

August 17, 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, Michele Frye, Misty Chapman, Matt Hess, Eileen Chapman, Treasurer Creveling, Laurie Swank, and Pam Hicks. Via zoom were the following individuals Denise Labuda, Don Coleman, Jen Long, MJ Mahon, and Eric Stahley.

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 Kovach, Erin Snyder, Tim Murphy Solicitor McDonald Bert Lieby, Bill Kriescher, Rachael Swartwood, Rich Kisner, Rob Davidson, Marcie Strachko, Eric Stahley, Matt Hess, MJ Mahon, Michelle Frey, Treasurer Creveling, David Withey, Betsy Rubio, and Elaine Edwards. Via Zoom were the following individuals, April Miller, Eric Boughner, Geralee Zeigler, Alex Karpinski, and an individual from Benton Borough. Commissioner Ridgway called the meeting to order and started with the proclamation to the Kiwanis 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Commissioner Kovach read the proclamation and thanked them for what they do for the community. Commissioner Ridgway then asked Matt Hess to talk about his two items on the agenda, with the first item being the CDBG 2019 funding extension request that will end on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2024. This extension was for the Blight, Pavilion at Briar Creek Borough building, and summer splash at Ber-Vaughn Park. Projects are scheduled to be complete at the end of October. Commissioner Ridgway asked Matt how much did the blight program have available to spend, Matt stated around \$90,000. Matt then started discussing the blight properties listed on item c and the challenges that can be and are associated with acquiring properties. So far the blight program has removed 3 structures since the Commissioners started the program. Attorney Davidson discussed some of the challenges which solicitor McDonald agreed are difficult to sometimes overcome and after a lengthy discussion of those many different issues the properties may not be handled by the Redevelopment blight program. Tim Murphy discussed his proposed Addressing Policy that was developed and is on the agenda for Commissioner approval. Geralee from SEDA-COG then discussed her two items on the agenda which is the Benton Borough elevation certificate and elevation of machinery and equipment. She stated that during the second round that 8 structures had applied for elevation certificate only and 11 structures have applied for M&E elevation also. Commissioner Young asked if any projects were started and Geralee stated that they just started receiving the Quotes back from the home owners seeking M&E elevation. After she spoke the rest of the agenda was reviewed and the meeting adjourned.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### Magistrates – July Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	240	\$4,664.76
Bloomsburg	355	\$9,624.48
Catawissa	382	\$7,659.30
Millville	294	\$4,540.90

##### Prothonotary:

###### Clerk of Orphans Courts – July Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$15,744.64  
Total business all sources was \$20,790.61

###### Clerk of Courts – July Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$29,370.49  
Total business all sources was \$61,370.28

OLD BUSINESS: None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation for the Bloomsburg Kiwanis Club 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary

B. Proclamation for the National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month September 2023

C. Discussion regarding two locations for the blight program:

1. 1940 State Route 487 Orangeville
2. 41 Back Brach Road

D. Approve the 2019 CDBG 3 year extension request

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

E. Approve the Parking License Agreement with Bloomsburg Schoolhouse for \$330.00 per parking (17) space per year, which is payable in 2 installments per year

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

F. Approve the Addressing Policy developed by GIS for Columbia County

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

G. Approve to move forward with the second round of the Elevation Certificate only program in Benton Borough for eight structures

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

H. Approve to move forward with the second round of the Elevation of Machinery & Equipment program in Benton Borough for eleven structures

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

I. Approve Bill Brobst and Troy Prutzman to the Columbia County Planning Commission effective 8-1-23.

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

J. Approve Bloom Early Music Workshop use of the County Parking lot on September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> for overflow parking.

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

K. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for lease hold camper or mobile home that was moved or razed with no permit

- Parcel 06-01-017-00,029                      \$1,661.78

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

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

- Joanna Smith, Asst PD, PD, Hire, 8/21/23
- Nathan Jandrisovits, Jail, Promotion to Sergeant, 8/20/23

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

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

- Sarah Roeder, MDJ Catawissa, Promotion to Office Manager, 8/28/23

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

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

- David Good, Field Assessor, Tax Office, Retirement, 6/30/23
- David Yutko, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 8/8/23
- Linda Douthat, FT CO, Jail, Retirement, 9/1/23
- Ryann Cymbala, Judicial Secretary, MDJ Long, Resignation, 8/25/23
- Christine Hartley, Judicial Secretary, MDJ Hess, Resignation, 8/31/23

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

CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notified the Commissioners that there will be lane closures on Route 42 in Montour Township on August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Larson Design notified the Commissioners that Catawissa Borough has provided notification regarding their Act 14, 67, 68 and 127, for their NPDES Permit Renewal.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 8/18/23 for \$492,349.85

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

- Approve American Paper bills for \$2,005.20

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. Withey, Chief Clerk