Tim Hippensteel. Via Zoom were the following individuals: Jenn Long, Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Fred Gaffney, Geralee Zeigler, Gini Fiegals-Karr, Sheriff Chamberlain, Tim Murphy, Diane Cizewski, and Jean Lapinski. Commissioner Young called the meeting to order and asked Business Information Group (BIG) representatives to start the meeting. John Dolmetsch started the conversation about the current broadband challenges that exist in Columbia County. He stated that the coverage map he received from DRIVE and what coverage they predict with the assets listed they is a significant gap from what the Commissioners thought Columbia County was going to have versus what broadband services are available. John stated that there are not enough towers to cover the terrain in Columbia County and there also may be some configuration issues with the towers also. John then discussed their proposal and the first thing they will do is do a coverage study, which includes the survey of all locations and all related equipment. He also stated that there would be two way authentication of the equipment currently be utilized for the Broadband project, and that the equipment selected is good equipment and is what BIG would have selected for the project. The third item is create an as built document and the remedies required to have broadband be able to be received by more constituents of the county. The goal is that 80% of the individuals that desire the wireless broadband would be able to receive it, since 100% is not economically feasible. BIG would start within either one or two weeks once the contract is signed. Commissioner Ridgway then stated that the original mission of the Broadband Project was to provide internet to the underserved constituents within Columbia County and that 58 people currently on the system is not serving that. A constituent of the County also stated that she agreed with Commissioner Ridgway. Harry Mathias also asked to speak and described what had occurred from the beginning when the CARES Funding first came out and the limited time the Commissioners had to have the project complete (which was later extended. Bob Christianson then presented the Commissioners information regarding the sewer project map for South Centre Township. The Commissioner then discussed the Wyoming Valley Mitigation Flooding Funds and agreed to table the item to the next meeting. Jean then reviewed cash and bills; the rest of the agenda was reviewed and then the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer – January Report  
\$2,518.00 County Commission

Register & Recorder – January Report:  
\$38,588.82 was collected and remitted to the County  
\$2,070.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund  
\$1,380.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund  
\$8,194.74 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund  
\$2,116.18 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Screeners – January Report  
Courthouse:  
Visitors 5,117  
Alarms 2,806  
Weapons: Guns 6  
Knives 33  
Misc 15

Annex:		
Visitors		4,408
Alarms		2,390
Weapons:	Guns	2
	Knives	53
	Misc	14

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 update

B. Discussion regarding the Wyoming Valley Mitigation Funds utilized for the second phase of the floodwall by the Town of Bloomsburg and the Bloomsburg School District

C. Approve Business Information Group to perform the study of Columbia County's current broadband services currently being provided to the constituents thru DRIVE for \$26,550

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

D. Approve the Resolution opposing PennDOT's implementation of Act 88 of 2012 regarding the tolling for bridges on Pennsylvania Interstates

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

E. Approve designation of agent for CDBG; Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the purpose of obtaining federal financial assistance.

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve the letter of support to District 3 (Northumberland County) Community Traffic Safety Project for Federal Fiscal Years 2023-2024

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES/STEP INCREASES/PROMOTIONS:

- Angel Figueroa-Vazquez, Promoted to FT CO, Prison, 12/19/21
- Zack Lewis, FT CO, Jail, 6 month step increase, 11/30/21
- Blake Keefer, FT CO, Jail, 6 month step increase, 11/30/21
- Nicholas Snyder, FT CO, Jail, 6 month step increase, 11/30/21
- Sarah Trump, Per Diem LPN, Jail, Rehire, 1/24/22
- Melissa Swerdon, FT Nurse, Jail, Hire, 1/31/22
- Alex Karpinski, Deputy Director, Jail, Hire, 2/6/22
- Lauren Breiner, Telecommunicator Trainee, ECEN, Hire, 2/6/22
- Caroline Creasy, Admin Asst, Planning, 15 yr step increase, 2/6/22
- Carrie Lockard, Legal Secretary, PD, 6 month step, 12/21/21
- Danielle Parker, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 2/22/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Nadine Valiquette, Judicial Secretary, DM Lawton, Hire, 2/3/22

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Nicholas Andreson, PT CO, Jail, Termination, 1/25/22

- David Lytle, PT under 30, PT CO, Termination, 1/11/22
- Samantha Smedley, PT under 30, PT CO, Termination, 1/11/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 2/4/2022 for \$4,400,124.74

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American paper bills from 2/4/22 for \$2,233.10

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; abstain by Ridgway; motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

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

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