

November 16, 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 via teleconference Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Jeannie Lapinski, Eric Boughner, and Marcie Strachko. Via zoom were the following individuals: Don Coleman, Jeremy Brown, Alex Karpinski, and MJ Mahon.

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 Ridgway; 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, via teleconference Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Eric Boughner, Randy Karchner, Dean Brewer, MJ Mahon, Matt Hess and Denise LaBuda. Via zoom were the following individuals: Alex Karpinski, Tim Murphy, Jenn Long, Jeremy Brown, Jeremy Reese, and Diane Cizewski. Commissioner Ridgway called the meeting to order and asked that Matt Hess to start the meeting he then told the Commissioners about the two items on the agenda he was there for. The first was to have Betsy Rubio have access to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the second was to use CDBG Blight Program funds to purchase a house for its appraised value which is located next to Fishing Creek. Commissioner Ridgway then asked Denise Labuda if she had anything and she stated she did but did not see it on the agenda. After discussing the item, Commissioner Young made a motion to add barb Warnuk's 10 year step to the agenda Commissioner Ridgway seconded and all approved. Commissioner Ridgway then asked Jean Lapinski to review the 2024 proposed budget to advertise. Jean stated the budgeted expenses of \$34,560,270 and revenues of \$35,934,936 which will allow for a \$1,374,646 surplus for 2024. She also stated that there will be only a few increases in expenses other than salaries and benefits to 2023's budget. After discussing everything else with the 2024 budget, the rest of the agenda was reviewed including available cash and bills to be paid.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### Magistrates – October Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	253	\$5,577.45
Bloomsburg	489	\$11,023.62
Catawissa	354	\$6,483.93
Millville	230	\$3,797.91

##### Prothonotary:

###### Clerk of Orphans Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$16,705.97

Total business all sources was \$21,567.76

###### Clerk of Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$28,507.01

Total business all sources was \$60,755.06

OLD BUSINESS: None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve the advertisement for the 2024 budget

Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved

- B. Approve the signature for Betsy Rubio to have to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Motion by Young, seconded by Ridgway, all approved

- C. Approve the advertisement for each separately; Wagner Covered Bridge move, staircase construction, and entire bridge project including all the above including move, repair, and landscaping.

Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved

- D. Approve the use of CDBG Blight program funds for acquiring the property located at 41 Back Branch Road

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach, all approved

- E. Approve the Commissioner Meeting Dates as presented

Motion by Young, seconded by Kovach, all approved

- F. Approve the nominations of Joan McCarty to the Board of Directors of the Columbia County Conservation District, this is for a four year term starting January 1, 2024.

Motion by Kovach, motion does not occur due to lack of a second, is not approved

- G. Approve the nominations of Donald Edwards to the Board of Directors of the Columbia County Conservation District, this is for a four year term starting January 1, 2024.

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Young, all approved

- H. Approve the tax/cost/interest to be exonerated, parcels are campers that moved out of campground with no permit

- 15-09-006-03,069 \$45.00
- 15-09-006-03,051 \$343.84
- 15-09-006-03,074 \$63.14

- Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young, all approved

- I. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, PROMOTIONS:

- Janan Tallo, Chief PD, PD, six (6) month increase, 12/1/23

Motion by Young, seconded by Ridgway, all approved

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

- Barb Warunek, Program Coordinator, Courts, ten (10) year step inc

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach, all approved

- K. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, RETIREMENTS:

- Jerry Moyer, Laborer, Parks, Furlough (Seasonal), 11/9/23
- Ed Berlin, Laborer, Parks, Furlough (Seasonal), 11/9/23

Motion by Young, seconded by Ridgway, all approved

#### CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Commissioners received notification from the Opioid Department regarding the McKinsey Settlement.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills except American Paper dated thru 11/10/23 for \$132,113.55

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

- Approve bills for American Paper thru 11/10/23 for \$2,302.68

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Elect Karchner asked the Commissioners if they are willing to Judge the parade of lights

AJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Young and seconded by Ridgway.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Witchey