

APRIL 11, 2017 MINUTES
Formally approved April 25, 2017 meeting

FULL BOARD PRESENT: Also present: Greg Molter, Planning Director; Fred Hunsinger, East Central Emergency Network; Mike Fisher, SEDA-COG; Oren Helbok, Destination Blues; Jennifer Wakeman, DRIVE; Lloyd Bunch, David Bowser, Public; Karen Blackledge, The Danville News.

Mr. Holdren asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Rev. Molter. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

General Account Disbursements

\$175,523.78

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|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| General Account Receipts | \$569,869.48 |
| General Account Checking .78% | \$887,676.45 |
| Capital Reserve Fund .53% | \$29,764.08 |
| Operating Reserve .53% | \$444,841.62 |
| General MMA | \$0.00 |
| Total Checking, MMAs | \$1,362,282.15 |
| Act 13 Highway-Bridge .53% | \$167,705.13 |
| Act 44 .78% | \$34,672.90 |
| Children and Youth Checking .78% | \$530,584.36 |
| Flood Mitigation .78% | \$1,852.23 |
| Hazardous Material Account Checking .79% | \$18,763.03 |
| Human & Community Services Checking .78% | \$62,529.34 |
| Improvement Fund Checking .78% | \$16,909.45 |
| Liquid Fuels Checking .78% | \$244,744.22 |
| Medical Assistance Transportation .78% | \$104,311.33 |
| Offender Supervision Account Checking .79% | \$38,076.25 |
| Storm Water Ordinance Escrow | \$25,611.05 |
| Transit Fund Account Checking .78% | \$52,123.25 |
| Uniform 911 Surcharge .04% | \$213,350.52 |

Mr. Holdren asked for public comment. Mr. Helbok reported on the success of February's Destination Blues, noting a 20 percent increase in hotel stays over last year.

The festival experienced a 20 percent increase in visitors from out of the area, but fewer at-the-door ticket sales. Mr. Helbok said efforts are underway to make the festival a year-round presence in the area to attract more local residents to the annual event.

Under old business, Mr. Hunsinger said the 911 Centers merger is still on track with a target date of June 15. In conjunction with the merger, Mr. Holdren said a rollout of new addresses is planned in four waves starting in June. Meanwhile, four public information sessions will be scheduled in May and online information will be up by month's end.

Under new business, Mr. Finn said the Danville Historical and Architectural Review Board cleared the way for demolition of the old garage next to the Prison. Mr. Finn said written quotes were received for the work as follows: Betts Excavating Inc., \$16,500.00; Chip Adams Sewer and Drain cleaning, \$19,100.00 and LRJ Enterprises, \$22,500.00. Mr. Finn moved to accept the low proposal from Betts, pending approval of the project by Danville Borough Council. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Division of Weights and Measures to conduct weights and measures inspections through June 30, 2022. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to draft a letter of support for the Danville Business Alliance's application for Main Street Program designation with the Department of Community and Economic Development. The letter includes a commitment by the County to provide up to \$5,000.00 in funding from the County through LEDA funds and a Hotel Tax grant. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to distribute \$1,500.00 from the Gas Well Drilling Fund for Zamboni Park upkeep. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve a purchase of service agreement on behalf of Children & Youth Services with Pathways Adolescent Center. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Fisher discussed a change to the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program, which will double the cost of the rehabs. Those increased costs will effectively halve the number of projects able to be funded. Under current guidelines, eligible homeowners receive a no-interest loan of up to \$25,000.00 for home rehabilitation with another \$10,000.00 for lead abatement, if needed. The loan is forgiven if the property is not sold or transferred for at least five years after the rehabilitation is complete.

The state Department of Labor and Industry recently took the position that, starting in 2018, prevailing wage rules apply for any project costing \$25,000.00 or more. Typically, the rehabs average \$30,000.00, but with the higher wage rates SEDA-COG is projecting the costs will fall in the mid \$40s to low \$60s, Mr. Fisher said. That is largely due to the new rates to be paid to roofers, electricians and plumbers. Currently, they are paid \$20 per hour or less. The prevailing wage rates will put the hourly cost of those services close to \$50.00. Ironically, a number of local contractors currently working with the program have expressed reluctance to continue due to the onerous reporting requirements that kick in with the prevailing wage regulations.

Because of Labor & Industry's position, SEDA-COG, which administers the federally funded program for Montour County, recommends increasing the assistance threshold to \$50,000.00 for rehab with another \$15,000.00 for lead abatement, Mr. Fisher said.

Additionally, it was recommended that the County require a mortgage in the amount of the project's cost estimate, but without consideration of cost inflation due to the use of state prevailing wage rates. The loan would be forgiven at the end of five years.

Mr. Finn moved to approve the changes as presented. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor. Mr. Finn encouraged the public to write to their legislators because this is something that needs a legislative remedy, saying it is a classic example of a bureaucrat deciding there's not a problem, but 'we're going to fix this' anyway. "The real problem," Mr. Finn said, "is that two groups of people are going to suffer – people who don't have the money to make their houses better and contractors trying to make a buck."

Mr. Finn moved to write a letter to legislators and the governor to address the issue. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to proclaim April as History Month in Montour County. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$253,405.49; Children & Youth, \$31,501.53; Liquid Fuels, \$2,277.87; Uniform 911, \$1,559.08; Human and Community Service, \$2,556.88. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk

