

April 18, 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, Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Treasurer Creveling, Jeannie Lapinski, Misty Chapman, Eric Stahley, and Dan Knorr. Via zoom were the following individuals MJ Mahon, Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Jenn Long, Jeremy Brown, 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 Karschner, seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved; motion passes.

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, and Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Treasurer Creveling, Jean Lapinski, Misty Chapman, Bob Christianson, MJ Mahon, Betsy Rubio, Beth Burke, Rich Kisner, MJ Mahon, Laura Knorr, and Nick Pajovich. Via zoom were the following individuals: Tim Murphy, Denise LaBuda, Jeremy Reese, Jenn Long, Doug Hopkins, Lisa Hopkins, Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Jeremy Brown, Aaron Eldred, Rachael Swartwood, Eric Boughner, and Geralee Zeigler. Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order and asked the Columbia County Housing Authority to start the meeting, Beth Burke the Director started the conversation by discussing the reallocation of ERAP 2 grant funds. The reallocation would go towards the Trinity House upgrades and to a Bloom Heights Project that would be for 32; 2 or 3 bedroom units. Nick Pajovich of the Berwick YMCA stated that he needed a letter of support from the Commissioners so that he could apply for COVID ARP funding to fix up the third floor of YMCA. These funds were going thru Robert Leadbeter. Laura Knorr from the Berwick Theatre presented information that would allow the Berwick Theater to open, and is seeking \$12,000 to perform a deep clean. Aaron Eldred from the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association then spoke about their plan to have five (5) easements and would like the County to hold them. After the conversation it was recommended to table the item to a later date. Bob Christianson discussed both water and sewer, he indicated water is going well but still does not have an update regarding the sewer. Jean reviewed bills and cash and then the remainder of the agenda was reviewed, Marcie reviewed Hires, Steps and Promotions, after which the meeting was adjourned.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$18,632.56

Total business all sources was \$26,047.49

Clerk of Courts – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$48,003.50

Total business all sources was \$91,485.89

OLD BUSINESS: None

#### 1. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve a Commissioner that will represent them on the Bloomsburg University Foundation Community Impact Fund

Motion by Commissioner Karschner and seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved with a name to be provided later

B. Approve the use of \$12,000 of Hotel Tax dollars for the Berwick Theater's request for their funding gap associated with the professional cleaning of the facility

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

C. Approve to table the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association request regarding Columbia County holding easements for 5 locations

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

D. Approve the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority use of the ERAP 2 program to fund both the Bloom Heights and Trinity House projects

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

E. Approve Barb Warunek to seek the 2024-2025 Intermediate Punishment Treatment Program grant

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

F. Approve the letter of support to the Berwick YMCA to seek a COVID ARP PA Multipurpose Community Facilities Program Grant

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

G. Acknowledge Benton Foundry, Inc. for their 2024 award for Environmental, Health & Safety issued by Northeast Pennsylvania Manufactures and Employers Association.

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

H. Approve the changes to the Employee Manual authorizing the following :

- Meals - \$15.00 Breakfast  
                  \$20.00 Lunch  
                  \$25.00 Dinner
- Tips to 18% (included in the meal cost)
- Motel Stay up to \$250.00
- PO's now at \$100.00

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

I. Approve the appointment of Frederick A. Haas to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

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

J. Approve the Resolution for Designation of Agent (Eric Stahley) for the Local Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

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

K. Approve the letter of support for CSG to the PA Department of Community & Economic Development for the Coblenz Corner Project

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

L. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a lease hold mobile home or camper that moved or razed with no permit

- Parcel#06-01-017-00,066                   \$1,269.74
- Parcel#06-01-017-00,045                   \$ 358.91
- Parcel#13-12-014-00,035                   \$1,038.20

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

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

- Bailey Soule, CYS, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Emily Vollmer, Land Use Planner, Planning, 4 yr step, 4/15/24
- Isaac Anderson, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 4/28/24
- Tammy Rhodes, Adv EMT, Jail, 1 year step, 4/20/24
- Bridget Kingston, VA, 10 year step, 4/1/24
- Brittany Swilley, Promotion to Caseworker Spvr, CYS, 5/1/24
- Elyse Goodbred, FT CO, Jail, Hire, 4/15/2024

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

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

- Marissa May, AP, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Michelle Sweitzer, AP, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Emmanuel Uribe- Gonzalez, DA, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Morgan Knorr, DR, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Brittani Shaffer, DR, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Julie Klinger, DR, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Erika Mont, MDJ Berwick, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Autumn Kubitsky, MDJ Berwick, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Dina Melito, MDJ Berwick, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Lisa Stadler, MDJ Bloom, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Laura Eckenrode, MDJ Bloom, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Tammy Poust, MDJ Bloom, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Brenda Berlin, MDJ Bloom, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Nellie Hicks, MDJ Catawissa, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Shannon Gleason, MDJ Catawissa, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Shannon Gleason, MDJ Catawissa, 6 month step, 04/23/24
- Jane Lawton, MDJ Millville, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Amber Kocher-Stackhouse, MDJ Millville, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Elizabeth Dell, Treasurer, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Kelly Brewer, JP, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24
- Stephanie Hill, MDJ Berwick, New Hourly Wage, 04/14/24

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

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

- Emmanuel Uribe-Gonzalez, Adm Asst, VW, Resignation, 5/10/24

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

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Commissioners were notified that a resident is doing a reconstruction of a pond and outfall structure at headwaters of UNT to West Creek. The project is located in Jackson Township.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Approve the bills dated April 12, 2024 in the amount of \$1,254,003.24.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Withey