

September 21, 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, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling, and Jeannie Lapinski. Via zoom were the following individuals Jen Long, Don Coleman, Alex Karpinski, MJ Mahon and Monte Farr.

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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Matt Hess, Jen Long Chris Anderson, MJ Mahon, Michelle Frey, Treasurer Creveling, Jeannie Lapinski, Ethan Howard, Janelle Neidig and Bob Christianson. Via Zoom were the following individuals, Denise LaBuda, Eric Stahley, Jennifer Jones, and Don Coleman. Commissioner Ridgway called the meeting to order and asked Matt Hess to start the meeting, Matt then provided an update on the CDBG 2023 program and the plans associated with the 2023 year. With the first item is to build another Veteran home and ADA modifications to the Orangeville Municipal Building. He then explained HUD's decision to have the County's Chief Clerk sign off on the Redevelopments Environmental Review stating it would be a conflict to have CCRA sign off on the review they completed. Matt then discussed his last item on the agenda which is the anti-displacement plan, as he then explained the Redevelopment has followed guidelines and has not targeted any occupied homes. Ethan from Penn State Extension provided a power point presentation of what is going on with Penn State during the last couple of months. Bob Christianson then did discuss the sewer project in South Centre and provided a water project update. Sewer is progressing forward and some homes in Lyons hills have hooked up to Veiola Water. Janelle Neidg from the Victim Witness office then discussed an opportunity for a grant for up to \$6,000 from CMSU to build out a calming room for young individuals that are having issues when going in front of the courts. Janelle asked if the Commissioners would provide the funds up front and then be reimbursed by CMSU within 30 days. All that is required is a MOU between the District Attorney and CMSU and they can move forward with the project. Jen Long then reviewed her two items on the agenda. Bills and cash were reviewed by Jean and then the rest of the agenda was reviewed and then the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – August Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	214	\$5,141.46
Bloomsburg	351	\$8,532.92
Catawissa	433	\$7,459.06
Millville	298	\$5,057.46

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Proclamation for the Luzerne County Community College Nursing Program celebrating 50 years
- B. Approve Mark Sharrow to the ECEN Advisory Board as the Columbia County Representative
 - Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- C. Approve EMA to seek the NCTF reimbursement for the County's Cybersecurity-Two Factor Authentication
 - Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- D. Approve the Geisinger Health Insurance 2024 annual agreement for the County which is a 9.5% increase over 2023
 - Motion made by Kovach, seconded by Young, all approved

- E. Approve the Women’s Center use of flower beds to place pinwheels and signs for October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- F. Discussion regarding the resolution approving the 2023 CDBG application for the Housing & Redevelopment Authority
- G. Approve the residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan for the Columbia County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities.
- Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- H. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Columbia County Housing Authority and the County of Columbia for the Environmental Review for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Where the CCRA is the responsible entity to conduct the environmental review and the County is the responsible entity to sign off on the review
- Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- I. Approve the Victim Witness Office to sign a MOU with CMSU for a up to \$6,000 grant for a calming room for individuals that may need or require such as space.
- Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- J. Acknowledgement of Christopher Anderson completion of the Continuity of Operation Excellence-Level 1 & Radiation Specialist and also acknowledge Troy Prutzman (RAD Volunteer) receiving his Radiation Specialist Certificate
- K. Approve the Keystone Consulting Engineers as the Planning Commission Engineer for a one (1) year term
- Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Young, all approved
- L. Approve the Matthew Turowski as the Planning Commission Solicitor for a one (1) year term
- Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- M. Approve the Planning Commission appointment of William Brobst as Chairperson, Dr. Johnson as Vice Chair and Terry Hoover as Secretary, and Michelle Bella as Treasurer all one year terms
- Motion made by Kovach, seconded by Young, all approved
- N. Approve the lease agreement with Madison Landholding for Family Center & Corner
- Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, no by Ridgway, motion passes
- O. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS:
- Christopher Johnson, Caseworker 2, CYS, Promotion, 8/22/23
 - Daniel Puentes, Caseworker I, CYS, six (6) month step increase, 8/27/23
 - Kaiden Whitenight, FT CO, Jail, two (2) year step increase, 9/27/23
 - Megan Hart, FT CO, Jail, six (6) month step increase, 10/23/23
 - Dasia Cardona, FT CO, Jail, six (6) month step increase, 10/23/23
 - Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved
- P. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS/COURT EMPLOYEES: HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS:
- Mia Brinckman, Intake Clerk, DRO, six (6) month step increase, 9/27/23
 - Jonathan Broadt, Sheriff Deputy, Sheriff, Certification increase, 9/1/23
 - Hollie Stewart, Chief Deputy, Reg & Recorder, Four (4) year step increase, 10/16/23

- Tammy Poust, Judicial Secretary, MDJ Bloomsburg, six (6) month step increase, 10/10/23
- Sara Chapin, APO Programs/Collections Coordinator, AP, two (2) year step, 10/1/23
- Motion made by Kovach, seconded by Young, all approved

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

- Karlea Allen, Caseworker I, CYS, Rescind Offer, 9/12/23
- RyLee Sortman, Caseworker I, CYS, Resignation, 9/22/23
- Thomas Grabow, FT CO, Jail, Retirement, 10/7/23
- Vanessa Gill, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 9/22/23
- Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that Blaschak Anthracite Corp. has renewed its mining permit that includes the Bond Review for 2021.
- Self Service Equipment Rentals provided the Commissioners information of a new line of Self Service Lawn Games Rentals that could be made available at Briar Creek Lake Park.
- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provided information to the Commissioners of the application to them from SEDA-COG regarding the installation of new active traffic control devices along the joint Rail Authority in various municipalities in Columbia County.
- Camp Victory sent notification that they are applying for renewal of their NPDES permit to discharge sewage.
- Orange Township notified the Commissioners that they are looking to renew their Water Quality management Permit.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills thru dated thru 9/22/23 for \$803,626.91

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

- Approve American Paper bills for \$1,520.02

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 by Commissioner Ridgway.

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey