

February 4, 2021

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, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski and Eric Boughner. Via Zoom: Don Coleman, Sheriff Chamberlain, Eric Stahley, Jen Long, Jeremy Brown, Teri Provost, Register & Recorder Lupini, and Julye Wemple.

A motion was made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgeway 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, and Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Eric Boughner and Jean Lapinski. Via Zoom: Jen Long, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Teri Provost, Tim Murphy, Tyler Dombroski, Sheriff Chamberlain, Wade Mays, and Tom Lawson.

Jen Long started the meeting by providing the COVID-19 update informing the Commissioners that the testing site will be starting to test individuals at 9:00 on February 5th, and that Maintenance had everything plowed from the recent snowstorm. The site will be utilizing PCR tests which take about 5-7 days to get the results. They are not anticipating a large turnout for testing. Jen also mentioned that Bloomsburg University will start testing the returning. Teri then provided an update of the two RFP's on the agenda and that she was there seek the board's approval to advertise the RFP's. She then laid out the timetable for the RFP, Pre-Bid meeting and award of the studies. Tyler Dombroski updated the Commissioners of the specific change orders that caused the floodwall to utilize 1.3 Million of the County's Wyoming Valley Water Mitigation Funds. Tom Lawson then started explaining the specifics of some of the largest contributors to the use of these funds. The largest was caused by ash deposits, and the way these had to be handled by the contractor, this specific item cost 645K. The second item was the excavation of old sewer line which caused a larger than anticipated excavation cost and additional fill. This specific item cost 200K. The Commissioners now have \$328k left for any future floodwall projects. These funds will be sent back to WVWM to be utilized at a later date. The Commissioners then discussed the setting of the elected officials salary increases, Commissioner Kovach stated that he would like to have a 2% raise per year vs the Urban Consumer Price Index, Commissioner Young and Ridgeway stated they preferred the UCPI. The Sheriff commented that he would like to maintain the current gap between the employees and the elected officials. Eric Stahley updated the Commissioners on the resolution so that the County can apply for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant to fund the repairs for three county owned bridges. Chief Clerk Witchey reviewed the engineering costs for the Prison Sally Port updates and the Courthouse Bathroom renovations. When discussing the costs the Commissioners need to have additional information as to why the costs are so high for the bathroom renovations vs the prison.

Young adjourned the work session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Screener – January Report:

Courthouse:	Visitors	3,689
	Alarms	2,861
	Guns	0
	Knives	0
	Misc	3
Annex:	Visitors	2,435
	Alarms	2,153
	Guns	0
	Knives	6
	Misc	2

Treasurer - January Report:

Commissions \$3,088.00

Register & Recorder – January Report:

\$43,873.14 was collected and remitted to the County

\$1,881.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund

\$1,254.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund
\$8,515.21 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund
\$1,736.99 was collected in Remote Access Fee

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Covid-19 update

B. Approve the advertising of the RFP for the West End Flood Mitigation Study, mandatory attendance for the pre-bid meeting on March 2nd, March 18th opening of bids, and April 1st award.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

C. Approve the advertising of the RFP for the Fishing Creek Watershed Flood Mitigation Study, mandatory attendance for the pre-bid meeting on March 2nd, March 18th opening of bids, and April 1st award.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

D. Approve the elected officials salary increase, based upon urban consumer price index

Motion to approve an annual 2% salary increase, without a second motion dies: Motion to approve as presented Ridgway seconded by Young, opposed by Kovach motion passes

E. Approve the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant agreement Resolution, for bridges 24, 49, and 116 in the amount of \$929,675.74 of which the county local match would be \$278,915.74

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

F. Approve Bakertilly's Engagement Letter for them to perform the Columbia County 2020 Audit for \$51,375, 2021 \$52,900, and 2022 \$54,500

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

G. Approve the agreement between DCED and the County that the County agrees to send all sales data to DCED to determine the Common Level Ratio

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

H. Approve Larson Design to perform engineering for the Columbia County Prison \$57,100 and County Courthouse bathrooms \$31,500.

Motion to table by Young seconded by Kovach, all approved

I. Approve the remaining Wyoming Valley Water Mitigation Funds of \$318,000 be utilized only for future expansion of the existing floodwall

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Mitchell Kishbach, GIS Analyst, GIS, 7 yr step inc, 1/19/2020
- Michelle Frye, Network Coordinator, IT, 4 yr step increase, 2/1/21

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

K. Approve the repairs to the Soldiers & Sailors monument utilizing Hotel Tax Funds

Motion by Young seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- John Vought, Probation Officer, AP, 1 yr step inc, 1/13/21
 - Adam Bennett, Probation Officer, AP, 1 yr step inc, 1/13/21
- Motion by Young seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Commissioners received a letter from the Conyngham Township Supervisors requesting COVID-19 Funds for their Township. Chief Clerk Witchey reviewed and read the response letter to the Supervisors and the Commissioner approved the response letter
- The North Centre Township supervisors thanked the Commissioners for meeting and discussing the Fowlerville Covered Bridge but as a result of further discussions at their December monthly supervisors meeting. They determined the Township has higher priority matters that outweigh their interest of relocating the bridge back to North Centre Township
- PA Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners the Gilberton Coal Co is renewing their mining permit which included the Bond review for 2020.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 2-5-21 totaling \$180,258.08

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 2-5-21 totaling \$3,023.26

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 Ridgway and seconded by Kovach. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk