

November 19, 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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, and Eric Boughner, All other attendees were online via zoom they are as follows Eric Stahley, Jen Long, and Sheriff Chamberlain and Fred Gaffney. .

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, Marcie Strachko, Jean Lapinski, Eric Boughner, Harry Mathias, and Mike Lester. All other attendees were online via zoom they are as follows Eric Stahley, Jen Long, and Wade Mays. Harry started off the meeting by providing a summary of what was done to date with the CARES Funding and stated that it covered a wide variety of different areas. He then spoke about the last four recommendations that are on the agenda for approval. The first was for Columbia County's EMA reimbursement of \$20,502.09 for COVID related expenses. The second was the County's digitizing project which was \$71,238.50. The third item is for the renovation project of the offices which is going to be \$100,000. And the fourth and final item list is the small business grant for \$399,026.50. Jen Long discussed the criteria that they are establishing for the COVID-19 rapid testing that will be handled by BU. Wade updated the Commissioners that the landfill project is completed and he is now only waiting on the as built plans. Jean reviewed the 2021 budget and had requested a 1 mill rate increase which was projecting a \$246,640 surplus, one of the main reasons for the requested increase is that 2021 is unique in the fact that the hourly staff will receive 27 pays in 2021 vs their normal 26 pays. The Commissioners asked what the projection for the 2020 budget was and both Jean and Chief Clerk Witchey indicated that 2020 is going to result in a \$700-\$800 usage of surplus due to department revenues being lower than expected. After considering the request the Commissioners proposed that the millage request of 1 mill was too high and said that a $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill will suffice. That increase will result in a usage of \$9,700.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates – October Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	296	\$4,956.43
Bloomsburg	394	\$10,559.58
Catawissa	341	\$5,490.06
Millville	285	\$4,258.85

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$14,361.01
Total business all sources was \$26,757.32

Clerk of Courts – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$44,202.67
Total business all sources was \$85,804.83

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update on Covid-19

B. Update on the Landfill Project

C. Update of the COVID-19 Cares Funding

1. That the Commissioners approve a grant of \$20,502.09 from the Covid-19 CARES Block Grant to be used to reimburse eligible Covid-19 expenses from County EMA.

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

2. That the Commissioners adjust the previously allocated amount of \$100,000 from the Covid-19 CARES Block Grant for the County records digitizing project to the projected actual cost of \$71,238.50.

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

3. That the Commissioners adjust the previously allocated amount of \$250,000 from the Covid-19 CARES Block Grant for the County renovation project to the projected actual cost of \$100,000.

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

4. That the Commissioners modify the Small Business/Tourism relief grants Grant Round #2 amount of \$225,000 approved in October from the Covid-19 CARES Block Grant to \$399,026.50. The Commissioners approve the individual Small Business/Tourism grants as per the addendum. The Commissioners also modify the previously approved expenditure of \$2,250 of grant administrative funds to the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to \$3,900 (1% of the distributed funds).

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- D. Approve the advertisement of the 2021 County Budget with a .75 Millage increase

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- E. Approve the advertisement of the 2021 TRAN in the amount of \$1,800,000

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

- F. Approve Rita Millard to a 5- year term on the Columbia County Traveling Library Authority Board effective January 1, 2021

Motion made by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Christopher Day, PT >30 CO, Jail, Rehire, 11/19/2020
- Phillip Beck, Clerk, CYS, 10 yr step, 10/25/2020

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

- H. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/RETIREMENTS:

- Travis Brent, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 11/29/2020
- Leslie Bryden, Asst PD, PD, Resignation, 12/2/2020

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- WHM Consulting Inc. notified the Commissioners that under ACT 14 is applying coverage under the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit for Earth Disturbance Associated with Oil & Gas Exploration, Processing or Treatment Operations or Transmission. This is for the Liedy South Project-Compressor Station 610.
- Glace Association, Inc. notified the Commissioners regarding Montour Townships WWTP NPDES Permit Renewal No.PA0209058
- Locust Township Supervisors notified the Commissioners of their intention to submit application to DEP for their NPDES permit for discharge of water in a manner which meets Department requirements.
- Benton Foundry notified the Commissioners that they are submitting a Air Quality Plan Approval Application to DEP

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Request to pay bills for period of November 13th totaling \$1,644,518.18

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

Request to pay American Paper for the period of November 13th totaling \$627.84

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Fred Gaffney said to thank you to the Commissioners for the support to small businesses of Columbia County

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
David J. Withey, Chief Clerk