

September 15, 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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Michele Frye and Bill McClure. Via zoom: Jenn Long, Eric Boughner, Kelly O'Brien, MJ Mahon, Don Coleman, and Tami Kline.

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 Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all in favor, 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, Michelle Frye, Eric Stahley, Ashley Mensch, Bob Christenson, Jean Lapinski, Ammon Young, Leslie Bieber-Brecht, Amanda Noblit, Bert Lieby, Kay Duncan, Roy Bunger, Janine Pennman, and MJ Mahon. Via Zoom were the following individuals: April Miller, Don Coleman, Jen Long, Jeremy Reese, and Geralee Ziegler. Commissioner Young called the work session to order and asked Ashley why she was in attendance she stated that she had a new Parent Educator on the agenda. Ammon then discussed the proposed southern branch library located in Catawissa. He provided an update that included the owner was looking for a three year lease at \$1,100 per month. Initially he would like to see it as a community center for Catawissa which he would allow the Family Center to utilize as play group space and allow staff to meet with parents. He estimated other than the rent there would be an estimated \$10,000 to setup the space for use. Commissioners mentioned how he would sustain the location and Ammon indicated that he would like to have the Commissioners provide the annual rent but that all other expenses could be handled by the library. The Commissioners said they would consider the project however they stated that Catawissa Borough would have to participate in the sustainability of the Library and other communities that would benefit from the brick and mortar location. Bob Christianson then stated that there was an agreement between South Centre and Veolia that whatever the outcome of the lawsuit, which they were both seeking clarification, is the way they will handle the water project. In regards to the sewer project he does not know if they will be making the October deadline regarding the financing of the project. The Army Corp of Engineers is now involved and may require that South Centre purchase the .9 acres of wetlands at \$772,200 in order for the project to move ahead. Jean then reviewed available cash and cash comparison from LY to CY and also reviewed the bills from 9-16-22. The rest of the agenda was reviewed, Marcie then reviewed and discussed the hires/step/promotions, and then the Salary and Retirement Boards agendas was reviewed and the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – August Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	252	\$5,993.48
Bloomsburg	467	\$9,635.49
Catawissa	211	\$4,838.00
Millville	207	\$4,279.24

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – August Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$17,942.03  
Total business all sources was \$24,992.60

Clerk of Courts – August Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$32,634.67  
Total business all sources was \$65,014.39

Register & Recorder – August Report:

\$37,089.39 was collected and remitted to the County  
\$2,061.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund  
\$1,374.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund  
\$8,912.70 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund  
\$2,066.15 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Revenue – August Report

Interest:	\$262.15
Civil	\$3,861.00
Lic To Carry	\$3,021.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$171.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$50.00
Personal Prop	\$986.00
Real Estate	\$0.00
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$2,155.77
Total	\$10,506.92

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Presentation for a proposed southern branch library located in Catawissa

B. Approve the use of \$25,000 of Hotel Tax Dollars for Winterfest 2022

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

C. Approve the Women’s Center of Columbia and Montour Counties permission to post 2 signs with statistics and pinwheels in front of the Courthouse during the month of October. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

D. Approve the reallocation of \$495,000 of H2O funding and reallocate to the Benton Area Implementation Project which is for reduced cost elevation certificates and elevation of utilities above the Base Flood Elevation per compliance with local floodplain ordinance.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

E. Approve the elimination of pay for COVID-19 sick days

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve the following appointment/reappointment of the Columbia County Planning Commission as follows:

- Appointment of Troy Prutzman, finishing out Ernie Shearers term which expires on 8/1/2023
- Reappointment of Michelle Bella, renewing her 4 year term which expires on 8/1/2026

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

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

- Nicole Savani, Parent Educator, Family Center, Hire, 9/26/22
- Jordan Fosse, PT CO, Jail, 6 month step inc, 9/2/22
- Lindsey Cashner, FT CO, 6 month step inc, 9/13/22
- Jodi Sabo, LPN, Jail, 1 year step, 9/28/22
- Mayson Ulceski, CO, Jail, New Hire, 9/6/22
- Elizabeth Wood, Chief Public Defender, PD, 6 mo increase, 9/1/22
- Katelyn McGraw, Temp Lead Nurse, Jail, Temp assignment, 9/10/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Michael Beyer, Chief Deputy, Sheriff, 6 month inc, 10/3/22

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Shawn Gates, Caseworker 1, CYS, Resignation, 9/8/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Scattered Acres Farms submitted notice of application for Roaring Creek Surface Water Withdrawal Application No. 2022-078 for up to 1,195,200 gallons per
- Penn E&R sent notification to the Commissioners regarding PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for improvement to electrical service to the area and construction of a electrical distribution line which will cross Fishing.
- PPL notified the Commissioners that they are exempt from municipal and land use ordinances in Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission notified the Commissioners regarding an application to alter the public crossing DOT 265 991 which incorporates a sidewalk a new traffic system at Park Street in the Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 9/16/22 for \$1,015,116.72

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the American Paper bill from 9/16/22 for \$3,436.88

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kelly Obrien met with Commissioner Kovach regarding two parcels and had Berwick Hospital meetings and was having surveys with Jim Huntly for the Berwick Sr. High students

AJOURN:

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

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