

AUGUST 13, 2019 MINUTES

Formally approved at August 21, 2019 meeting

PRESENT: Commissioner Chairman Kenneth A. Holdren, Commissioner Trevor S. Finn. Commissioner Dan W. Hartman was absent. Also present: Norma Bird, Treasurer; Greg Molter, Planning Director; Bill Dickerson, Zoning Officer; Brian Pufnak, ECEN; Glenda Ruch, SEDA-COG; Bob Garrett, Chris Berleth, GSVCC; Michael Kull, Dave Zartman, Bonnie Michael, Rob Davidson, Lloyd Bunch, Tom Benfer, Linda Heller, Albert Churm, Craig High, William Hartman, Jeff Heller, Michael Nicholas, John Kurelja, Joel Rine, Laurinda Voelcker, Public; Leon Bogdan, PressEnterprise; Karen Blackledge, The Danville News.

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

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

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

General Account Disbursements	\$287,586.62
General Account Receipts	\$1,115,763.15
General Account Checking 2.43%	\$1,913,142.83
Capital Reserve Fund 2.38%	\$54,397.32
Operating Reserve 2.38%	\$86,622.98
Total Checking	\$2,054,163.13
Act 13 Highway-Bridge 2.38%	\$203,363.24
Act 44 2.43%	\$92,066.75
Act 89 2.38%	\$111,728.38
Children and Youth Checking 2.43%	\$244,683.41
Facilities Fund .05%	\$833,183.47
Flood Mitigation 2.42%	\$2,735.24
Hazardous Material Account Checking 2.43%	\$22,039.80
Human & Community Services Checking 2.43%	\$76,554.69
Improvement Fund Checking 2.43%	\$87,958.61
Liquid Fuels Checking 2.43%	\$216,120.63
Offender Supervision Account Checking 2.43%	\$77,542.44
Storm Water Ordinance Escrow	\$33,866.05
Uniform 911 Surcharge 2.22%	\$760,253.34

Mr. Holdren called for public comment. Mr. Garrett of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce invited the Board to the grand opening of the Luzerne County Community College's Greater Susquehanna Center in Watsonstown. Mr. Garrett said the per-credit cost of \$130.00 is much lower than neighboring institutions with high school rates even lower at \$64.00. Mr. Garrett said the college must raise \$100,000.00 annually and asked the Board to consider an annual contribution as Montour County is in the school's service area. Mr. Holdren said a community college is very much needed and Commissioners are always willing to listen, but cautioned the County is working with a very tight budget for next year.

Mr. Holdren recessed the public meeting and convened a public hearing on proposed amendments to the County zoning ordinance and zoning map. Mr. Molter said land once owned by PPL in Anthony Township and now owned by Talen Energy is zoned as public-semi-public, which means recreational use only. As Talen sold off parcels of the property, the County has been petitioned by six new landowners requesting a zoning change to allow residential and agricultural use.

Officials looked beyond the initial request to a larger area in anticipation of Talen selling off more property, he said. Under the proposed changes, areas around Lake Chillisquaque and the Montour Preserve would remain public/semi-public while areas farther out would be converted to agriculture and woodland, which would allow development for homes. With an eye to the future, planning and zoning officials also looked at the site of the former country club in Liberty Township, Mr. Molter said. Currently, the 76 acres of the golf course allow only public use; rezoning would allow residential use. Supervisors from both townships are in support of the proposed changes he said. There being no further comment, Mr. Holdren adjourned the hearing and reconvened the public meeting.

Under old business, Mr. Holdren introduced Ms. Ruch who recommended CDBG 2019 project selections as follows: \$47,222.00, Danville Area Community Center sponsorship program for low-income families; \$131,312.00, Washingtonville Municipal Authority for wastewater treatment plant replacement. Mr. Finn moved to approve the projects as presented. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Under new business, Mr. Finn moved on an intent to adopt the zoning ordinance and map amendments as presented by Mr. Molter. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to accept the low bid on the Multimodal Transportation Grant Project of \$714,891.00 from Chesapeake Thermite Welding LLC, doing business as CTW. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor. The other bid of \$849,724.00 was received from RailWorks Track Systems.

Mr. Finn moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between ECEN and the Montrose Broadcasting Corporation to establish terms and conditions under which a planned radio tower could be utilized by both Montrose and ECEN. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Michael Heaps to serve as County Recycling Coordinator for calendar year 2018 for \$11,500.00. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to designate EMA Coordinator Ed Burkland as the County's designated agent for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren to approve a beta test agreement with AuraIQ under which the company will monitor the dark web to protect County systems against potential attacks. Mr. Finn seconded. Mr. Holdren noted there is no cost to the program. He also stated for disclosure that the company is operated by the son of Prothonotary Susan Kauwell. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve an agreement with Peters Consultants Inc. for \$880.00 to conduct an asbestos investigation of the courthouse. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve purchase of services agreements on behalf of Children & Youth Services as follows: Law Offices of Marks, McLaughlin and Dennehy; Geisinger Clinic for Child Advocacy Center and Community Service Group, all of which run from July 1 through June 30, 2020. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to draft a letter of support on behalf of Mahoning Township's efforts to seek Multimodal Transportation Grant funding to a bicycle and pedestrian improvement project along Bloom Road. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to accept a letter of resignation from Assistant Chief Clerk Nancy Springer effective close of business on September 13. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to schedule a Board of Commissioners meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$252,090.10; Children & Youth, \$40,249.78; Liquid Fuels, \$6,508.00; Human and Community Service, \$1,364.15; Facilities, \$10,304.45; Other Funds, \$106,693.72. 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