

May 4, 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 Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, and Rachael Swartwood. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, MJ Mahon, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Chief Richendrfer 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 Ridgway; 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 Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, Eric Stahley, Steve Shope, Alicia Greco, Treasurer Creveling, MJ Mahon, Rachael Swartwood, and Skip Hummel. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, Geralee Zeigler, Tim Murphy, and April Miller. Commissioner Ridgway asked to PA Treasury representative Steve Shope to begin the meeting, he first discussed some of the economic challenges of the area and discussed that only 25% of the area has any post-secondary education. He also discussed was that parents can save for their child's education. He discussed the benefits of a 529 savings plan and said that children that have had a 529 account setup are more likely to attend post-secondary education. Steve also spoke about the Federal and State tax benefits of the 529 plan and asked the Commissioners to adopt a resolution to actively advocate the 529. The Chairman then called on Skip to discuss his group's idea of having a Disc Golf course at the Briar Creek Lake Park. He presented the initial layout which as he explained would have very little impact on any other activities occurring at the lake. Commissioner Ridgway asked that he submit a proposal with cost so that the Commissioner could review. Geralee then discussed the elevation certificates and stated that these are the ones that want an elevation certificate. The next group of about 40 will be both the elevation certificate and the moving of utilities. 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 – April Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$15,412.79

Total business all sources was \$19,884.95

Clerk of Courts – April Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$30,856.62

Total business all sources was \$59,836.24

Sheriff Revenue – April Report

Interest:	\$1,171.70
Civil	\$2,388.00
Lic To Carry	\$2,603.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$0.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$505.00
Real Estate	\$4,318.85
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$3,984.50
Total	\$14,971.05

Treasurer – April Report

\$1,074.00 County Commission

Register & Recorder – April Report:

\$25,400.52 was collected and remitted to the County

\$1,536.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund

\$1,024.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund

\$6,232.05 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund
\$2,136.92 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Screener – April Report

Courthouse:		
Visitors		6,159
Alarms		2,856
Weapons:	Guns	10
	Knives	33
	Misc	9
Annex:		
Visitors		5,267
Alarms		1,777
Weapons:	Guns	1
	Knives	66
	Misc	20

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve Barbara Warunek to apply for the PCCD Grant for Intermediate Punishment Treatment Programs Grant that runs for July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024 with a budget from \$170,000 to \$180,000

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- B. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Lycoming, Montour, Snyder, Union and Columbia regarding the Municipal Waste Planning Recycling, cost per County is \$2,343.75

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

- C. Approve to add the Consent Order and Agreement (COA) between Columbia County and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- D. Approve the COA Agreement between Columbia County and DEP regarding the expiration of the Columbia County's participation in the Regional Plan

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- E. Approve the use of \$2,355 of Hotel Tax funds for the Susquehanna Greenway's Kayak of the River of the year Sojourn: Lower North Branch on August 5th, 2023 which is a 10 mile trip from the Berwick Test Track to the PFBC Bloomsburg Access

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

- F. Approve Columbia County Representative Paul Eyerly as designate for voting during the 2023 Annual Contributors Meeting of the SEDA-COG Foundation

Commissioner Ridgway approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- G. Approve the letter of support to the Highway Safety Network which represents District 3 which includes Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union. Commissioner Ridgway approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- H. Approve the Columbia Montour Coalition use of the Briar Creek Lake Park Pavilions on September 13th, 2023 for their 7th annual Water Education Day, which will host 250 8th grade students.

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- I. Approve the 12 respondents indicating they are interested in the elevation certificates for the Benton Area SEDA COG Program

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

- J. Approve the agreement between the Commissioners and Harry Mathias for contracted services regarding broadband services within Columbia County at \$75 per hour

Commissioner Ridgway approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- K. Approve the Commissioners move to acquire the Montour Township building for the Columbia Montour SWAT Team in the amount of \$125,000

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

- L. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS

- Bessie Ashburn, ECEN, Telecommunicator, 2 yr step, 4/30/23
- Tim Creasy, Tax Sale Notice Poster (Temporary), Tax, Rehire, 6/5/23
- Megan Hart, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to FT CO, 4/23/23
- Ian Unger, Caseworker 2, 2 yr step, C&Y, 5/3/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

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

- None

- N. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, RETIREMENTS:

- Micaela Riley, Caseworker 2, CYS, Resignation, 5/19/23
- Lacey Knarr, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 4/25/23

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy representative Sara Schlesinger reached out to the Commissioners to offer their services.
- SEDA-COG notified the Commissioners that the Town of Bloomsburg fiscal year 2021 CDBG Annual performance and evaluation report has been accepted by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notified the Commissioners that resurfacing of route 42 will start on May 1st and continue through the following week.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 5/5/23 for \$1,352,006.66

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills for \$2,981.81

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. Withey, Chief Clerk