

October 21, 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, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Eric Boughner, Eric Stahley, Jean Lapinski, Betsy Rubio, and Julye Wemple. Via Zoom: Don Coleman, Jen Long and Jeremy Brown.

Approval of the minutes of the past meeting

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

There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Bob Christianson, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Betsy Rubio, Matt Hess, Eric Boughner, Harry Mathias, Geralee Ziegler, Teri Provost, Eric Stahley, Adrian Mael, and Julye Wemple. Via Zoom Jen Long, April Miller, Don Coleman, and Jeremy Brown. Young called the meeting to order and asked Harry Mathias to start the meeting Harry presented the Commissioners a power point presentation regarding the American Rescue Fund Program. Harry provided the commissioners an update on the Skilled Trades Program. The program now has 286 students enrolled and the program has 31 total classes. He stated that he will schedule meeting with the local large businesses to discuss the 2021-22 Skilled Trade Programing. He also discussed the Innovation Grant for \$100,000 which is designed to improve life for Columbia County residents. Harry then discussed the Prothonotary's Full Court project which is designed to have their records online which will allow individuals to access their information remotely, this is scheduled to be up and running by the EOY. Harry then discussed that between the COVID-19 funding and ARF the Commissioners provided \$3,300,000 to small business in 2020/2021. Money that has been allocated for the ARF is at \$6,159,051.89 which leaves \$6,440,316.11. Some of the open items discussed but not yet allocated is the South Centre water and sewer projects, the Commissioners are awaiting information regarding these projects. Matt Hess and Betsy Rubio discussed two items the first was the CDBG reallocation of \$27,137.58 from Bridge to Work & Summer Splash programs to the Mainville Township Project. The second item is the transfer of ERAP Funds from the County to the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority so they can manage the entire process. Geralee Ziegler then discussed the two water mitigation studies the first was the West End Study. She informed the Commissioners that the time table for the return of the surveys has been extended to October 30th this was due to the lack of responses from the residents. There is also going to be a meeting on December 1st @ 6:30 located at Bloomsburg Fire Department. The Fishing Creek Study response from the residents was also low and there next public meeting will be held on November 30th @ 6:30 at Sawmill Road. Adrian Mael then provided the Commissioners an update regarding the upcoming merger of the Columbia Montour United Way and the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way which she is goin to be the CEO. Adrian discussed some of the United Way's current programs and staffing and stated the office for the united Way will stay in Bloomsburg and will be located at CSG's new building when complete. Commissioner Ridgway then wanted to discuss DRIVE and that he wants DRIVE to provide an audited report and marketing analysis of the Broadband Project that the Commissioners funded both reports will be detailed to determine if the project was handled properly. Commissioner Young also brought up that since DRIVE has gone live Fishing Creek Township residents have experienced a decline in their cell phone reception in that area. Eric Boughner suggested that a Spectrum Analysis be performed by Connex to determine if the Broad band is having an effect on the residents cell phone reception. 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:

Magistrates – September Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	206	\$4,076.79
Bloomsburg	534	\$9,154.97
Catawissa	463	\$7,794.95
Millville	294	\$5,257.09

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – September Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$14,662.87
Total business all sources was \$22,904.02

Clerk of Courts – September Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$30,030.00

Total business all sources was \$64,790.37

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 update

B. Update from SEDA-COG regarding the water mitigation studies for Fishing Creek and the West End

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

- Approve to authorize \$43,495.09 for the continued digitization of the Register & Recorder office records

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the third and final round of eligible Small Business Grant recipients totaling \$96,000

Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the Columbia County Conservation District \$106,600. Projects are as follows: \$4,465 – technical upgrades for the office
\$102,135 for vegetation control at Kocher Park and Johnson Flats

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Approve \$50,000 to Benton Little League for field and facility improvements contingent upon a match of \$25,000 from Little League and/or Benton Borough

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve \$20,000 to the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau

Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve \$150,000 to the Berwick Theater for the repair of the roof and repointing of the exterior bricks and is contingent upon a 50/50 match from the municipality.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve \$12,000 to the Bloomsburg Kiwanis for Summer Camps for the Youth of Columbia County

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

D. Approve the CDBG reallocation of \$14,779.25 from Bridge to Work and \$12,358.33 of Summer Splash to the Mainville Township Building totaling \$27,137.58

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

E. Approve Adam Smith to the Columbia County LEPC Committee

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

F. Approve the transfer of ERAP Funds from Columbia County totaling \$3,993,634.02 to the Columbia County Housing & Redevelopment Authority so they can start processing all checks associated with the ERAP Program

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

G. Approve the following individuals for the Children & Youth Services Advisory Board:

- Julie Lewellyn – community member
- Deborah Forsythe – Nurse Family Partnership
- Autumn Hart – Women’s Center

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

H. Approve the following EDECI Mitigation Projects:

- Main Township - \$13,500.00 for the Cole’s Creek debris cleanup and removal project.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Berwick Borough - \$104,000.00 for the streambank restoration of Glenbrook in the area of Heights Road.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

- Hemlock Township - \$2,000.00 for property acquisition and demolition in Fernville.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

I. Approve the use of \$8,000 of Hotel Tax dollars for the removal of 80 stumps at the Briar Creek Lake Park

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Joseph Warunek, Jr., Investigator, PD, Hire, 10/14/21
- Savannah Lengyel, CO, Prison, Temp Transfer to SGT (3rd shift), 10/17/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Sarah Roeder, Clerk, MDJ Long, 2 yr step increase, 10/28/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Commissioners received notification from JHA Surveyors Engineers Environmental GIS Mapping: regarding the Millville Borough Municipal Authority project that includes permitting addition of modules to membrane filtration, removal and replace existing particle counter with process laser turbid meters, and modification of existing treatment processes.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 10-22-21 totaling \$626,040.56

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American Paper bills from 10-22-21 totaling \$1,967.73

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

Attest: _____
David J. Withey, Chief Clerk