

February 17, 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, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling Jean Lapinski, Eric Stahley, Charles Fritz, Kurt Brungard, Donald Lyken, and Julye Wemple. Via zoom: Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Jen Long, Troy Litwhiler, Tom Stepanski, Wade Mays, Kelly O'Brien, and Jeremy Brown.

Commissioner Young 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 Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

Report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Harry Mathias, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Bob Christianson, Matt Hess, Donald Lyken, and Jean Lapinski. Rachael Swartwood Julye Wemple, and Tim Hippentsteel. Via Zoom were the following individuals: Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Tim Murphy, Jenn Long, Troy Litwhiler, Wade Mays, and Geralee Zeigler. Commissioner Young called the work session to order and asked Harry Mathias to start the meeting by discussing his recommendations for the American Rescue Funds. Harry stated that he had 5 different recommendations, the first being HVAC equipment for the Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble for \$130,880. The next recommendation was \$25,000 to the Town of Bloomsburg for their sewer authority to improve efficiencies and drive down costs. Recommendation three was \$50,000 for the Children's Museum for an outdoor learning space. Item four is for the Dental Health Clinic and that is in the amount of \$53,600 for digital scanning and the repair/replace of a broken dental chair. And the fifth and last recommendation is for the Town of Bloomsburg up to \$355,000 with up to \$250,000 for the little league field, \$65,000 for MS4 and \$40,000 for a community basketball court. Bob Christianson then briefly discussed Suez's plan for installing water in South Centre Township. Troy Litwhiler then wanted discuss Bridge #27 located in Cleveland Township and he wanted to voice the Townships displeasure regarding the proposed deck replacement he also stated that the local police and fire had concerns that are being ignored by the Commissioners. Commissioner Ridgway then said that they had conversations with the police and Fire Company and then told Troy that we would work with you but then you (Troy) went to DEP and asked them to deny permit for the deck replacement. Commissioner Ridgway then stated that the County has 58 other bridges within the County that they need to worry about, Commissioner then had Troy cutoff from making any other comments. Matt Hess then discussed some of his concerns with ERAP2 regarding the guidance changes where the payment goes to the applicant and not the landlord, and the other proposed change which Matt also objects to is the self-certification of income vs proof of income. Matt has proposed that he will continue the payment of funds to the landlord and also proof of income with the blessing of the Commissioners. Chief Clerk Witchey gave a brief update regarding the WVWM Funds and it was agreed to keep on the agenda until next meeting. Marcie reviewed all the personnel moves. Jean then reviewed cash and bills; the rest of the agenda was reviewed and then both the Salary Board and Retirement Board agendas were reviewed and then the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – January Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	299	\$2,698.24
Bloomsburg	369	\$8,870.97
Catawissa	267	\$4,672.62
Millville	184	\$3,313.78

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – January Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$15,021.56  
Total business all sources was \$21,183.36

Clerk of Courts – January Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$30,221.67  
Total business all sources was \$70,816.51

Sheriff Revenue – January Report

Interest:	\$42.04
Civil	\$3,727.00
Lic To Carry	\$4,123.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$57.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$1,210.00
Real Estate	\$2750.90
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$734.00
Total	\$12,643.94

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve the recommendations of American Rescue funds as presented below:

- Recommendation #1 - \$130,880 to the Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble for upgrades to their HVAC system

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Recommendation #2 - \$25,000 to the Bloomsburg Municipal Authority for upgrades to the sewage treatment facility

Motion by Young and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Recommendation #3 - \$50,000 to the Children’s Museum for a outdoor learning space

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Recommendation #4 - \$53,600 to the Dental Health Clinic for digital scanning and dental chair repair/replacement

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

- Recommendation #5 - \$355,000 to the Town of Bloomsburg, which is broken down as follows. Up to \$250,000 to repair /prepare the Little League Field, \$65,000 for MS4 Storm sewer projects and \$40,000 for community basketball courts

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

Tabled to next meeting

C. Approve the opening of the bids for Bridge #27 located in Cleveland Township

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

D. Motion to approve the lowest bidder Minicni Inc. at \$217,000 pending review by the County’s engineer and solicitor

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

E. Discuss the two proposals for the new cleaning group for Columbia County on a temporary basis

F. Approve 3B as the lowest bidder at \$7,650 per month to clean the County’s Buildings on a temporary basis

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. Approve the advertisement of the Cleaning Service RFP for Columbia County

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

H. Discussion of ERAP 2 allocations by Matt Hess

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

- Mark Hine, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/15/22
- Andrew Bassett, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/15/22
- Dylan Seibert, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/15/22
- Ikenna Odimegba, PT CO, Jail, 2/15/22
- Rylan Hicks, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/15/22
- Cameryn Evans, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/15/22
- Hunter Weaver, FT CO, Jail, Hire, 2/13/22
- Ryan Potopsky, PT CO, Jail Re-hire, 2/21/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- None

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

- Melissa Swerdon, LPN, Jail, Termination (No Show), 2/10/22
- Sarah Trump, LPN, Jail, Termination (No Show), 2/10/22
- Liam Blocker, FT CO, Jail, Termination, 2/9/22

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Exchange has asked the Commissioners to assist in hosting SITEexchange which entails hosting a portable novelty vending machine from October thru end of November 2022 and will be filled with artworks, this will be placed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda.
- BluAcres, LLC notified the Commissioners of the West Hemlock Creek Restoration project that is being handled by the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Commissioners have been notified again that Foughts Disposal is running their garbage truck across the Snyder Covered Bridge.
- HRG notified the Commissioners of Act 14 Municipal Notification that Greenwood Township Municipal Authority is seeking renewal of their NPDES permit to allow discharge of treated wastewater to Rickard Hollow.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 2/18/2022 for \$567,585.25

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American paper bills from 2/4/22 for \$3,930.00

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 Young. The motion passed.

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