

November 18, 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, Michelle Frye, Jean Lapinski, Don Coleman, Julye Wemple, Bridget Kingston, Bob Smith, and Carey Rhodomoyer. Via Zoom: Eric Boughner, Eric Stahley, Jen Long, Alex Karpinski, April Miller, Denise LaBuda, Tami Kline, and unidentified call in.

Approval of the minutes of the past meeting

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Harry Mathias, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling, and Julye Wemple. Via Zoom Jen Long, and Alex Karpinski, Eric Boughner, Eric Stahley, Fred Gaffney, Jeremy Brown, Geralee Zeigler, Don Coleman, and an unidentified call in number. Young called the meeting to order and asked to Harry to start the meeting. Harry gave a power point presentation starting with the number of the skilled trade update and that there are 31 sections now being offered. He also stated that there will be a reconciliation of this program in February or March of 2022 along with a meeting with the stakeholders to provide feedback regarding the program. Harry also stated that the innovation Grant for non-profit has opened up and that the innovation grant for businesses will open up in the near future. Harry then reviewed all the recommendations that are on the agenda utilizing the American Rescue Funds. Jen Long provided an update on the increasing COVID-19 numbers. Geralee Zeigler then provided updates regarding the West End Study and Fishing Creek Study and that there will be a public meeting held on December 1st at Bloomsburg Fire Department for West End and November 30th at Sawmill Road for the Fishing Creek Study. For the West end study they had 123 responses or a 35% response rate on their questionnaire, which for a study such as this is considered a good response. The Fishing Creek update is that there were 39 problem areas along the creek and HRG had at the time of the meeting visited 20 of the areas and are starting to plot the problem areas. Eric Stahley then added that if we could share the elevation information from the West End Study with Susquehanna River Basin Commission or SRBC so that they could add that information to their public website, which was approved. The Commissioners then asked that SEDA_COG coordinate a meeting with all parties including State Senator Gordner, Representative Millard, Congressman Musser, SEDA-COG and the Commissioners so that they can discuss funding for what the studies recommend. Commissioner Ridgway then discussed hazard pay for the current Columbia County employees. He discussed that private industry has utilized funds to provide their employees with additional funds, another County has given \$5 an hour increase to employees until the end of 2021, and another County gave a \$1.60 an hour increase. He also mentioned the departments that worked directly with individuals throughout the pandemic and that the military receives additional combat pay, and that the \$1,500 which will be proposed at the 2:00 PM meeting will be a thank you pay to the current employees. Marcie then reviewed all of the hires/steps/promotions that are occurring within the County. Jean then reviewed cash and bills. After reviewing the agenda the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$13,912.81

Total business all sources was \$20,255.89

Clerk of Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$31,471.85

Total business all sources was \$63,883.33

Sheriff Screeners – October Report

Courthouse:

Visitors 6,271

Alarms 3,078

Weapons: Guns 13

Knives 46

Misc 15

Annex:		
Visitors		4,599
Alarms		1,772
Weapons:	Guns	7
	Knives	50
	Misc	13

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 update

B. Approve the following American Rescue Funds recommendations:

- Approve the use of \$221,699.76 for the modernization of IT office that includes IT Switches, email upgrade including virus scanning and archiving, phone system upgrade and firewall upgrades at District Court Berwick and Millville.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the Non-Profit grant to the Stuart Tank Group

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

- Approve the remainder of Non-Profit grant to the recipients as presented

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

- Approve the \$175,000 to the to install a gas pipeline to the Bloomsburg Airport and \$285,000 to CSG for the Mulberry Mills Project, contingent upon a match from the Town of Bloomsburg by December 31,2021.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

- Approve the Grant of \$61,500 to the Bloomsburg Public Library for HVAC improvements contingent upon a match from the Town of Bloomsburg by December 31, 2021.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Approve a \$17,500 to Bloomsburg-Geisinger Hospital for the purchase of Home COVID kits to be utilized by county residents.

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve a not to exceed amount of \$26,000 to purchase 250 smoke detectors, 250 CO detectors, and 250 Smoke/CO detectors for distribution by the Columbia County Family Center and Local Fire Departments within Columbia County.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- Approve the amendment to the previously approved grant contract with the Ber-Vaughn Pool to move the end date of construction from December 1, 2022 to May 15, 2023.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

C. Update from SEDA-COG regarding both the Fishing Creek and West End studies

D. Approve paying \$1,500 using American Rescue Funds in hazard pay to all full-time Columbia County employees and \$750 to part-time employees with a not to exceed of \$412,500

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

E. Approve the advertisement of the County's 2022 budget

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve the award To Bognet Inc. for the Courthouse bathroom project

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. Approve the exoneration of taxes/interest/penalty for the property that is a lease hold mobile home that was razed/moved without permit.

- Parcel # 07-03-033-07,131 Cost \$1,337.88

Motion by Young and seconded by Ridgway, all approved

H. Approve the advertisement of the County's 2022 TRAN in the amount of \$1,800,000

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

I. Approve to advertise for the replacement of the deck on County Bridge #27 and the installation of guide rail on Davis Covered Bridge

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

J. Approve the Conservation District Directors reappointment of Doug Brown, Dennis Levan and Commissioner Chris Young.

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

K. Acknowledge Bridget Kingston's receipt of a service award granted by the Columbia County Veteran's Group

L. Approve the advertisement of the 2022 Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

M. Approve the 2022 holiday schedule

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

N. Approve the 2022 Payroll and Budgetary schedule

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

O. Reappointment of Commissioner Young to the DRIVE Board of Directors

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

P. Approve the use of \$25,000 Hotel Tax for Winterfest

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Kaiden Whitenight, FT CO, Jail, 6 month step increase, 8/21/21
- Camden Scampone, Lieutenant, Jail, Promotion, 11/9/21
- Justin Kern, FT CO, Jail, Promotion, 11/9/21
- Lewis Bennett, FT CO, Jail, Promotion, 11/9/21
- Tim Witter, Caseworker 2, CYS, 2 yr step increase, 10/22/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- a. None

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

- Jerry Moyer, Parks, Seasonal layoff, 11/13/21
- Chase Raker, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 11/10/21
- Megan Shellenberger, Caseworker 2, CYA, Resignation, 12/2/21
- Steven Camillocci, LT, Prison, 11/10/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Commissioners received notification from Briar Creek and north Centre Townships regarding their Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan dated from 2021-2031.
- McTish-Kunkel notified the Commissioners of the Ciampi Fishing Creek Cabin rebuild project which is construction of a cabin in the floodway of Fishing Creek to replace a prior cabin.
- The Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that the As-Built Accept Certification of the Sandy Bottom Quarry Operation.
- The Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that the As-Built Exempt Certification of the Benton Quarry Operation.
- The Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that the As-Built Accept Certification of the Schell Quarry Operation.
- The Columbia County Conservation District notified the Commissioners of a notification of request for water obstruction permit regarding fish habitat enhancement structures, with the project name listed as Bloom Carpet UNT stream Restoration.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 11-12-21 totaling \$775,420.68

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American paper bills from 11-12-21 totaling \$1,933.65

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 Ridgway and seconded by Kovach. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk