

December 2, 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, Chief Clerk Witchey, Treasurer Creveling, Marcie Strachko, and Michelle Frye. Via Zoom: Tami Kline, Alex Karpinski, Jen Long, and Jean Lapinski.

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, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling, Bob Christianson, Alex Karpinski, Jeremy Brown, Jason Ramsey and Julye Wemple. Via Zoom Jen Long, Geralee Zeigler, Don Coleman, Daryl Zdanavage, Jean Lapinski, and April Miller. Young called the meeting to order and asked to Bob if he had anything for the meeting and provided an update regarding the South Centre water project that Suez is currently working on the pricing and will have something to the Supervisors by the end of December. Jeremy then provided an update on the radio project and the Benton Area which has limited portable radio coverage. Jeremy stated that the plan was to place equipment on the Luze06 tower which is owned by the state, this will improve the coverage area and save the County an estimated \$262,000. Jason from Motorola then spoke in regards to the portable coverage and the proposed timeframe portable radio testing will occur in April or May. Funding for the additional equipment will be funded by 911 wireless funds that are provided to the County via PEMA. Jen then provided a brief update of the number of cases in Columbia County and that they continue to rise. The Commissioners then discussed DRIVE, Commissioner Young stated that he has taken a different approach and that there is a Broadband system that does not provide coverage to the Columbia County residents. He is proposing that we fix the issue and then have the system met both the residents and Commissioners expectations. The Commissioners are going to allow Eric Boughner to select a firm to evaluate the current system and then propose a solution to fix the system. Commissioner Ridgway stated that 800K of money was spent for Broadband within the County and have nothing to show for it, and that they were entrusted with these funds and still have to be accountable for the way the funds were spent. Solicitor McDonald suggested that when Eric gets back into the office that we determine the cost for the analysis and fix and also determine the percent of coverage that can be achieved within Columbia County. The Commissioners were then asked by constituent Zdanavage if he could speak regarding his opposition to the Commissioners approving a thank you pay to the employees. Mr. Zdanavage spoke and stated his opposition the Commissioners stated as to why they felt it was warranted and after some discussion the Commissioner needed to move forward with the remainder of the meeting. Marcie reviewed all of the hires/steps/promotions that are occurring within the County. Jean then reviewed available cash and bills. After reviewing the remaining agenda the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer - November Report:

Commissions \$2,004.00

Sheriff Revenue – November Report:

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Interest:                   | \$58.33     |
| Civil                       | \$2,378.00  |
| Lic To Carry                | \$2,926.00  |
| Lic to Sell Firearms        | \$0.00      |
| Lic to Sell Precious Metals | \$50.00     |
| Personal Prop               | \$286.00    |
| Real Estate                 | \$4,044.11  |
| Transports                  | \$0.00      |
| Warrant                     | \$1,337.00  |
| Total                       | \$11,029.44 |

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 update

B. Approve the use of Hotel Tax Dollars for the purchase of two wreaths for the Twin Bridges

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

C. Approve the opening of the bids for the 2022 TRAN

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

D. Approve to accept the bid from Jersey Shore Bank in the amount of \$1,800,000 for .84% and a \$2,500 processing fee

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

E. Approve Columbia County IT Director (Eric Boughner) to solicit quotes from broadband engineering firms to evaluate the current broadband service located in Columbia County

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

F. Approve the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Fiscal Year 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSPG) Agreement for Columbia County as part of the North Central Terrorism Task Force.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. Approve Faith Rierson (Head Start) to join the CYS Advisory Board as a replacement for Mary Millham.

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Michelle Kingston, PT LPN, Prison, hire, 11/23/21
- Micaela Riley, Caseworker 1, CYS, 6 mo Step Inc, 10/26/21
- Megan McNeill, Caseworker 2, CYS, 2 yr step inc, 9/10/21
- Sara Steich, CYS Aide, CYS, Hire, 12/6/21
- Jesse Derby, CO, Prison, Promotion to FT, 12/12/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Sara Chapin, Promotion, Adult Probation, 10/4/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

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

- Cheri Brennan, Court Reporter, Courts, Retirement, 12/31/21
- Justin Kern, CO, Prison, Resignation, 11/24/21
- Heather Davidow, Caseworker 2, CYS, Resignation, 11/4/21

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Commissioners received a letter from EOS Therapeutic Riding Center thanking them for their American Rescue Funds allocated to them.
- Catawissa Water Authority notified the Commissioners of their intent to commit \$50,000 of matching funds to the Commissioners American Rescue Funds allocated to them.

- Wise Foods Inc. notified the Commissioners of their notice of application for renewal to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for water withdrawal of 860,000 gallons per day from well PW-1.
- SEDA-COG notified the Commissioners of Berwick Borough's special public meeting for their CDBG. The purpose is to receive comments on a proposed substantial amendment to its FFY2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan on how funds will be allocated.
- The Common of Pennsylvania, PA Public Utility Commission notified the Commissioners of the application of First Light Fiber, Inc. for approval of the installation of Fiber Optics wire line at crossing where Iron Street crosses at grade in Bloomsburg.
- The Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that Jac-Mar Coal Co. has a renewed mining permit that includes the 2021 Bond Review.
- Commissioner Young notified the Board that CMSU has voted to remove the \$5,000 billing from Columbia County for the infamous 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 11-26-21 totaling \$546,148.41

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American paper bills from 11-26-21 totaling \$3,119.95

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 Ridgway. The motion passed.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk