

August 3, 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, April Miller, Don Coleman, Michele Frye, Jean Lapinski, and Marcie Strachko. Via zoom were the following individuals MJ Mahon, Ashley Ebright, 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, Chief Clerk Witchey, Michele Frye, Marcie Strachko, Randy Karshner, Doug Brewer, Chris Anderson, Jen Long, Jean Lapinski, April Miller, Krunal Thakore, Treasurer Creveling, Rich Kisner Josh Reifer, Steve Beattie, Tom Dougher, Megan Bair, Josh Nespoli, Rick Jenkins and Matt Weigle. Via zoom were the following individuals Eric Stahley, MJ Mahon, Jodi Cook, and Alex Karpinski. Commissioner Ridgway asked Tom Dougher from the Gatehouse to start the meeting. He said that he wanted to keep the Commissioners aware that the Gatehouse along with CSO is applying through the state for a \$130,000 solutions grant of which \$100,000 is for operations of the Gatehouse. The grant is going to run through CSO and has an application deadline of August 18th. The Chairman then asked EMA to discuss the County's Continuity of Operation Plan that has been just completed. Josh then provided a power point presentation of his internship and the process he did in regards to the County's COOP plan, with one of the biggest changes to the plan was that most employees of the County are now able to work from home instead of having an offsite location as a workspace. The plan is updated for 5 years and will not have to updated again until 2028. SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Executive Director Steven Beattie provided the Commissioners an update of the Joint Rail Authority and the capital improvements that are scheduled to occur in the local area. He also had two board members present and stated that the Commissioners will need to take action to appoint to the both board members at the end of the year. Rich Kisner then spoke at the meeting stating that he had a new project to build a 4 unit 2 duplex one story 2 bed units with a partnership with Beyond Violence to present at the next meeting and was asking the Commissioners for approval to move forward with the official vote happening on the August 17th. The Chairman asked for a motion to place the request on the agenda, motion by Kovach seconded by Young, all were in favor motion passes. Jean then reviewed cash and accounts payable and then the rest of the agenda was reviewed which included Marcie reviewing all personnel moves after which the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Revenue – July Report

Interest:	\$1,231.11
Civil	\$3,179.00
Lic To Carry	\$2,470.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$114.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$410.00
Real Estate	\$1,464.65
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$2,072.68
Total	\$10,941.44

Treasurer – July Report

\$2,259.00 County Commission

Register & Recorder – July Report:

\$26,430.56 was collected and remitted to the County
\$1,485.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund
\$990.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund
\$6,071.17 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund
\$1,929.33 was collected in Remote Access Fee

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion with the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority representative and provide the Commissioners an update about JRA.
- B. Discussion with the Gatehouse and CSO jointly applying for the Emergency Solutions Grant through the state
- C. Approve the consent to proceed to CSG to seek a grant that will pass through the County with the understanding that the grant is contingent upon further Commissioner approvals

Motion by Commissioner Young; seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved

- D. Approve the Bloomsburg Art Fest use of the County's parking for their August 19th festival

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Young; all approved

- E. Discussion and public comment for the Columbia County Children & Youth 2024/2025 needs based budget

- F. Approve the Promulgation Page and presentation for the updated COOP Plan for the County, plan is in place for 5 years

Motion by Commissioner Young; seconded by Commissioner Kovach seconded; all approved

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

- Parcel 04b-02-150-00,070 \$4,968.50

Motion by Commissioner Young; seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved

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

- Kirstin Wright, Certified Telecommunicator, ECEN, 6 month step, 8/6/23
- Ashley Mensch, Director FC, Salary Adjustment, 7/24/23
- Josef Venditti, CO, Jail, 6 month step, 2/16/23
- Josef Venditti, CO, Jail, one year step, 8/16/23
- Marisa Long, CO, Jail, Promoted to FT, 7/30/23
- Matthew Elsmoore, CO, Jail, Promotion to FT, 8/6/23
- LaQuana, Obas, CO, Jail, Promotion to FT, 8/6/23
- David Tutko, CO, Jail, Hired for PT, 8/7/23
- Toby Young, CO, Jail, Hired for PT, 8/7/23
- Logan Krick, CO, Jail, Hired for PT, 8/7/23
- Caden Hagerman, CO, Hired for PT, 8/7/23
- Megan Moro, Asst Public Defender PT, PD, Hire, 8/7/23

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Young; all approved

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

- Brenda Berlin, Judicial Secretary, MDJ Bloomsburg, Hire, 8/21/2023
- Dale Coombe, Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff, Certified step increase, 7/3/23

Motion by Commissioner Ridgway; seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved

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

- Tim Creasy, Sales Tax Poster, Tax, Seasonal lay-off, 7/21/23
- Kaiden Whitenight, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 8/10/23

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Young; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notified the Commissioners that Bridge Inspections would be taking place on Route 80 in Hemlock Township.
- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania public Utility Commission notified the Commissioners that CTSI, LLC doing business as Frontier Communications applied for approval to alter the public crossing at Low Street (T508) crosses, at grade one track of SED-COG Joint Rail Authority in South Centre Township.
- The Secretary of Human Services sent a letter to the Commissioners detailing the Commonwealths Budget.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 8/4/23 for \$341,898.85

Motion by Commissioner Ridgway and seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills for \$2,967.54

Motion by Commissioner Kovach and seconded by Commissioner Young; abstain by Ridgway; motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Young and seconded by Commissioner Kovach. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk