

October 1, 2020

The Columbia County Commissioners met on the above date at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Small Conference Room for a Commissioners meeting handling the transaction of routine business. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Michelle Frey, and Treasurer Creveling, Juley Wemple, and Grant Marshman. All other attendees were online via zoom they are as follows Jeremy Brown, Wade Mays, Jen Long, Dan Knorr, Rachael Swartwood, Kurt Brungard, and Jared Harris.

A motion was made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was unanimously passed.

There was a work session at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Small Conference Room for the transaction of routine business. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Jean Lapinski, Harry Mathias, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frey Lissa Bryan Smith, Matt Krah, Juyle Wemple. All other attendees were online via zoom they are as follows BU Dan Knorr, Eric Boughner, Eric Stahley, Jeremy Brown, Rachael Swartwood, Jen Long and Wade Mays. Harry started off the meeting discussing the amount of money in the CARES reserve is around \$884K, he provided updates regarding items that appear as though no funds will be needed. They are Mortgage/rent assistance and mental health issues are not appearing as primary needs for funding. There are however some additional non-profit needs that were mistakenly not funded in the first round of the non-profits. They are as follows Columbia County Covered Bridge Assoc. \$2.2K, St Columbia, \$9.4K, Family center 11K, Probation less than 1K, and the Conservation District 6.6K. He also brought up that a new round of small business grant should be opened, which will have the same criteria as the first round and be capped at 20K. This would be opened after the Commissioners meeting on October 15th and run until November 9th with the Commissioners final approval on November 19th. Harry then discussed the communications he had with Bloomsburg University, and provided his recommendations that the Commissioners and BU purchase 12,000 rapid tests which comes with 14 test machines which will be co-owned by the Commissioners and BU. This would allow BU to test all incoming students and provide an additional 4,000 tests. Of which 1,000 tests would be allotted to Columbia County. Harry stated that these tests and results would be completed in 1 hour with the primary goal to protect the Community. BU would be responsible to run the site and manning of the system. Commissioner Young stated that the asymptomatic individuals are the most dangerous and this would allow us to identify those easily. Dan Knorr said that the game plan for the Spring Semester would be for a staggered return so that all could be tested prior to classes starting. Lissa Bryan Smith notified the Commissions that Geisinger was going to open a second testing site in Montour County for those individuals that have symptoms. She then discussed the 340B program and introduced Matt Krah who handles this program for Geisinger. He explained that this is a Congressional Act, and in order to qualify it requires the hospital have at least 11.75% of patients must be Medicaid/SSI patients. This then allows Geisinger Bloomsburg to have the Drug Manufactures to offer discounted drugs to ER, and outpatient individuals at discounted rate. This does not compete with the local pharmacies and requires a memorandum of understanding between Bloomsburg Geisinger and the Commissioners. Wade then provided an update regarding the landfill and that they are performing the final grading and that the leachate flow has slowed down from 40,000 gallons per week to 10,000 gallons per week. He also said that the township road will be completed with 2-3 weeks. Jen provided an update of the COVID-19 testing site and the positivity rate is hovering around 5.7% for those individuals within Columbia County. The agenda was then reviewed and personnel actions discussed, Jean reviewed bills and available cash.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer – September Report:

\$1,380.00 was collected in Commissions

Sheriff – Courthouse September Screeners Report:

Visitors	5,867
Alarms	4,115
Confiscated Weapons	
Guns	7
Knives	6
Misc.	7

Annex August Screeners Report:

Visitors	3,990
Alarms	3,159
Confiscated Weapons	

Guns	3
Knives	61
Misc.	14

Sheriff – September Report:

Revenue:

Interest:	\$377.78
Civil	\$2,583.00
Lic To Carry	\$4,465.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$114.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$543.00
Real Estate	\$323.50
Warrant	\$483.50
Total	\$8,549.14

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update on Covid-19

B. Update on the Landfill Project

C. Update on the COVID-19 Cares Funding

D. Approve the opening of the bids for the exterior of the Columbia County Prison which includes the following: Prison Roof, Stone Masonry Repair

Motion made by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

E. Approve the lowest responsible bidder H&P Construction pending review by the Engineer, Solicitor and Chief Clerk

Motion made by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve \$10,000 of Hotel Tax Funds for the Barton House Historical Association

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

G. Discussion of Fowlerville Covered Bridge

H. Approve the revisions made to the Policy and Procedural Manual

Motion made by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Vanessa Aten, PT CO, Jail, Hire, 10/5/2020
- Britney Zumberling, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to PT >30, 9/6/2020
- Emily Vollmer, Land Use Planner, Planning, Promotion, 10/1/2020

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Katy Anderson, Secretary, DRO, Hire, 10/12/2020

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Drew Lerch, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 9/22/2020
- John Hassinger, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 9/20/2020

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection sent a letter to the Commissioners regarding Hanson Aggregates an Emergency Permit to authorize the removal and reclamation of a permitted and bonded conveyor crossing over Fishing Creek.
- MSL Properties sent a letter to the Commissioners notifying them that the occupant at 851 Railroad Street in Bloomsburg will not be renewing their lease, and they have a 100,000 sq. ft. warehouse for lease and or sale.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Request to pay bills for period of October 2nd totaling \$945,616.87

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

Request to pay American Paper for the period of October 2nd totaling \$2,404.06

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None.

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. Witchey, Chief Clerk