

February 15, 2024

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 Brewer, (via teleconference) Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Michele Frye, and Marcie Strachko. Via zoom were the following individuals Jenn Long, Don Coleman, and MJ Mahon.

Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order and asked that we stand and pledge the flag, he then called for the approval of the minutes of the prior meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Kovach, seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved.

Commissioner Brewer then called for a report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Eric Stahley, Michelle Frye, Bob Christianson, MJ Mahon, Jim Haney, and Roy Bunger. Via zoom were the following individuals: Alex Karpinski, Denise LaBuda, Eric Boughner, Jodi Cook, Tim Murphy, Jenn Long, and Geralee Zeigler. Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order and asked Jim Haney to start the meeting. Mr. Haney stated that he had addressed the previous board of Commissioners regarding the lack of security at the County's magistrate offices. He addressed this mainly for the civil proceedings as all of us recognize there are numerous officers at criminal hearings. He discussed his personal experience at the magistrate's office. After Jim spoke there was no one else to discuss any other issues and the agenda was reviewed which included the Commissioners decision to vote to include SEDA-COG to seek to expand the Benton Area Implementation Project. Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karchner, and all approved to add to the afternoon agenda. Marcie then reviewed Hires, Steps and Promotions and Jean reviewed cash and bills. After which the meeting was adjourned

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Register & Recorder: January

Total remitted to the County was \$36,840.34

Total business all sources was \$843,289.39

Number of Deeds recorded for January was 120

Number of Mortgages recorded for January was 109

Sheriff Revenue – January Report

Interest:	\$2,304.37
Civil	\$5,406.00
Lic To Carry	\$3,344.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$114.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$557.00
Real Estate	\$9,163.64
Transports	\$25.00
Warrant	\$2,718.00
Total	\$23,632.01

Sheriff Screener – January Report

Courthouse:

Visitors	7,360
Alarms	4,023
Weapons:	
Guns	6
Knives	32
Misc	17

Annex:

Visitors	5,047
Alarms	3,818
Weapons:	
Guns	1
Knives	51
Misc	9

Magistrates – January Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	240	\$5,998.04
Bloomsburg	325	\$10,501.17
Catawissa	257	\$6,275.44
Millville	181	\$4,303.48

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – January Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$16,421.14

Total business all sources was \$21,153.11

Clerk of Courts – January Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$47,069.83

Total business all sources was \$76,838.33

OLD BUSINESS:

Kevin Katch, Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff, 2 yr step, ~~1/26/2024~~, 1/3/24

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karchner; all approved

1. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve the use of Babst Calland to defend Columbia County in the case brought forward by PA State Representatives David H Zimmerman and Kathy L Rapp

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

B. Approve the use of Hotel Tax Funds to offset the cost of bringing two agricultural attractions to the Bloomsburg Fair: Families Immersion Lab and the Sow and Piglet Display, cost is \$3,000.00

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; abstain by Karchner; motion passes

C. Approve the opening of the bids for the 5 year lease of the County Farm for farming purposes

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; abstain by Karchner; motion passes

D. Approve Ellis Turner’s bid of \$160.00 per acre for the 55 acres for the next 5 years

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; abstain by Karchner; motion passes

E. Approve the Bierbach Plumbing & Heating Bill for \$6,894 for the Benton Implementation Program and discussion regarding the payment request from for the Keystone Communities Program

Motion by Karchner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve SEDA-COG to seek approval from DCED to expand the scope of the Benton Area Implementation Program

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

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

- Brittany Swilley, Caseworker 2, CYS, Rehire, 3/11/24
- Jaznick Hoover, FT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/18/24
- Bobby Miles III, PT CO, Jail, Rehire, 2/18/24

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

- Ashley Talanca, Deputy Director, DRO, 4 year step, 1/29/24

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karchner; all approved

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

- Joanna Smith, Asst PD, Public Defender, Resignation, 3/1/24

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karchner; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Focus Central PA send notification to the Commissioners for a industrial Development Forum on March 13th from 8:30 to 4:00

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Approve the bills dated February 16th, 2024 in the amount of \$423,699.83.

Motion by Commissioner Kovach and seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
Marcie Strachko