

September 16, 2021

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, Michelle Frye, Julye Wemple, and Damien Scoblink. Via Zoom: Don Coleman, Jen Long And Jean Lapinski.

Approval of the minutes of the past meeting

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.

There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, David Kurecian, Shane Keefer, Dale Sneiderman, Bob Christianson, Scott Shear, Eric Stahley, Teri Provost, Harry Mathias, Michelle Frye, Reneae Newhart, Dave Heim, Julye Wemple, Marcie Strachko, and Matt Hess. Via Zoom Jen Long, Jean Lapinski, Jeremy Brown, April Miller, Gina Fiegles-Farr and Gerelee Zeigler. Young called the meeting to order and asked Harry Mathias to start the meeting Harry presented the Commissioners a powerpoint presentation regarding the American Rescue Fund Program. Harry provided the commissioners an update on the Skilled Trades Program. The program now has 254 students enrolled and the program has added 13 more classes. He then discussed the Small Business Grant, which officially opened September 1st. Businesses need to show a 25% reduction in revenue between 2019-2020 and the 2020 must include any Governmental assistance received during 2020. The non-profit Grant Program will open October 1, 2021 and will have \$500,000.00 available to disburse. Harry then started making his recommendations to the Commissioners for approval.

Recommendation #1 – Commissioners approve \$2,070,987.66 to be transferred to Columbia County as Lost Revenue. This equates to ½ the eligible transfer. A similar transfer is anticipated in 2022.

Recommendation #2 – Commissioners approve a Purchase Order \$37,638.38 for the purpose of purchasing a digital Polycon System for Courtroom #1 and #2 and the Columbia County Prison. Recommendation #3 – Commissioners approve a Purchase Order \$13,500.00 submitted to Sapphire EHR for the purpose of purchasing a comprehensive medical software for the Columbia County Prison. Recommendation #4 – Commissioners approve Eligible Small Business Grant recipients provided on the Powerpoint Presentation in the amount of \$432,000.00 for the 1st Round of the Grant. Recommendation #5 – Commissioners approve to the Berwick Joint Sewer Authority up to \$325,000.00 in 2022 for BAJSA share of Option #2, up to \$85,000.00 in 2023 for BAJSA share of Option #3, up to \$132,500.00 in 2024 for BAJSA's share of Option #4. Amounts are not to exceed amounts and will be lowered to half of actual cost of project if lower. Grant is contingent upon BAJSA and the Borough of Berwick signed a memorandum of Understanding in which the financial liability of Projects 2 thru 4 is split 50/50 and that the Borough commits to fund their share of the project by Nov. 30, 2021. Recommendation #6 – Commissioners provide Catawissa Water Company with a Grant of \$200,000.00 in 2022 to raise and protect the water system from flooding. The Grant is contingent upon a \$50,000.00 match from Catawissa Borough and/or a funding commitment from the water company. Recommendation #7 – Commissioners approve to provide EOS Therapeutic Riding Staples a \$25,000.00 Grant to address the COVID related economic hardship and to provide mental health programs to children and adults with special needs and veterans of Columbia County. Recommendation #8 – Commissioners to provide a Grant of \$150,000.00 in 2022 to the Berwick Area Swimming Pool, Inc. to install splashpad pool at the current facility. Grant is contingent upon a \$250,000.00 match the Borough of Berwick. Dale Sneiderman, the South Centre Secretary, then discussed a project of adding 235 additional customers to Suez Water. However, Commissioner Young then said Lyons Hills should be part of the project. The Township Supervisors will provide additional information to the commissioners as the project progresses. The Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau Executive Director Otto then discussed two different items associated with the Covered Bridges with the Commissioners. The first item was the need to fix both Stillwater and Josiah Hess's arches which are still set in cement. The Visitors Bureau has an estimate to repair in the amount of \$50,000.00, which would come from the tourism funds. The second item is the third party vendor Bandwago has created a passport to visit the 25 Covered Bridges. It's "free" to the individuals and if the individual visits at least 13 different Covered Bridges they will receive a special embroidered Covered Bridge patch to commemorate their accomplishment and for those individuals who check in at all of our Covered Bridges they will be entered to win a \$750.00 gift card to the Inn, Farmhouse, & Brewery Company at Turkey Hill in Bloomsburg. One lucky winner will be selected from all qualified travelers at the end of 2021. The campaign is currently up and running. Scott Shear and Laura Kurtz were in attendance to discuss the ordinance authorizing the issuance a General Obligation Note in the maximum principal amount of \$3,968,000.00, for the refunding of Columbia County's 2016 bond series. Also, to approve Webster's Bank as the lowest responsible bidder with a fixed rate of .72% and \$4,000.00 of bank fees, which resulted in the net savings of \$60,352.80. Matt Hess attended to approval to removal of Nicolas

