

December 16, 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, Eric Stahley, Julye Wemple, and Linda Hendricks. Via Zoom: Don Coleman, Jen Long, Alex Karpinski, Dan Knorr, and Jeremy Brown.

Approval of the minutes of the past meeting

Motion by Ridgway, seconded by Kovach; all approved.

There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Harry Mathias, Matt Hess, Marcie Strachko, Eric Stahley, Treasurer Creveling, Jean Lapinski, Michelle Frye, Bob Christianson, James Garmen, Justin Hummel, Kathy Smith and Julye Wemple. Via Zoom Alex Karpinski, Don Coleman, Eric Boughner, Geralee Ziegler, Jerney Brown, Tim Murphy, Jen Long, April Miller Sheriff Chamberlain, and Tyler Dombroski. Young called the meeting to order and asked to Harry to start the meeting. Harry reviewed the recommendations on the agenda and then spoke about some items that may come off that were previously approved and if not approved by the Town of Bloomsburg will be added back to the ARF and that amounts to \$470,000. He also mentioned that he is working on additional potential projects that include BTE, BIDA, Camp Victory, Bloomsburg Fair and storm sewer. Justin Hummel who represented the Town of Bloomsburg mentioned that the Town was going to take their time with their ARF and that the gas line to the airport would not be a project they would approve and that BTE has only solicited one bid for their HVAC project, he also mentioned that they are focusing on outdoor, life style items, and beautifying parking lots with their funds. Justin then brought up the open \$57,000 in invoices from SEDA-COG for administration and bills from Bloomsburg Municipal Authority for moving sewer lines. Justin asked the Commissioners why they are not willing to pay these invoices, and per the Commissioners the Wyoming Valley Water Mitigation Funds were to be used as cash of last resort. After some back and forth discussions the Commissioners stated that they would not be paying those bills as and that the Town and SEDA-COG need to figure it out. Matt Hess was in attendance due to he had multiple individuals on the agenda being added to the Redevelopment Boards. Bob Christianson was attending the meeting to update the Commissioners that all the sewer permits for phase 1 are complete and they are awaiting information from DEP. Marcie then reviewed all of the hires/steps/promotions that are occurring within the County. Jean then reviewed cash and bills. After reviewing the remaining agenda the meeting was adjourned.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### Register & Recorder – November Report:

\$32,092.55 was collected and remitted to the County  
\$2,298.00 was collected in Recorder Improvement Fund  
\$1,532.00 was collected in County Improvement Fund  
\$9,499.11 was collected in Affordable Housing Fund  
\$2,131.90 was collected in Remote Access Fee

##### Prothonotary:

###### Clerk of Orphans Courts – November Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$13,706.10  
Total business all sources was \$22,812.55

###### Clerk of Courts – November Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$27,158.62  
Total business all sources was \$58,396.75

##### Sheriff Screeners – November Report

###### Courthouse:

Visitors		5,513
Alarms		2,993
Weapons:	Guns	9
	Knives	41
	Misc	19

Annex:		
Visitors		4,197
Alarms		2,095
Weapons:	Guns	4
	Knives	38
	Misc	13

Magistrates – November Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	328	\$4,416.35
Bloomsburg	571	\$4,803.00
Catawissa	417	\$4,905.08
Millville	221	\$4,058.18

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 update

B. Approve the American Rescue Funds recommendations as presented:

1. Authorize a \$60,000 grant to the Caldwell Consistory for repairs to the facility

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

2. Authorize up to \$100,000 for the Non-Profit Innovation Grant

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

3. Authorize a grant of \$15,500 to the Millville Borough to provide them playground equipment and pool facility improvements

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

4. Authorize an additional \$100,000 to Columbia-Montour Vocational Technical to provide additional Skilled Trades Classes

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

5. Authorize Columbia County IT to purchase two printers for \$1,800 and \$8,925 to cover a three year Wi-Fi subscription including 15 access points

