

March 18, 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 Withey, Eric Stahley, Treasurer Creveling, Eric Boughner, and Gini Feigles-Kaar. Via Zoom: Joshua Glace, Lindsey Bofinger, Matthew Vanaskie, Mike Lester, Nancy Corbin, Paul Lee, Teri Provost, Theron Bisko, Jen Long, Craig Smith, and Jean Lapinski.

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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Withey, Treasurer Creveling, Matt Hess, and Eric Boughner. Via Zoom: Jen Long, Wade mays, Mike Lester, and Paul Lee.

Matt Hess started the work session presenting the Columbia County Housing Authority process for administrating the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for Columbia County. The program is for both renters and landlords with the awarded amount being \$4,272,702 with \$174,753.51 being for homeless and 5% for administering the program. Matt reviewed the eligibility for the program which is that your income must be less than 80% of the Area Median Income. The program can be used for costs starting March 13th, 2020. Matt also said that the program covers utilities paid by the tenant and that agencies such as CSO Gatehouse will be able to assist in filling out the application. Mike Lester than asked what the sources of income are and if there was a cap on the qualifying amounts. Matt was unsure of the source but stated there was not a cap on the amounts. Jen then reviewed the status of COVID-19, she stated that Columbia County still continues to see a decline in cases and that we continue to see the vaccinations rise. The Commissioners then discussed the County receiving the \$12,599,368 of Recovery Funds and then the rest of the items on the agenda. The Commissioners then went into executive session to discuss the unsolicited offer that was made to the County for the County Farm. After 25 minutes the executive session was done and Commissioner Young adjourned the work session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – February Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	199	\$3,516.82
Bloomsburg	306	\$7,087.93
Catawissa	219	\$4,196.14
Millville	214	\$4,001.42

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – February Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$11,675.32
Total business all sources was \$21,664.64

Clerk of Courts – February Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$32,871.74
Total business all sources was \$74,451.26

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Covid-19 update
- B. Discussion regarding the County receiving the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of \$12,599,368
- C. Approve the Columbia County Housing Authority to process the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgeway; all approved

D. Approve the letter to the Children's Museum allowing them to commission a mural from an artist in the amount of \$2,000

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

E. Approve the opening of the bids for the Fishing Creek Watershed Study

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve that 7 firms have submitted an RFP for the Fishing Creek Watershed Study and that all proposals will be reviewed by SEDA-COG and a recommendation will be presented to the Commissioners at their April 1st Board Meeting

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. Approve the opening of the bids for the West End Flood Mitigation Study

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

H. Approve that 5 firms have submitted an RFP for the West End Study and that all proposals will be reviewed by SEDA-COG and a recommendation will be presented to the Commissioners at their April 1st Board Meeting

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

I. Approve the County's renewal of its membership to the Columbia/Montour Chamber of Commerce for \$275.00

Motion by Young seconded by Kovach; all approved

J. Approve the updated Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA for Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

K. Proclamation for the It's Time for Lights Out in Columbia County

L. Approve the Resolution 2-2021 which approves the Bridge Bundling Agreement between PennDOT and Columbia County

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

M. Approve the extension of the lease agreement between the Commissioners of Columbia County and the estate of John and Charlotte Ickes to make available to the general public for parking to the County's Twin Bridges Park, the lease will be \$1.00 per year.

Motion by Young seconded by Kovach; all approved

N. Re-Approve quitclaim deed between SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and the Commissioners, which includes the signing and filing of the deed

Motion by Kovach seconded by Young; all approved

O. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a lease hold trailer that was razed by fire

- Parcel # 07-03-033-07,151 Cost \$58.83

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a lease hold trailer that was moved with no permit

- Parcel # 23-05C-007-00,026 Cost \$104.58
- Parcel # 12-03-009-07,365 Cost \$227.93

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Laurie Pickle, Asst PD, PD, Promotion, 3/29/21
- Amber Brotzman, Caseworker 2, CYS, 6 month step, 2/19/21
- Frances Mannino, Clerk, CYS, 2 yr step, 3/4/21
- Bryan Davenport, FT CO, Jail, Promotion, 2/21/21
- Blake Barnes, FT CO, Jail, Promotion, 2/21/21
- Jessica Surkin, PT CO, Jail (Re)Hire, 3/19/21
- Nicholas Snyder, PT CO, Jail, 6 month step, 1/26/21
- Veronica Ziegler, PT CO, Jail, 6 month step, 3/20/21
- Cooper Watkins, PT CO, Jail, 6 month step, 3/20/21
- Brandon Delia, PT CO, Jail, 6 month step, 3/20/21
- Blake Keefer, PT CO, Jail, 6 month step, 3/20/21
- David Nevel, FT CO, Jail, Promotion, 3/28/21

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Michelle Freed, Fiscal Manager, DRO, Promotion, 3/22/21
- Ashley Talanca, Deputy Director, DRO, Promotion, 10/2/2020

Motion by Kovach seconded by Young; all approved

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

- Tori Fitzwater, Telecommunicator, ECEN, Termination, 2/26/21
- Alexander Bullock, PT CO, Jail, Termination, 2/23/21
- Laurie Pickle, Conflict Counsel, PD, Resignation, 3/26/21
- Jennifer Knorr, Clerk, Treasurer, Retirement, 4/1/21

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Commissioners received a letter from Folk Florist announcing that they have closed the business, and T=Bloomsburg & Berwick Floral is taking over their phones and website.
- The Commissioners approved and signed a letter to Senator Gordner/Representative Millard and Representative Masser regarding the 2021 -2022 Unified Judicial System proposed budget which is diverting \$15 million of funds.
- Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy's Tamara Wagner notified the Commissioners that she was going to visit the Commissioners Conservancy on 3/16/2021
- Woodland Design Associates notified the Commissioners that PPL is scheduling a line rebuild referred to as Sunbury-Columbia 69kV Line Rebuild and that they are submitting their NPDES Permit for Storm Water Associated with the construction.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that Mid-Valley Coals Sales Inc. corrected their Surface Mining Permit No 1900021C8.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that Sokol Quarries Inc. corrected application No. 19810302C4 to move a field ditch.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that Gilberton Coal Company has renewed their mining permit which includes the Bond Review for 2021
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that Mid Valley Coal Sales Surface Mining Permit has been approved.
- The Commissioners received a letter from Skelly and Loy notifying them that PennDot is seeking a General Permit to replace a bridge on SR 1035 in Benton Township.
- Verizon sent the Commissioners a courtesy notification that they are replacing their equipment located on the Commissioners Tower located at Fire Tower Road.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 3-12-21 and 3-19-21 totaling \$479,297.92 and \$622,272.86

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 3-19-21 totaling \$2,408.50 and \$677.05

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mike Lester asked about the County Farm and the Commissioner informed him that we are looking at many different ideas, not just selling the property.

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. Withey, Chief Clerk