

December 17, 2020

The Columbia County Commissioners met on the above date at 2:00 PM virtually 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, Eric Boughner, Eric Stahley, Jeremy Brown, Don Coleman, Harry Mathias, Wade Mays, and Mike Lester.

A motion was made by Young 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 held virtually. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Eric Boughner, Don Coleman, April Miller, Jen Long, Mike Lester, Wade Mays, and Harry Mathias. Harry started off the meeting by providing a summary of his last two recommendations to spend the final amounts of the CARES funding. The first recommendation was to change the county office improvement grant from \$100,000 to \$97,572.04. The second was to utilize the unclaimed \$118.56 from the small business grant and combine with the first recommendation to then give A&Z Restoration \$2,546.52. The reason for this is that A&Z made a mistake when applying for their small business grant and will then take the CARES Funding to -0-. Jen provided a COVID-19 update with stating that Susquehanna Valley has used 284 rapid COVID-19 tests and of those tests 23.6% have tested positive. She also provided an update that at the current burn rate of 29.1 tests given per day the County would utilize the 1,000 tests for the community would be used by January 25th. She also mentioned that the Department of Health is sending additional tests to Bloomsburg University form them to test students. Jen also mentioned that the Department of Health has a testing site in Montour County until Tuesday the December 22nd. Jen also mentioned that Wade Mays County Maintenance Manager reported to her that he had a truck breakdown that caused about 4 gallons of hydraulic fluid to leak in the Sawmill Parking lot. Jen reported it to the state and that the spill was contained. Jean reviewed bills and cash and the Act 148 that has not yet been paid by the state was discussed and it was confirmed that on around December 15th the state will be dispersing those funds to the County. The treasurer reviewed her report. The agenda was reviewed. The meeting was then adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Screener – November Report:

Courthouse:	Visitors	4,693
	Alarms	3,398
	Guns	3
	Knives	25
	Misc	6

Annex:	Visitors	3,489
	Alarms	2,813
	Guns	1
	Knives	55
	Misc	17

Magistrates – November Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	296	\$3,691.61
Bloomsburg	394	\$8,515.33
Catawissa	341	\$6,330.48
Millville	285	\$4,205.48

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – November Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$14,896.97
Total business all sources was \$34,048.36

Clerk of Courts – November Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$34,787.64
Total business all sources was \$85,721.18

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update on Covid-19

B. Approve the COVID-19 Cares Funding recommendations:

1. Commissioners adjust the \$100,000 from previously allocated amount of \$100,000 for County renovation to the actual cost \$97,572.04

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

2. Commissioners allocate a total of \$2,546.52 from the leftover County renovation of \$2,427.96 plus the \$118.56 that was unclaimed from the Small Business Grant and allocate those amounts to A&Z Restoration

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

C. Approve the 2021 County Budget that reflects a 14,739.52 deficit and calls for a ¾ mill increase in taxes

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

D. Approve the opening of the 2021 TRAN bids

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

E. Approve First Columbia for the \$1,800,000 TRAN with an interest rate of .68

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

F. Approve 50,000 of the tourism grant money to the Barton House to move the Wagner Covered Bridge

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

G. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of the campers that were moved out of campground with no permit.

- Parcel # 20-06-004-01,122 \$699.40
- Parcel # 20-06-004-01,044 \$64.80
- Parcel # 20-06-004-01,122 \$124.00
- Parcel # 03-06-008-02,087 \$45.00

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

Approve exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a lease hold trailer which was sold or razed pursuant to Act 156 – Abandoned Mobile Home

- Parcel # 21-18-006-14,058 \$45.00

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

H. Approve the County maintaining its membership with the Columbia County Farm Bureau for an annual fee of \$75

Motion made by Young and seconded by Kovach; all approved

I. Approve a letter of support to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for 3P Ride which has partnered with local veteran’s organizations to expand transportation for our local veteran’s

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Adam Field, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 1/4/21
- Vincent Schultz, Helpdesk, IT, 6 month step, 11/26/2020
- Amanda Reich, Caseworker 2, CYS, 2 yr step, 11/19/2020
- Vanessa Aten, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to PT>30, 12/18/2020
- Victoria Ziegler, PT CO, Jail, Promotion to PT?30, 12/18/2020

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Lisa Stadler, Judicial Secretary, DM Bloomsburg, 10 year step, 1/17/21
- Marina Van Sickle, Office Manager, DA, 2 year step, 1/1/21
- Elizabeth Whitenight, Secretary, Sheriff, 4 yr step, 12/17/19

Motion made by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

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

- Sarah Novotney, LPN, Prison, Resignation, 12/11/2020
- Lindsay Joline, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 12/22/2020
- Christopher Day, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 12/18/2020

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The North Center Township supervisors notified the Commissioners that Dorothy Arnott intends to apply for a Water Quality Management Permit located at 24 Mountain Road, Berwick, PA 18603.
- Scattered Acres Farms notified the Commissioners that they are submitting a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for property located at 190 Tyson School Road, 1019 Numidia Drive & 54 Gas Well Road, Catawissa PA 17820 located in Cleveland and Locust Townships.
- Mtish-Kunkel notified the Commissioners that the Town of Bloomsburg has notified the Commissioners that they are applying for a NPDES General Permit for Earth Disturbances for a mass grading for a four-story apartment and commercial building, parking areas, pedestrian facilities and storm water facilities.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Request to pay bills for period of December 11th totaling \$458,674.69

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

Request to pay American Paper for the period of December 11th totaling \$1,805.92

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mike Lester from the Press Enterprise asked about the suicide attempt at the Prison and asked in regards as to what the individuals name was Chief Clerk Witchey answered the questions in regards to their name and that they were located at Geisinger.

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk