

November 17, 2022

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, Treasurer Creveling, Michele Frye Jean Lapinski, MJ Mahon, Andrew Detwiler Senator John Gordner, Representative David Millard, and Kristi Heintzelman. Via zoom: Tim Murphy, Jen Long, Alex Karpinski, and Sheriff Chamberlain.

Commissioner Young 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 Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved, motion passes.

Commissioner Young then called for a report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, MJ Mahon, Jean Lapinski, David Folk, Treasurer Creveling, Dave Kurecian, Shane Keefer, and Ethan Howard. Via Zoom were the following individuals: Jen Long, Jeremy Brown, Alex Karpinski, April Miller, Tara Mondock, Tim Murphy, Don Coleman, Eric Stahley, Charles Lewis, Geralee Ziegler, and Susan Leighow. Commissioner Young called the work session to order and asked Dave Folk to start the meeting by presenting his request to the Commissioners. Folks Butterfly Farm is an educational and a tourism location for Columbia County. What David wants to do is improve his overall site appearance and provide educational opportunities via the rain garden which will assist in the life cycle of the butterfly. David has worked with the Conservation District for the design of the project and he is seeking \$34,157.61 of Hotel Tax dollars for these site improvements. The Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau then presented the first of two vendors that will provide the Visitors Bureau with data collection via tracking software that is utilizing over 2000 phone apps. The software provides a massive amount of data in regards to where the visitors come from, length of stay, timing, and if they revisit the area. Jean then reviewed the 2023 Columbia County Budget, the total revenues are expected to be \$34,785,972 and expenses are projected to be \$34,536,612.85 the budget has no proposed tax increase and is projected to have a 249K surplus. After reviewing the rest of the budget Ethan Howard provided the Commissioner an update on what Penn State Extension is has done for the past month. The remaining agenda was then reviewed, Marcie discussed the hires/step/promotions, and then the Salary Board and retirement agendas agenda were reviewed. Commissioner Young then asked if there was any public comment and none was asked. The meeting was then adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$15,677.79

Total business all sources was \$25,641.98

Clerk of Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$33,035.32

Total business all sources was \$91,178.29

Magistrates – October Report:

| | Cases | Collected |
|------------|-------|-------------|
| Berwick | 223 | \$5,194.77 |
| Bloomsburg | 545 | \$11,736.59 |
| Catawissa | 271 | \$5,296.81 |
| Millville | 171 | \$3,033.99 |

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Senator Gordner and Representative Millard announcement of \$4,000,000 from DCED to Columbia County for a flood mitigation project
- B. Approve the advertising of the 2023 Columbia County budget

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

C. Discussion with the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau

D. Approve the use of \$34,157.61 of Hotel Tax money to assist Folk's Butterfly Farm to enhance their overall site appearance and for educational improvements.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; opposed by Ridgway; motion passes

E. Approve the advertisement of sealed bids for County Bridge #31, Richards Covered Bridge. Bid is for replacing and repairing portions of timber members, shoulder repairs, and approach guide rails.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a camper that moved out of campground with no permit

- Parcel#32-07-023-00,117 \$66.45

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a lease hold mobile home that was razed or moved with no permit

- Parcel#32-07-023-00,117 \$81.78

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Micaela Riley, Caseworker 2, CYS, 6 month step, 10/26/22
- Ian Unger, Caseworker 1, CYS, 6 month step, 10/18/22
- Donald Hilkert, Mechanic, Maintenance, 6 month step, 11/23/22
- Kayla Green, FT LPN, Jail, (re)Hire, 11/28/22
- Lottie Neiswender, PT LPN, Jail (re)Hire, 11/15/22
- Lewis Bennett, FT CO, Jail, (re)Hire, 11/17/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Carol Luschas, Clerk, Prothonotary, 10 year step, 10/1/2022

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Ed Berlin, Laborer, Parks, Seasonal Lay-off, 11/14/22
- Jerry Moyer, Laborer, Parks, Seasonal Lay-off, 11/14/22
- Laurie Pickle, Asst PD, PD, Resignation, 10/28/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that they are undertaking an evaluation of Lick Run to determine if it qualifies for possible redesignation as a High Quality or Exceptional Value Waters
- JM Smucker is notifying the Commissioners that Big Heart Pet Brands is filing a renewal application with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for consumptive use, of up to 800,000 gallons per day from well #3, #6 and #7.
- Wise Potato is filing Act 14 to renew its NPDES permit for their on-site wastewater treatment facility discharge to the Susquehanna River.
- Arconic has notified the Commissioners that Kawneer is applying to DEP for their facility wide Air Quality operating permit.
- PPL notified the Commissioners that they are applying to alter public crossing of North Shore Railroad Company located at Rupert Drive in Montour Township, Columbia County.

- SEDA-COG notified the Commissioners that the Town of Bloomsburg was awarded \$60,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission Funds for the Walnut Street Culvert Stormwater Mitigation Project.
- Veolia notified the Commissioners of the three phases of the joint project in South Centre Township.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 11/4/22 for \$417,753.35

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the American Paper bill from 11/4/22 for \$6,219.91

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. Witchey, Chief Clerk