

April 20, 2023

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 Ridgway, Young, and Kovach, also in attendance were Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, and Eric Stahley. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, MJ Mahon, Chris Berleth, and Jennifer Long.

Commissioner Ridgway 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 Young, seconded by Kovach; all approved.

Commissioner Ridgway then called for a report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Ridgway, Young, and Kovach, also in attendance were Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, Matt Hess, Tom Dougher, Meagan Bear, Kernal Thakore, and Chief Richendrfer. Via zoom were the following individuals Eric Boughner, MJ Mahon, Geralee Ziegler, Sheriff Chamberlain, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Wade Mays, and Jennifer Long. Commissioner Ridgway asked to Chief Richendrfer to start the meeting. He discussed the Columbia Montour SWAT team and they began in 1989 and have been in existence since. They are in the process of becoming a 501-C3 and they are looking to acquire the now vacant Montour Township Municipal building and would like the Commissioners to purchase and lease the building back to the group. The Commissioners are going to have their Solicitor speak with the attorneys working with SWAT and proceed from there. Matt Hess then presented the Commissioners that they want to partner with CSO and the Gatehouse to apply for an ESG grant to prevent homelessness. Eligible uses for the grant include outreach, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention and emergency shelter. Matt also highlighted the fact that section 8 housing in the County has a 2 ½ year wait period. The ESG grant is for \$275,000 and has a 10% administration built into the amount. Geralee then discussed item E on the agenda which is the letter of application and authorization to enter for the elevation certificates for the Benton Area. Jean then reviewed bills and available cash. After reviewing the remaining agenda the work session was then adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$20,203.14
Total business all sources was \$26,311.35

Clerk of Courts – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$46,047.09
Total business all sources was \$98,346.00

Magistrates – March Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	264	\$5,933.26
Bloomsburg	614	\$13,758.35
Catawissa	556	\$7,547.46
Millville	263	\$4,388.68

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion with Chief Richendrfer regarding Columbia County SWAT building they are looking to acquire
- B. Approve the EDECI funding for the following projects:
 - Scott Township - \$40,000 for Appleman's Run streambank restoration
 - Town of Bloomsburg - \$50,000 for the Kinney Run erosion stabilization project
 - Catawissa Township/Catawissa Borough - \$30,000 for Catawissa Creek debris removal

Commissioner Ridgway approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

C. Approve the Resolution 2023-5 rescinding Resolution 2022-3 that was a grant from DCNR for the master Site Development Plan for the Briar Creek Lake Park

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

D. Approve the membership to The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$285

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

E. Approve SEDA-COG's letter of application and authorization to enter for the FEMA elevation certificate program

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

F. Approve the following individuals to the Columbia County LEPC Committee, Mark Sharrow and Mark Thomas

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

G. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a lease hold trailer that was moved or razed with no permit

- Parcel # 07-01-078-00,063 \$1,371.95
- Parcel # 07-01-078-00,063 \$3,722.69
- Parcel # 25-05A-065-01,158 \$446.89
- Parcel #20-04-026-00,036 \$2,512.50

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

H. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS

- James McElwee, PT Fingerprint Officer, Jail, Hire, 4/23/23
- Tammy Rhodes, PT EMT, Jail, Promotion to FT, 4/20/23
- Wade Westley, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to FT, 4/23/23
- Marisa Long, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to FT, 4/23/23
- Megan Hart, PT CO, Jail Promotion to FT, 4/23/23
- Dasia Cardona, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to FT, 4/23/23
- Ed Berlin, PT Laborer, Parks, Recall, 4/24/23
- Jerry Moyer, PT Laborer, Parks, Recall, 4/24/23
- Brittany Gensel, Parent Educator 2, Family Center, 6 mos step inc, 4/17/23
- Jeni Hassel, Parent Educator 3, Family Center, 4 yr step inc, 4/16/23
- Carrie Romig, Parent Education 3, Family Center, 10 yr step inc, 5/12/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

I. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS/COURT EMPLOYEES: HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS:

- Dominique DeSpirito, Probation Officer, AP, Hire, 4/24/23
- Jonah Rees, Probation Officer, AP, Hire, 4/24/23

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

J. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, RETIREMENTS:

- Kelly Lenahan, PT PD, Public Defender, Resignation, 4/10/23
- Michael May, PT EMT, Jail, Resignation, 4/1/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- PA Senator Culver sent the Commissioners a letter informing them that she is supporting the ARPA Small Water & Sewer Grant for Conyngham Township in the amount of \$439,136.
- AWK Engineers notified the Commissioners that PennDOT has submitted an application to DEP for a Bridge Superstructure Replacement on SR 1020 over Pine Creek in Fishing Creek Township.
- DEP sent notification to the Commissioners that the Black Fly suppression program will take place in 2023
- Seven Mountains EMA Council sent notification to the Commissioners that May 21-27 is celebrated as EMS Week

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 4/21/23 for \$1,062,941.55

Motion by Young and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills for \$1,471.04

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk