

May 18, 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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, and Jean Lapinski. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, MJ Mahon, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Jeremy Brown, Patricia Lawton, Eric Boughner, 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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, Matt Hess, Bill Haney, MJ Mahon, Dave Heim, Ethan Howard, and Harry Mathias. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Eric Boughner, Geralee Zeigler, Eric Boughner, Kurt Brungard, Tim Murphy, and Wade Mays. Commissioner Ridgway asked Ethan Howard to start the meeting and he provided the Commissioners an update in regards to what Penn State Extension has done over the past month. Harry Mathias then discussed the Broadband grants and everything he has done to since the Commissioners had hired him to coordinate the Broad band efforts. He has reached out to the providers, local business, Bloomsburg University, Geisinger, school districts etc. Harry also stated that the grant money received cannot be re-granted. So at this point the Commissioners will be providing letters of support to the providers that are seeking grants. Commissioner Ridgway then asked Jim Haney what he was there to discuss, Jim stated that he was concerned with the lack of security at our Magistrates offices. He had been at one of our offices on a civil matter and was concerned that no one was searched. He was asked as to what he thought should happen and his thoughts is that a Sheriff Deputy should be at each of the magistrate's offices. Matt Hess then reviewed the items that were on the agenda, providing the Commissioners further detail. Geralee also provided the Commissioners information regarding the two items that were on the agenda for the Benton Area Flood Mitigation Program. Jean then reviewed bills and available cash. After reviewing the remaining agenda the work session was then adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – April Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	243	\$4,677.18
Bloomsburg	484	\$13,330.02
Catawissa	375	\$5,328.38
Millville	225	\$3,622.44

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation for EMS week May 21-27, 2023

B. Approve the use of Courthouse Square to hand out poppies to the public for national poppy Day on May 26, 2023 from 9AM to Noon.

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

C. Approve the reappointment of Matt Hess as the Fair Housing Officer for Columbia County

Commissioner Ridgway approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

D. Approve the reappointment of Betsy Rubio as the 504 officer for Columbia County

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

E. Approve Caroline Creasy to the Columbia County Housing Authority Board for a one-year term

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

- F. Approve the reallocation of \$3,500 OF CDBG Funds for 2019 Blight to Summer Splash due to 2022 Contract Delay

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- G. Approve the exoneration tax/cost/interest of a lease hold mobile home that was razed with no permit

- Parcel # 01-16-003-00,025 \$2,891.20

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

- H. Approve the list of Benton Residents who would like to implement flood mitigation measures for their structure

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- I. Approve the homeowner and service agreement for the Benton Area residents for the flood mitigation

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- J. Approve the Larson Design Group proposal for the Prison Exterior Stairway and Yard Fencing Projects at the cost of \$20,000, to be paid out of Commissary Funds

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

- K. Approve the Technical and Engineering Price Proposal of \$40,800.00 and \$17,000for the construction services for both the Wagner Covered Bridge Relocation to Briar Creek Lake Park and Staircase to the Lake

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

- L. Approve Northumberland County awarding the contract to the lowest bidder for bridge 142

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

- M. Approve the Request for Time Extension for Esther Furnace Covered Bridge from July 22, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

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

- Benjamin Johnson, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 5/29/23
- Kyra Tappe, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 5/29/23
- Richard Klemen, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 5/29/23
- Jordan Carpenter, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 5/29/23
- Matthew Elsmore, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 5/29/23
- LaQuona Obas, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 5/29/23
- Casey Cooper, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 6/5/23
- Janan Tallo, Chief Public Defender, PD, Promotion, 5/15/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

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

- Lacey Swisher, Court Recorder, Courts, 6 month step, 5/1/23
- Nellie Hicks, MDJ Long, Secretary, Transfer, 5/15/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

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

- Timothy Lutz, PT LPN, Jail, Termination, 5/9/23
- Elizabeth Wood, Chief Public Defender, PD, Resignation, 5/26/23

Commissioner Ridgway approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. notified the Commissioners that they are providing notification of intent to apply to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a public Water Supply Permit.
- The National Opioid Litigation sent Attorney-Client Communication
- The Unami Buffalo Nation sent information to CCAP, who represents Columbia County regarding that they are part of the United Nations General Assembly

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 5/19/23 for \$575,649.50

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

- 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