

July 18, 2024

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 Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Alicia Marinos, Eric Stahley, Michelle Frye, Jeannie Lapinski, Marcie Strachko and Treasurer Creveling. Via zoom were the following individuals Alex Karpinski, Jenn Long, April Miller, Denise LaBuda, Don Coleman, Jeremy Brown, and MJ Mahon.

Commissioner Brewer 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 Commissioner Kovach, seconded by Commissioner Karschner; all approved; motion passes.

Commissioner Brewer then called for a report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Attendance (in person): Commissioners Brewer, Karschner and Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Jeannie Lapinski, Treasurer Creveling, Bobby Christianson, MJ Mahon, Michelle Frye, April Miller, Alicia Marinos, Tanya Nebroski, Ethan Troutman, Rev. Steve Hummel On Phone: Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Jeremy Brown, Jodi Cook, Jenn Long, Tim Murphy, Eric Stahley, Denise LaBuda, Matthew Repasky. Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order and asked if anyone had anything to discuss that was on the agenda.

- Tanya Nebroski, a volunteer who assists with keeping parks clean, asked the commissioners for permission to place dual-language signs, a port-a-potty and several, large trash cans at Hoffman Park. The organization has funding to pay for the items. This is all due to increased traffic enjoying the park and river on the weekends.
- Evan Troutman (Penn State Extension) presented the commissioners with a spotted lantern circle trap. Flies climb up the tree and get caught in the trap. It doesn't capture all, but it does capture a significant amount. It reduces the population without using sticky traps or petroleum jelly. These were made by 4-H and there are detailed instructions with needed parts supply on the 4-H website. Comm Kovach mentioned using pheromones as he had seen at an Apple Orchard. Camp Lavinge had great attendance; it was well received with many projects down by the creek. He reviewed upcoming events for each of the 4-H areas.
- Matthew Repasky updated he has received the variance approval for the absentee outer envelopes which enables them to move forward with processing mail-in ballots.
- Bobby Christiansen updated the commissioners about the water and sewer project. Working with Berwick Water authority; things are moving quickly in the right direction; there are three items left to be signed off; by Fall, people should start to hook up for water.
- Rev. Steve Hummel is President of Companions of Hope (for Columbia and Montour Counties). His organization runs a safe place for addicts called Resource and Recovery. This is an initiative of Governor Shapiro throughout the commonwealth. This area belongs to Region 8 Hub out of Williamsport. Columbia has the 2nd most drug issues in PA. Erie is #1 because rural areas do not have the same services as offered in the bigger cities. Members from CMSU, United in Recovery and Cadenzia plus volunteers operate the center. There are always two (2) volunteers in the center while open: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This is the first drop-in center in Columbia County. There is one in Shamokin called Oasis (he modeled Columbia after this) and one in Hazleton. This provides addicts and/or their loved ones with a place for resources to include, but not limited to: services for immediate placement, services to families, safe place to watch TV and have snacks,(soda, coffee), charging stations, computer with printer: resumes, apply for assistance, etc. In operation for 8 weeks and on first day, they placed one person in recovery. Most recently, they paid for bus fare for a homeless individual to get where they need to be. What Rev Hummel is asking for is money from the Opioid funds to put on trainings for Sober living Events (estranged from families) and Training for the Community.

The agenda was then reviewed. The Commissioners reviewed items A thru F and then Marcie reviewed item G and hires, steps and promotions for both the Commissioners and elected officials, then reviewed the resignation, retirements and terminations. Jean then reviewed available cash and bills after which the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – June Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$14,748.98

Total business all sources was \$1,545.25

Clerk of Courts – June Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$44,774.29

Total business all sources was \$75,0701.49

Number of Passports applications for June was 85

Magistrates' Reports – June

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	150	\$5,809.77
Bloomsburg	367	\$12,614.34
Catawissa	242	\$8,937.56
Millville	226	\$5,736.12

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Recognize Probation and Parole Supervision week for July 21st -27th as proclaimed by Governor Shapiro.

