

March 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, Jean Lapinski, Treasurer Creveling, and Eric Boughner. Via Zoom: Diane Cizewski, Jen Long, Eric Stahley, Tami Kline, and Jeremy Brown.

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, and Ridgeway, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, and Eric Boughner. Via Zoom: Jen Long, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Jeff Kingston, Tami Kline, Wade mays, Mike Lester, Teri Provost, and Diane Cizewski.

Eric and Teri started the work session discussing the pre-bid meeting associated with the Fishing Creek and West End Study RFP. The meeting was well attended and both anticipate that there will be quite a few proposals submitted for the March 18th opening of the bids. Most if not all that attended the meetings are qualified applicants. Jen Long then went over the COVID-19 vaccines that were provided to Columbia County and that 99.2 of those we utilized. Jen also reviewed the amount of cases and then stated that Johnson & Johnson vaccines will start being distributed to the Intermediate Unit on March 10th in order to vaccinate all the teachers within the County. The agenda was then reviewed. After the agenda was complete Mike Lester from the press asked questions regarding the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Grant, when the program was going to be advertised and then available for applicants to apply.

Young adjourned the work session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Revenue – February Report:

Interest:	\$32.13
Civil	\$3,142.00
Lic To Carry	\$2,413.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$114.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$676.00
Real Estate	\$0.00
Warrant	\$416.00
Total	\$6,793.13

Treasurer - February Report:

Commissions \$3,990.00

Register & Recorder – February Report:

\$33,567.68 was collected and remitted to the County
\$1,848.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund
\$1,232.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund
\$7,957.61 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund
\$2,049.69 was collected in Remote Access Fee

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Covid-19 update

B. Approve SEDA-COG to administer the County's COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Grant for \$735,806, administration of the program will include a \$300.00 for each successful grant and can be up to maximum of \$23,000.

Motion by Ridgeway seconded by Kovach; all approved

- C. Approve the use of \$2,500 of Hotel Tax Funds for the Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Association for trout tagging in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Young; all approved

- D. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Columbia County's surrounding counties so that an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System can be activated in an emergency. This eliminates duplicate of conflicting instructions if handled by each county.

Motion by Young seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- E. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a lease hold trailer that was razed

- Parcel # 06-01-029-05,149 Cost \$59.73

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a lease hold trailer that were sold or razed pursuant to ACT 156 Abandoned Mobil Home

- Parcel # 25-05A-065-00,176 Cost \$1,831.15
- Parcel # 25-05A-065-00,185 Cost \$2,354.63

Motion by Young seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Kayin Herb, PT CO, Promotion to >30, Jail, 3/14/21
- Charles Yost, PT CO, Promotion to >30, Jail, 3/14/21
- Elizabeth Wood, Chief Public Defender, PD, Promotion, 3/15/21
- Franklin Kepner, III, Asst PD, PD, Promotion to FT, 3/29/21
- Scott Weiss, HVAC/Maint Lead, Maintenance, 7 yr step, 4/17/21
- Katelyn McGraw, LPN, Jail, Hire, 3/4/21
- Blake Keefer, PT CO, Promotion to >30, Jail, 2/21/21
- Tyler Johnson, PT CO, Promotion to >30, Jail, 2/21/21
- Thomas Ramsey, PT CO, Promotion to >30, Jail, 2/21/21
- Kaiden Whitenight, PT CO, Promotion to FT CO, Jail, 2/21/21
- Alicia Camillocci, Caseworker 2, CYS, 6 mo step, 2/19/21
- Sean Richendrfer, Tele-communicator, ECEN, hire, 3/8/21

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Candy Duda, R&R Clerk, 6 month step, 3/8/21

Motion by Young seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Hugh Sumner, Chief PD, PD, Retirement, 5/28/21
- Timothy Heckman, PT CO, Jail, Termination, 2/19/21

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Commissioners received a letter from Big Heart Pet Brands, Inc. located in South Centre Township. Big Heart applied for renewal application to propose a withdrawal of 530,000 gallons per day from well 6 at their South Centre Township location.
- PPL sent notification to the Commissioners that they are exempt from municipal land use ordinances
- Woodland Design Associates, Inc. notified the Commissioners that PPL intends a line rebuild of a 4.25 mile of existing electric transmission line beginning at Glen Brook Substation, Salem Township, Luzerne County to the Berwick Substation in Berwick Borough, Columbia County.

- Ted Oman & Associates, Inc. notified the Commissioners of a Planned Land Development for Permits for the Horse Farm Court Subdivision/Land Development, Hemlock Township, Columbia County.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 2-19-21 and 3-5-21 totaling \$634,906.52 and \$763,957.08

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 2-19-21 and 3-5-21 totaling \$396.64 and \$1,301.01

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