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

C. Approve the 2022 County budget

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

D. Approve the following appointments to the Traveling Library Board:

1. Approve Cathy Williams who is filling an unexpired term which expires in 2025.

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

2. Approve Jennifer Hunsinger and Rachel Troychock for appointments from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

3. Approve the reappointment of Carmen Fruit who is filling an unexpired term which expires in 2023.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

E. Approve the following individuals to the both the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Boards, they are as follows:

1. Approve Caroline Creasy Redevelopment Authority Board

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

2. Approve the reappointment of Rick Megargell, Paul Reichart, Fran Seward, and Kathy Lynn for five years

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

3. Approve Gary Boehmer to the Housing Authority Board

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

F. Approve the Motorola Solutions change order for the additional equipment to be placed on Luze06 in the amount of \$538,815

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

G. Approve the reappointment of Eric Stahley to the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority County Mitigation Committee

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Young; all approved

H. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a camper that provided proof of insurance:

- Parcel # 21-19-009-02,222 \$122.82

Motion by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

I. Acknowledge Linda Hendricks for her appointment to President of the Pennsylvania Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals

J. Acknowledge Barb Silveti's 50 years of service to Columbia County

K. Acknowledge that Eric Stahley received his EMA Advanced Certification as a volunteer for the Columbia County EOC

L. Approve Dean Girton as the Columbia County nominee to the Drive Board of Directors

No motion provided approval dies due to lack of motion

M. Approve the County maintaining its membership with the Columbia County Farm Bureau for an annual fee of \$100

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Christopher Moser, CO, Prison, 2 yr step inc, 11/12/21
- Casey Flynn, CO, Prison, 2 yr step inc, 12/8/21
- Tyler Johnson, CO, Prison, 6 month step inc, 12/18/21
- Cooper Watkins, CO, Prison, 6 month step inc, 11/30/21
- Cheri Heslop, CO, Prison, 4 yr step inc, 12/10/21
- Austin McCormick, CO, Prison, 1 yr step inc, 10/25/21
- John Weber, PT Hearing Board Officer, Prison, 1/3/22
- Cody Fronk, FT Level 2 Certified Telecommunicator, Promotion, ECEN, 12/12/21
- Sara Schraeder, Budgetary Coordinator, Commissioners, 7 yr step, 1/1/22
- Dawn Hess, Clerk, CYS, Hire, 12/27/21
- Roxanne Beers, Caseworker 1, CYS, hire, 1/3/22

- Jordyn Siciliano, Caseworker 1, CYS, hire, 1/3/22
- Paul Garo, Caseworker 1, CYS, hire, 1/10/22

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Jordan Ikler, Clerk, Treasurer, 6 month step inc, 1/6/22
- Autumn Kubitsky, Judicial Secretary, DM Berwick, 4 yr step inc 11/13/21
- Sarah Gembic, Court Reporter, Courts, Hire, 1/3/22
- Laura Eckenrode, Judicial Secretary, DM Bloomsburg, 7 yr step inc, 1/2/22

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Joseph Hyde, Resignation, Resiliency, 12/13/21
- Heather Davidow, Caseworker 2, CYS, Resignation, 11/4/21

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Commissioners received notification from HRG for Montour and Hemlock Townships that UGI is registering for a General Permit to replace 3,500 linear feet of 2-inch medium pressure gas main and 1,600 linear feet of 4” gas main via direct bury adjacent to Perry Avenue.
- Commissioners received notification from HRG for Montour Township that UGI is registering for a General Permit to replace 2,000 linear feet of 4-inch medium pressure gas main and 1,600 linear feet of 4” gas main via direct bury adjacent to Valley Road..
- The Exchange, Oren Helbok sent the Commissioners a thank you for their \$10,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan Funding.
- The Department of Environmental Protection notified the Commissioners that the As-Built Accept Certification of the Bloomsburg Quarry Operation located in Madison Township has been accepted.
- Peters Consultants and Carbon Engineering sent letters to the Commissioners seeking consideration for County’s Planning Engineering Services.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 12-10-21 totaling \$363,769.05

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve American paper bills from 12-10-21 totaling \$1,074.70

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