Whitbeck a Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment Board Member. Teri Provost was in attendance from Seda-Cog to discuss Borton Lawson \$91,200.00 Invoice for completing 18 1/2% of the Westend study. Marcie then discussed all personnel actions. Jeannie then discussed available cash and bills. The Agenda was then reviewed and the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Register & Recorder – August Report:

\$36,810.67 was collected and remitted to the County
\$2,232.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund
\$1,488.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund
\$9,551.44 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund
\$2,314.88 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Revenue – August Report:

Interest:	\$35.94
Civil	\$3,915.00
Lic To Carry	\$3,572.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$57.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$1,113.00
Real Estate	\$735.54
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$1,441.00
Total	\$10,869.48

Magistrates – August Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	171	\$4,990.79
Bloomsburg	494	\$7,658.30
Catawissa	306	\$4,983.65
Millville	255	\$5,287.10

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – August Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$18,490.55
Total business all sources was \$27,673.17

Clerk of Courts – August Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$33,333.15
Total business all sources was \$70,805.62

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 update

B. Approval to utilize American Rescue Funds for the following programs:

- Approve utilizing 50% of the lost revenue calculation in the amount of \$2,070,987.66

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.

- Approve \$37,638.38 to authorize the purchase of digital polycon system for Courtroom #1, Courtroom #2 and the Columbia County Prison

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.

- Approve \$13,500.00 to purchase comprehensive medical software for the Columbia County Prison

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

- Approve the first round of the small business grantees in the amount of \$432,000 (list attached)
Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved.
- Approve up to \$325,000 in 2022 for BAJSA option 2
Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.
- Approve up to \$85,000 in 2023 for BAJSA option 3
Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.
- Approve up to \$132,000 in 2024 for BAJSA option 4
Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.
- Approve Catawissa Water Company \$200,000 to raise and protect the water system from flooding, contingent upon a \$50,000 match from Catawissa Borough
Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.
- Approve EOS Therapeutic Riding Center to receive \$25,000
Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved.
- Approve the Berwick Area Swimming Pool \$150,000 for a splash pad pool at the facility, grant is contingent upon a \$200,000 grant from the Borough of Berwick
Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

C. Discussion with the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau

- D. Approve the ordinance authorizing the issuance a general obligation note, in the maximum principal of \$3,968,000, pursuant to the Pennsylvania local government unit debt act to provide funds for and toward the current refunding of Columbia County's general obligation bonds Series of 2016.

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; abstain by Young, motion passes.

- E. Approve Webster Bank as the lowest responsible bidder to finance the refunding of the Series 2016 Bonds. Webster proposed a fixed rate of .72% and \$5,000 bank fees resulting in the largest net savings which was \$59,352

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; abstain by Young, motion passes.

- F. Approve the removal of Nicolas Whitbeck as a Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment board member.

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Young; all approved.

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

- Cody Hess, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 9/20/21
- Camden Scampone, FT CO, Prison, Hire, 9/13/21
- Shawn McCabe, Sergeant, Prison, 8 yr Step, 9/7/21
- Elizabeth Wood, Public Defender, PD, 6 month increase, 9/15/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved.

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

- Michelle Freed, Fiscal Manager, DRO, 6 month step, 9/22/21

Motion by Young, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

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

- Emily Mowery, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 7/23/21
- Sherri Schiach-Jurbala, Collections, Courts, Retirement, 9/24/21
- Kyle Cosleto-Miller, Law Clerk, Courts, Resignation, 8/5/21
- Rebecca Weaver, Collections Clerk, Courts, Resignation, 9/24/21
- Sherri Schaich-Jurbala, Collections Investigator, Courts, Resignation, 9/24/21
- Pearl Baxter, Caseworker 2, CYS, Resignation, 10/1/21
- Philipp Shultz, CO, Prison, Resignation, 9/13/21
- Hallie Yacko, CO, Prison, Resignation, 9/14/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Newell Tereska & MacKay notified the Commissioners that Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has submitted an application for Act 14, 67, 68, and 127 Notification for Rest Area 38 Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Alcoholic Anonymous requested to have their link listed on the County website resource page.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 9-17-21 totaling \$652,458.24

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 9-17-21 totaling \$1,140.70

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; 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 Ridgway. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
David J. Withey, Chief Clerk