

June 17, 2021

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 Young, Ridgeway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Jean Lapinski, Marcie Strachko, and Michele Frye. Via Zoom: Jen Long, Jeremy Brown, Gale Zalar, and Gina Feigles-Faar.

A motion was made by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach 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, Ridgeway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Jean Lapinski, Marcie Strachko, Mike Lester, Eric Stahley, Eileen Chapman, Karen Heaps, Crystal Deitrich, Teri Provost, Geralee Zeigler, and Michele Frye. Via Zoom: April Miller, Don Coleman, Eric Boughner, Jen Long, Jeremy Brown, and Wade Mays. Young called the meeting to order and asked Agape to start the meeting by reviewing their public meeting for 2021-2022 funding. Karen Heaps discussed how many individuals they assisted with their funds from 2020-2021 and then explained as to why they were requesting additional funds from the state for their programs. This explanation for transportation was due to the anticipated increase in prison population that will require bus rides out of the area. Meals on wheels has an increase in expenses during the prior year and they expect that trend to continue for the current year. Jen Long then provided an updated on COVID-19 and stated that the number of cases of COVID within the County continue to drop rapidly and that we are currently at 35 cases for the last 14 day period. She also stated that the County is not receiving a lot of vaccines and that is due to the declining demand, she also stated that Berwick Hospital gave 53 shots last week. Teri Provost gave the Commissioners an update on the West End and Fishing Creek studies and that on July 29th they will be hosting two meetings one for each study. Jean then reviewed bills and available cash. The agenda was then reviewed and the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – May Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	270	\$4,536.66
Bloomsburg	391	\$7,846.02
Catawissa	468	\$6,489.55
Millville	323	\$5,977.82

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – May Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$14,042.50
Total business all sources was \$24,009.85

Clerk of Courts – May Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$47,820.98
Total business all sources was \$101,600.39

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Covid-19 update
- B. Update on the American Rescue Funds
- C. Agape's public meeting for their request of 2021-2022 state funding for the programs that they and Gatehouse administer.
- D. Approve to award Agape 50,000 of the American Rescue Funds

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

- E. Approve CSO's Emergency Solutions Grant for Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Young; all approved

- F. Approve \$50 in Hotel Tax for the Bloomsburg Airport Flier

Motion by Young seconded by Kovach; all approved

- G. Approve Sokol to pave asphalt along alley at Annex parking Lot \$2,650

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- H. Approve George Forese as Columbia County's representative on SEDA-COG Board, three year term expiring in April of 2023.

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

- I. Approve \$10,000 to the Barton House, this is the last payment

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- J. Approve the use of Hotel Tax to reimburse the Barton House \$1,100 for engineering fess in regards to the Wagner Covered Bridge

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

- K. Approve the appointment of Eric Boughner to the Drive Board until the Broadband Project is completed

Motion by Kovach seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- L. Approve the advertisement of the 2nd floor Courthouse Bathroom project

Motion by Young seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Tyler Johnson, FT CO, Prison, Promotion, 6/18/21
- Brittany Boyer, Caseworker 2, CYS, 7 yr step inc, 6/2/21
- Austin McCormick, FT CO, Prison, 6 month step, 4/22/21
- Evan Pinchak, FT CO, Prison, 6 month step, 4/22/21

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- None

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

- Brett Ososkie, CO, Prison, Resignation, 10/18/21
- Rick Riera-Gomez, Clerk, Treasurer, Termination, 6/14/21
- David Rutherford, FT CO, Prison, Resignation, 6/18/21

Motion by Ridgway seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from a citizen concerning their issue regarding the lack of transportation after Rabbit stops running routes at 7:00PM.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 6-11-21 totaling \$672,820.31

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 6-11-21 totaling \$2,281.67

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

Commissioner Kovach made a motion and a second from Commissioner Ridgway to go into executive session at 2:35 PM to discuss contract negotiations regarding and review of DRIVE's response to the Board's original letter dated June 10th

Commissioner Ridgway made a motion to come out of executive Commissioner Kovach seconded and at 3:03 the Commissioners ended their executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

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