

Commissioners:

R. JACK MCKERNAN
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT
*Director of Administration
and Chief Clerk*

J. DAVID SMITH
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**Minutes of the Meeting of
December 20, 2016
Board Room, Executive Plaza
Pine Street, Williamsport**

Commissioner McKernan - Present
Commissioner Mussare - Present
Commissioner Mirabito - Present

Solicitor Smith - Present

1.0 OPERATIONS

- 1.1 CONVENE COMMISSIONERS MEETING. Mr. McKernan convened the Commissioners Meeting 10:08 a.m.
- 1.2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), approved the minutes of the previous meeting as they are recorded.
- 1.3 RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY). Mr. McKernan opened the floor to public comment on agenda items only, and none were received.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 2.1 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2016-30. A motion by Mr. McKernan and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (2-1, Mirabito), adopted Resolution 2016-30 for the 2017 Budget.
- Mr. Mirabito discussed the ongoing deficit for 2017 budget and how this was built over time. He said that the employees contributed to trying and decrease this deficit. APO, JPO, and DRO all decided to unionize. Not only are costs increasing, but revenues are decreasing. He detailed his thoughts on GEO, the golf course, the Community Arts Center, and hotel tax dollars and where he felt they should be spent. He also talked about the Sheriff's Office, overtime, and the additional deputies that have been added in recent years.

Mr. Mussare commented on the reason for hiring additional Sheriff deputies and the added protection and security.

Mr. Mirabito spoke about his thoughts on the hotel tax.

Mr. McKernan added that the Sheriff's projected 2017 expenses show a 4% decrease over 2016.

Mr. Mussare looked at the long term budget in 2012 (6 years out). He said at that time there needed to be a 2.25 mil increase. However only a 1 mil increase was approved. He explained that he does not feel the county should compete with the private sector in real estate. He said there should be a plan for the loss of revenues, as well as how to deal with Chesapeake Bay initiatives and the position that other boards have put the current board in. He also said that the county must look at the levee system. There is a plan for White Deer (golf course). There needs to be patience and time for it to be executed. There needs to be property tax relief. Many people are struggling and they need protected. GEO is instrumental. He has seen it work. There is cooperation between the courts and the Commissioners to cut costs, but there is a price to pay for community safety. There is not a lot to trim but there is a lot that can still be done. He would like a balanced budget approach but does not want the reserves to be too critical.

2.2 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2016-31. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (Mussare - yes, McKernan-yes, Mirabito-no; 2-1), adopted Resolution 2016-31 setting the millage rate for 2017 at 5.75 mils.

Mr. Mirabito discussed his current board position on Firetree Place and that he is not pushing them to be running the re-entry program. He only wants sealed bids to be requested for the program.

Mr. Mussare asked Mr. Mirabito what he has compromised on? From day one you have not compromised on GEO or the Hotel Tax. You want it your way or else. This is not a place for politics. You are setting us up that if we vote for an increase you will vote against it.

Mr. Mirabito responded that he has been up front about the hotel tax and GEO. He said that sealed bids are needed. And the Tourist Promotion Agency should be put out for bid too.

Mr. McKernan said there is a lot of work to be done, and it cannot be fixed overnight. The fiscally responsible thing to do is a small increase. A compromise has already been made regarding GEO with reduction in funding and the 30 day out clause and the RFP. There needs to be discussion with the TPA.

Mr. Mussare said there is room to borrow money. Our county is in great shape; we pay down our debt. But we need a plan. We can make adjustments for the following year.

- 2.3 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2016-32. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), adopted Resolution 2016-32 setting the pre-determined ratio for 2017 at 100%.
- 2.4 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2016-28. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. McKernan and passed (3-0), adopted Resolution 2016-28 for the TDA.
- 2.5 APPROVE UPDATE TO POLICY 400 & 401. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), approved update to County Policy and Procedures Manual for the following policies: 400 (job code listing) and 401 (pay scale).
- 2.6 APPROVE AMENDMENT TO GEO AGREEMENT. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. McKernan and passed (2-1, Mirabito), approved amendment to professional service agreement with GEO Re-Entry Services.
- 2.7 ADOPT RESOLUTION 2016-34. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), adopted Resolution 2016-34 authorizing sale of real property on Warrensville Road previously awarded on November 3, 2016.

5.0 REPORTS / INFORMATION ITEMS.

- 5.1 Kurt Hausammann announced the notification of requests to be submitted for state capital budget. He explained this does not commit to anything, it just makes the county's requests part of consideration.

6.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT.

Mr. McKernan commented on last week's approval for this week's cash requirement report. He said that all was in line and all questions were answered.

7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Mr. McKernan opened the floor to public comment and the following were received:

Sheriff Lusk commented on the staffing numbers of deputy sheriffs and the reasons additional personnel was added.

Al Boyer of McIntyre Township thanked the Commissioners for the effort put into the budget. He also commented on his concern with the Judges allowing the newspaper to run the "Community in the Dark" logo.

8.0 NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. Mr. McKernan announced the next regularly scheduled meeting as a work session on Tuesday, January 3, 2016.

9.0 ADJOURN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), adjourned the Commissioners' Meeting at 12:03 a.m.