Commissioner Kovach read the proclamation and both he & Commissioner Karschner thanked the probation and parole personnel for doing a challenging job well.

Don Coleman said Thank you and apologized for being unable to accept the proclamation in person.

- B. Discussion with New Possibilities regarding the Resource and Recovery Center

Commissioner Kovach made a motion to table this topic until they are able to work through the proper channels to see if this is even possible. Karschner 2nd and all approved.

- C. Discussion regarding Hoffman Park

Karschner made a motion, Kovach seconded; all approved.

Commissioner Karschner noted he already had garbage cans placed at the park.

- D. Discussion regarding the cleaning and repair of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument

o Four (4) bids were received:

- C& D Construction said they weren't interested in doing this project.
- Young's Masonry submitted a bid for \$15,000.00 and would add a bolster to the base on all four (4) sides for an additional \$4500.00
- Steven C. Wright submitted a bid for \$16,800.00
- Robbins Masonry submitted a bid for \$31,800.00

Kovach made a motion to approve; Brewer seconded; all approved.

- o Eric Stahley offered to submit a bid to the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* organization who awards grants of \$2000.00 to help offset the costs. The grant can be submitted after the start of the project.
- o Solicitor McDonald recommended if the County wanted the bolster we should contact Wright and Robbins to submit a bid for that work.
- o Commissioner Brewer mentioned the Town of Bloomsburg would have to approve the add-on before anything can be done.

- E. Discussion regarding raising the Hearing Officer hourly rate \$100 to \$125, effective 8/1/24.

Karschner made a motion, Kovach seconded; all approved.

- F. Approve the extension of the Maximus contract for the allocation of expenses, extension is for 2 years

Brewer made a motion, Kovach seconded; all approved

G. Approve exoneration of cost of for a property that did not receive their 2023 tax bill, the bill was sent to the old address

- Parcel # 12-04-002-04-049-00,000 \$75.00

Kovach made a motion, Brewer seconded; all approved.

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest, parcel is a lease hold mobile home or trailer moved or razed with no permit

- Parcel # 17-15-007-01-025-00,000 \$78.71
- Parcel # 07-03-033-07-106-00,000 \$2,755.96
- Parcel # 07-03-033-07-126-00,000 \$307.74

Karschner made a motion, Kovach seconded; all approved

H. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES/STEP INCREASES/PROMOTIONS:

- None

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

- None

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

- Savannah Lengyel, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 7/16/24
- Kendra Reynolds, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 7/8/24

Kovach made a motion, Karschner seconded; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Castle Consulting –
 - Notified the funds had a bid day on 7/16/2024 with a closing cash value of \$43,255,939.00
 - YTD: Fund is up by \$5,057,303.00 with a total return of +13.15% vs the 60/40 benchmark return of +11.80%
- Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic asked for a cash donation for the clinic which operates on donations and grants.
- Berwick Historical Society asked for a donation to support “Go Joe 27” which is a fundraiser for Saint Joseph’s Center in Scranton. Joe Snedeker makes an annual bike ride through communities to ask for donations. Snedeker is schedule to ride through Berwick and stop at the Jackson Mansion at noon for the WNEP noon telecast.
- The National Opioid Litigation notified the County to add additional defendants to the opioid lawsuit. Solicitor McDonald stated he added two (2) defendants this week.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Approve the bills dated July 16, 2024 in the amount of \$685,566.98 except for \$60.00 reimbursement to Magistrate Brewer.

Motion by Commissioner Brewer and seconded by Commissioner Karschner; all approved

Approval to pay for cell phone reimbursement for Magistrate Brewer

Karschner made a motion, Kovach seconded; both approved
Brewer abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Kovach seconded by Commissioner Karschner; motion passes.

Attest: _____
Marcie Strachko