

December 15, 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, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Eric Stahley, Treasurer Creveling, Jean Lapinski, and Michele Frye. Via zoom: Dave Kurecian, Eric Boughner, Kurt Brungard, Shane Kiefer, MJ Mahon, John McGee, Jen Long, Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, and Jason Smith.

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 Ridgway; 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, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Jean Lapinski, Andrew Detwiler, Jason Smith, Matt Hess, and Bob Christianson. Via Zoom were the following individuals: Jen Long, Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Wade Mays, Dan Knorr, Eric Stahley, Jeremy Brown, John McGee, MJ Mahon, Bridget Kingston, and Jodi Cook. Commissioner Young called the work session to order and asked Matt Hess to start the meeting. Matt started discussing the items on the agenda the first was the CDBG 2022 application change based upon DCED comments. The Hemlock Township Project is complete and he is requesting approval to seek \$500,000 from ARPA Small Water and Sewer from DCED. He also provided an update on Lisa Burns' buyout which should be no later than December 19th. Matt discussed that he would like to do additional reach out to the municipalities regarding the Blight Program to make sure that the municipalities understand the process of acquiring, razing, and then reselling the property. He also discussed the Whole Home Repair Program which the Redevelopment had questions regarding and have not received any response to, he stated that they have until January 31st to determine if they are going to administer the program. Bob Christianson then briefly discussed the South Centre sewer project and the water project. Sewer is still on hold and the Army Corp of Engineers are involved and has sent questionnaires out. The water project are going to have regularly scheduled meetings. When reviewing the agenda Commissioner Young asked Dan Knorr if Dr Hanna is will be able to commit the time needed for the DRIVE board, Dan stated that Bloomsburg University and President Hanna are committed to DRIVE. After the rest of the agenda was reviewed Jean then reviewed bills and available cash. Marcie then discussed the hires/step/promotions, after which the Salary Board and Retirement Board agendas were reviewed. Commissioner Young then asked if there was any public comment and none was asked. The meeting was then adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer – November Report

\$1,174.00 County Commission

Register & Recorder – November Report:

\$28,373.08 was collected and remitted to the County
\$1,674.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund
\$1,116.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund
\$6,150.96 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund
\$1,853.20 was collected in Remote Access Fee

Sheriff Revenue – November Report

Interest:	\$423.22
Civil	\$3,620.00
Lic To Carry	\$3,458.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$57.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$0.00
Personal Prop	\$1,987.00
Real Estate	\$746.00
Transports	\$0.00
Warrant	\$1,298.00
Total	\$11,589.22

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – November Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$13,601.30

Total business all sources was \$19,160.70

Clerk of Courts – November Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$27,743.18

Total business all sources was \$62,274.53

Magistrates – November Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	299	\$4,912.26
Bloomsburg	543	\$10,729.03
Catawissa	287	\$3,631.02
Millville	203	\$3,687.15

Sheriff Screeners – November Report

Courthouse:

Visitors		6,906
Alarms		3,140
Weapons:	Guns	4
	Knives	26
	Misc	12

Annex:

Visitors		4,401
Alarms		2,002
Weapons:	Guns	2
	Knives	47
	Misc	19

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve the 2023 Columbia County Budget as presented

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

B. Open bids for Richards Covered Bridge

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

C. Motion to approve the lowest responsible bidder Lycoming Supply pending review by the Engineer and solicitor

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

D. Approve the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority for the following items:

- Approved modified CDBG 2022 application in the amount of \$254,917 and based upon DCED comments

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

- Update Hemlock Township removal of architectural barriers project (completed)
- Request approval for submission of Conyngham Twp ARPA Small Water and Sewer Project to DCED in the amount of \$500,000

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Update on CDBG-DR buyouts
- Discuss Whole Home Repair Program with DCED

E. Approve the use of \$7,041.66 per year for three years of Hotel Tax dollars for the Geo-location Data Software

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

F. Approve the advertisement of the 2023 Commissioners Meeting Dates as presented

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. Approve Dr. Bashar Hanna to the DRIVE Board effective January 1st 2023

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

H. Approve Emily Artman to the Columbia County traveling Library Authority Board and reapprove Kelly McHenry to 5 year terms from 2023-2027.

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Parcel#07-09-072-00,220 \$420.82
- Parcel# 17-08-012-00,030 \$81.78

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

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

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Phil Yoder, Sr. Telecommunicator, ECEN 2 yr step, 12/25/22
- Nicholas Straub, FT CO, Jail, 1 yr step inc, 11/7/22
- Cameryn Evans, FT CO, Jail, 6 month step, 12/1/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Marina Smith, Office Manager, DA, 4 yr step increase, 1/1/23
- Elizabeth Whitenight, Clerk, Sheriff, 7 yr step, 12/14/22
- Emmanuel Uribe-Gonzalez, Admin Asst, Victim Witness, Hire, 1/3/2023

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Katelyn McGraw, LPN, Prison, Voluntary resignation, 12/24/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Commissioners received the sub recipient agreement between Veolia Water and Columbia County along with a copy of the certificate of filing from the Public Utility Commission.
- The United States Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of New York sent the Commissioners notification of Endo International filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy.
- The Commissioners were notified by Scattered Acres Farm of their notice to submit a national Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit application to DEP.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 12/9/22 for \$2,725,027.13

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the American Paper bill from 12/9/22 for \$3,069.62

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. Withey, Chief Clerk