

August 4, 2022

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, Ridgway, Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, April Miller, Jean Lapinski, Misty Chapman, and Denise Labuda. Via zoom: Don Coleman, MJ Mahon, Jen Long, and Sheriff Chamberlain.

Commissioner Young 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 Kovach, seconded by Young; motion passes.

Commissioner Young then called for a report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michele Frye, April Miller, Misty Chapman, Tyler Nichols, Wade Mays, Jean Lapinski, Richard Phelps, Rich Kisner, Eddie Ranum, Matt Hess, Betsy Rubio and MJ Mahon. Via Zoom were the following individuals: Don Coleman, Sheriff Chamberlain, Tim Murphy, Alex Karpinski, Jen Long and Jeremy Brown. Commissioner Young called the work session to order and asked that ABM discuss the two items on the agenda. The first being the Resolution approving the implementation of the design to build project to address infrastructural need of the County and the selection of Prime Capital Funding as the lessor of the project at 3.75%. Tyler started the conversation reviewing the project and stating five (5) banks provided rates for the loan. Prime Capital was the lowest rate and had no issuance fee. Commissioner Ridgway asked about paying the loan off early and Tyler stated that there is a sliding scale from a 3% to 1% penalty. At that time Commissioner Ridgway that he wanted to do the project but wanted to delay the decision to the next Commissioner's meeting. After some additional comments and brief discussions regarding the ABM projects, Commissioner Young asked Rich Kisner to discuss his item on the agenda. Rich stated that the USDA had a program called Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge Grant. He said that he would like to pursue this grant and would use Hailstone as the Consultants if he able to receive the grant. The grant is a quality of life for the residents of the County, which includes broadband and many other items. The total grant funds are \$20 million but Columbia if selected would only receive a small portion of those funds. Rich did feel that the County would have a strong application in that there has never been one given in Northeast Pa. Children & Youth Director April Miller discussed their item on the agenda which is their annual public hearing for the proposed 2023/2024 budget. Jean then reviewed available cash and cash comparison from LY to CY and also reviewed the bills from 8-5-22. The rest of the agenda was reviewed, Marcie discussed the hires/step/promotions and then the Salary Board agenda were reviewed and the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer – July Report

\$8,035.00 County Commission

Register & Recorder – July Report:

\$31,374.52 was collected and remitted to the County  
\$1,983.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund  
\$1,322.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund  
\$7,335.37 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund  
\$2,147.27 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Screeners – July Report

Courthouse:

Visitors		6,860
Alarms		3,218
Weapons:	Guns	8
	Knives	30
	Misc	16

Annex:

Visitors		4,810
Alarms		1,397
Weapons:	Guns	4
	Knives	57

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve the Resolution authorizing the selection of ABM for the implementation of a design build project to address infrastructural needs of the County facilities at a total value of \$3,730,644.

No motion made

- B. Approve the Resolution selecting Prime Capital Funding as the lessor of the project with a total value \$3,730,644

No motion made

- C. Public meeting for the Children & Youth Needs Based Plan and Budget for FY 2023/2024

- D. Approve Hailstone in partnership with CSG to apply to the USDA for the Rural Placemaking Innovation Grant Challenge

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- E. Approve the exoneration of cost due to school tax bill not being not received

- Parcel#25-05D-017-00,000 \$170.00

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- F. Discussion with Penn State Extension regarding current and upcoming vents

- G. Approve the Resolution for the Columbia County Tax Bureau that it will no longer accept cash for delinquent and current year real estate tax payments. Payments must be certified check, cashier checks or money orders.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Christopher Johnson, Caseworker 1, CYC, Hire, 8/22/22
- Lynn Dixon, Clerk, Tax, 2 yr step increase, 8/10/22
- Megan Shellenberger, Caseworker 2, CYC, (re)Hire, 8/15/22
- Heather Brennan, Caseworker 2, CYC, 10 year step increase, 7/11/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Claudia Apichell, Secretary, AP, Hire, 8/8/22
- Skylar Truchon, Officer, AP, Hire, 8/15/22
- Lacey Swisher, Clerk, MDJ Long, 6 month sept increase, 7/10/22
- Dale Coombe, Deputy, Sheriff, Hire (PT), 8/1/22

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Tim Creasy, Tax Sale Poster, Tax, Seasonal – position ended, 7/20/22
- Natalie Hess, Tax Sale Poster, Tax, Seasonal – position ended, 7/20/22

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation provided the Commissioners an update on lane restrictions on Back branch Road on August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>
- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sent a letter informing the Commissioners that our NPDES Permit at Briar Creek Lake Park expires on May 31, 2023.
- Williams Transco Pipeline notified the Commissioners that they intend to submit a Title V Administration Amendment Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This does not involve the installation or modification of any equipment.
- Dolittle Construction informed the Commissioners that they will be raising the cottage at 54 Hartman Grove, Orangeville Pa.
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notified the Commissioners that the roadwork on I80 will continue into August, and the hours of work will be 7:00PM to 6:00AM.
- Penn strategies is notifying the commissioners of their intention to submit to DCED the Catawissa Main Street Revitalization Project

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 8/5/2022 for \$1,628,020.26

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the American Paper bill from 8/5/22 for \$3,588.46

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Withey, Chief Clerk