

Commissioners:

R. JACK MCKERNAN
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



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*Director of Administration
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**Minutes of the Meeting of
June 1, 2017
Board Room, Executive Plaza
Pine Street, Williamsport**

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

Assistant Solicitor Wiley - Present

1.0 OPERATIONS

1.1 CONVENE COMMISSIONERS MEETING. Mr. McKernan convened the Commissioners Meeting 6:05 p.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 APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH WEST BRANCH FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved grant and monitoring agreement with West Branch Fireman's Association, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.

Mr. Mussare explained this is an example of discretionary spending, but it is something that the Commissioners wish to support.

2.2 APPROVE INVOICE FROM KEYMARK IMR. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), approved invoice from KeyMark IMR in the amount of \$11,000 for Full Court for Prothonotary.

Matt McDermott explained this is renewal licensing for civil case management.

Mr. Mussare explained that the courts and prison are a huge expense to the taxpayer. They must be able to communicate and this allows them to.

2.3 APPROVE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH DIRECT ENERGY. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved second amendment to agreement with Direct Energy extending it for an additional 36 months.

Matt McDermott explained this locks in electrical pricing.

2.4 APPROVE 2015 CDBG AMENDMENT. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), approved 2015 CDBG amendment for an additional \$250,000.

Mr. McDermott said this is for the Resiliency Project in Muncy, which is the first of its kind.

Mr. Mirabito commented that the current federal budget cuts CDBG funds.

2.5 APPROVE UPDATED QUOTE FROM CLEVELAND BROTHERS. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved increase to quote from Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company for tubgrinder repairs for a total of \$15,708.66.

2.6 APPROVE INVOICE FROM CLEVELAND BROTHERS. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved final invoice from Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company final invoice for repairs to D8T Track Type Tractor in the amount of \$47,631.80.

Mr. Mussare explained that the alternative would be to purchase a new machine for more than \$100,000.

2.7 AWARD CONTRACTS VIA MUNICIBID . A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), awarded contracts via municibid auctions as follows:

Lot Number-1: Kevin Mostik; highest bid price offered at \$2,600.

Lot Number-2: Kevin Mostik; highest bid price offered at \$2,450.

Lot Number-3: Douglas Millheim; highest bid price offered at \$2,500.

Lot Number-4: Todd Beyer; highest bid price offered at \$1,950.

2.8 APPROVE AIR QUALITY PLAN EXTENSION. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved Air Quality Plan approval extension submission to DEP.

Mr. McDermott explained this is related to the Field 12 construction project that has not been started yet.

2.9 APPROVE PERSONNEL ACTIONS. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved the following personnel actions: RMS – Operations – reclassification of Thomas R. Williams as full time replacement Equipment Operator – Pay grade 6 - \$16.59/hour effective 6/4/2017.

District Attorney – Full time replacement Assistant County Detective NEU – DET - \$18.305/hour effective 6/4/17.

Mr. Mussare explained that equipment operators and truck drivers are in demand. The landfill can be a dangerous place to work. Skilled workers are very difficult to retain. Also difficult to retain are nurses and telecommunicators.

6.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT.

Mr. Mirabito spoke about the bridge tour the Commissioners went on. He also spoke about the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) trainings that they went to where amount other things the fiscal challenges of the counties were discussed.

Mr. Mussare asked for comments on the impact fee and the severance tax issues.

Mr. McKernan added that the commissioners participate in the CCAP training opportunities.

Mr. Mussare said that CCAP also lobbies for county government.

Mr. Mirabito spoke about HB218 (the House proposed budget). He said that it is not good for counties. It cuts funding for many programs that counties are mandated to take care of (like the adult probation office). He suggested that citizens contact Rep. Everett, Wheeland and Senator Yaw. Then he suggested that severance taxes and impact fees can help fund the state and county budgets.

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

Vince Caruso of Lyons Avenue in Williamsport thanked the Commissioners for holding an evening meeting.

Todd Lauer of Jersey Shore questioned the cost being spent on repairs for the heavy equipment.

Mr. Mussare explained the bidding process and why Cleveland Brothers is being used.

Mr. Mirabito said that people can learn, and offered to sit down with Mr. Lauer so that Mr. Lauer can provide insight.

John Fogle from Williamsport asked about the Visitor's Bureau budget, and the \$101,000 pay out listed there. He found this in the 2015 & 2016 audit reports showing up as a grant. It is also on the 990.

Mr. McKernan said that the Commissioners will have to look into it.

Chad Riley of Trout Run asked if the Commissioners looked into anything with regard to the issue he has as a constable.

Mr. McKernan explained that elected row officers are in charge of running their own operations. He added that the Commissioners need to let the Sheriff do what he feels is necessary.

Mr. Riley asked if there are checks and balances. He provided documentation regarding the PA Supreme Court Justice suggesting a constable review board to oversee disciplinary actions. He said that what is occurring are

- unethical issues. He went on to detail the numbers of services that Constable Bill Welter handed over the last year with zero complaints.
- Mr. Mirabito thanked Mr. Riley for running for office and standing up for the perceived injustice. He said as Commissioners, they have limited powers. He also said that he should apologize to Sheriff Lusk, he did not intend his comments to be a criticism of the way he runs his office. He also said that he suggested contacting the Attorney General's office to educate the public on what to do.
- Mr. Mirabito added that we cannot order independent elected officials, we can only control the budget. He explained that if there is a case against the County we have to pay the bills. He would prefer to resolve any issues before that.
- Mr. McKernan added that it is not fair to think there would be a solution in 56 hours.
- Ray Hartman of Old Lycoming Township said that something is going on in this county. There seems to be a collusion between the Sheriff and President Judge. He was told by the Sheriff that the Sheriff is "taking over" the constables. As such, he never received any work as a constable. He detailed the contents of a letter he received from Judge Butts on her letterhead that was not signed by her. He went to the District Attorney and sent letters to Judge Butts and heard nothing. He also sent a letter to the judicial review board and they closed the case without giving a decision.
- Mr. McKernan clarified that the letter was sent in 2011 not recently as was purported.
- Mr. Mussare said this is a public meeting and we are willing to listen but it needs to be run in an organized manner. He offered to stay after the meeting. He thanked the citizens for attending.
- Mr. Lauer said we do not want to happen here what happened in Luzerne County.
- Mr. Mirabito emphasized to never apologize for challenging elected officials!
- Millard Beatty of South Williamsport suggested a way to keep job retention for the equipment operators. Use the pre release center people and train them on the equipment. Then make it a stipulation of their parole that they maintain employment for a specified period of time. He also suggested holding a job fair for inmates.
- Mr. McKernan said that they are discussing with the Human Resources department about updates to the hiring policy. Re-entry is a very big item.
- Mr. Mirabito raised the issue of hiring people with felonies. He said the county needs to step up to the plate and do this since it is encouraging the private sector to do it.
- Mr. Mussare told Mr. Beatty it takes courage doing what he does. Mr. Beatty articulates your position well. Sometimes people change and become the best contributors to our society.

8.0 NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. Mr. McKernan announced the next regularly scheduled meeting as a work session on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

9.0 ADJOURN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), adjourned the Commissioners' Meeting at 7:20 p.m.