

July 6, 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, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, Treasurer Creveling, and Marcie Strachko. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, MJ Mahon, Dean Brewer, Ashley Ebright, Don Coleman, 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, Michele Frye, Treasurer Creveling, Dean Brewer, Luther Black, Ken Jackman, MJ Mahon, and Marcie Strachko. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Jen Long, Doug Brewer, Sheriff Chamberlain, and Gina Feigles-Kaar. Commissioner Ridgway started and brought up the number of errors that exist in the internal auditor's 2022 report. He cited the Hotel Tax percentage charged is incorrect, he also stated that the way they refer to the office of Public Safety should be broken out to EMA and the ECE. Commissioner Ridgway also stated that they referred to the Housing Authority handling the Centralia Mine Fire seems to be very outdated and stated that the Housing Authority handles many projects within the County. Commissioner Young then wanted to congratulate the Treasurer's office for the way they handled day one of the new updated state run deer license process, which for the first time was available online. Being that the state system was down for a period of time the office did a great job processing the hunter's licenses. Commissioner Ridgway then asked to go over the agenda and when reviewing MJ asked about the Commissioners decision not to purchase the Montour Township Building for SWAT. The Commissioners then reviewed the many questions that Solicitor McDonald had in regards to the building and asked why would the County want to get in the middle of such a transaction. After completing the review of the remaining agenda the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer – June Report

\$2,876.00 County Commission

Register & Recorder – June Report:

\$43,956.72 was collected and remitted to the County  
\$1,614.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund  
\$1,076.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund  
\$8,032.04 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund  
\$2,049.25 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Revenue – June Report

Interest:	\$1,274.60
Civil	\$3,977.50
Lic To Carry	\$3,344.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$0.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$337.50
Real Estate	\$0.00
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$3,918.00

Total \$12,851.60

Sheriff Screener – April Report

Courthouse:	
Visitors	5,952
Alarms	2,646
Weapons:	
Guns	9
Knives	38
Misc	10

Annex:		
Visitors		4,951
Alarms		1,475
Weapons:	Guns	6
	Knives	53
	Misc	10

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation for pretrial, probation and parole supervision week July 16<sup>th</sup> thru July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

B. Discussion with the Internal Auditors regarding their 2022 Audit Report

C. Approve the integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) memorandum of understanding between Columbia County and Luzerne County

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

D. Approve the use of \$40,000 of Hotel Tax money for the Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble for their HVAC project

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

E. Approve not pursuing the purchase of the Montour Township Building for SWAT

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

F. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for lease hold campers and mobile homes that were moved or razed with no permit

- Parcel 17-13-015-00,060 \$410.40

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a lease hold trailer that was sold or razed pursuant to ACT-156 abandoned mobile home

- Parcel 25-02-029-01,198 \$1,401.99

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Ridgway seconded; all approved

G. Approve the Jane Pitchford to the CMSU Development Services Advisory Board for a three year term beginning 7-1-23 to 6-30-26

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

H. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS

- Roxanne Beers, Caseworker 2, CY5, Six (6) month step, 7/3/23
- Benjamin Johnson, Promotion to FT CO, 7/9/23
- Jordan Carpenter, Promotion to FT CO, 7/9/23
- Cavern Gosciminski, One (1) year Step FT CO, 7/5/23
- Vanessa Semiclose, One (1) year Step FT CO, 7/5/23
- Evan Cochran, Two (2) year step FT CO, 7/4/23
- Joseph Meyers, Two (2) year step FT CO, 7/4/23
- Blake Delia, Two (2) year step FT CO, 7/4/23
- Blake Keefer, Two (2) year step FT CO, 7/4/23
- Nicholas Snyder, Two (2) year step FT CO, 7/4/23
- Brent Harner, Six (6) year step FT CO, 7/9/23
- Vivian Bloom, Four (4) year step FT CO, 7/21/23
- Hank Clarke, Asst PD, Transfer to PT, 7/10/23
- Carrie Lockard, PD, Two (2) year step, 6/21/23
- Heather Zegarski, FT LPN, Jail, Hire, 7/9/23

Commissioner Kovach approved; Commissioner Young seconded; all approved

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

- Antonia Brennan, Conf. Officer, DRO, Four (4) year step, 7/9/23
- Julie Klinger, Secretary, DRO, Step Inc Six (6) month step, 7/23/23
- Emmanuel Uribe- Gonzalez, Adm. Asst, DA/VW, Six (6) month step, 7/3/23
- Melissa Traugh, Deputy, Prothonotary, Two (2) year step, 6/21/23
- Mia Brinckman, Intake Clerk, DRO, Promotion, 6/25/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

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

- Richard Kleman III, CO, Prison, Termination, 6/16/23

Commissioner Young approved; Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- PPL Right of Way Agent sent the Commissioners notification that PPL is applying for Public Crossing in Mifflin Township on Route 339 for Norfolk Southern Railroad Company tracks.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted approval of the new crossing by PPL in Mifflin Township on Route 339
- PennDot sent notification that a resurfacing project will begin July 5<sup>th</sup> on Route 2008 (Bloom Road) in Danville Borough and Mahoning Township Montour County
- PennDot sent notification that they have a job fair for Columbia County on July 13, 2023 from 4:00PM to 7:00 PM at their Maintenance Office at 45 Lunger Driver Bloomsburg, PA 17815
- PennDot informed the Commissioners that Route 339 will continue next week.
- PennDot stated that the Lane restriction on Route 801 in Hemlock Township will continue
- PennDot notified the Commissioners that a Bridge Preservation Project will continue on Rupert Drive between Main Street and Legion Road in Montour Township.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sent notification to the Commissioners that UAE CoalCorp Associates have corrected their application which changed their post-mining land use and eliminate the water monitoring requirements due to the land classification change from forestland to unmanaged natural habitat and commercial.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sent notification to the Commissioners that Mid-Valley Coal Sales Inc. renewed their mining permit to include the Bond review for 2022.
- Woodland Design Associates sent notification to the Commissioners that PPL is filing a NPDE permit for Stormwater associated with construction in Orange Township Columbia County. PPL is installing of new structures to improve reliability and flexibility to PPL's power grid.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 7/7/23 for \$220,176.04

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Young; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills for \$3,032.48

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