

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark A. Sunderland, Otis E. Riden, Jr. and Robert A. Reck; Co. Solicitor Patricia Gardner; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig; and, Confidential Clerk Shirley Haller.

Joe Cannon from the Sentinel/County Observer was the only reporter present representing the news media.

Guests present were Treas. Janice Peachey; Kim Rickert, Tom & Paula Davis for Relay For Life; Dan & Penny Foster, Sr., Dan Foster, Jr., Brandy Fisher and Brayden Benfer for Eagle Scout presentation; Rachel and Rebecca Harrop for Dairy Month; EMS Dir. Phil Lucas; R&R Barbara Stringer; HS Dir. Allison Fisher; Planning Dir. Bill Gomes; Tax Collector Terry Reed; Larry Clark; Anthony & Shirley Geno.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Sunderland.

I. A moment of silent prayer was observed as the Invocation.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2011 as received. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

IV. County Treasurer's Report: 5/18/11 to 5/31/11

General Account Starting Balance		\$ 70,950.95
Deposits – Receipt #55029 to 55180		452,059.28
Transfer from Capital Reserve		190,023.00
Voided Check #83861		17.20
Interest		298.30
	Total Debits	642,397.78
	Credits – Bills Paid Ck. #84050 to 84400	257,878.08
	Transfer to Payroll – Ck. #54651 to 54884	310,284.18
	Transfer to Capital Reserve	142,888.00
	Total Credits	713,050.26
Ending Balance – Interest @ 0.5%		298.47
Liquid Fuels Acct.	JVB @ 0.5%	291,469.55
911 Telephone Acct.	JVB @ 0.5%	182,688.96
Capital Reserve Acct.	JVB @ 1,01%	
	General Account Funds	5,556,237.27
	911 Funds	562,731.81
	TRAN Account	1,293,713.06
Total Capital Reserve Account		\$7,412,682.14

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to accept the Treasurer's report as received, subject to audit. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Bills:

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable: Ck. #84050 to 84400 in the amount of \$259,878.08

2. Payroll Account: Ck. #54651 to 54884 in the amount of \$310,284.18

3. MCCDBG Accounts:

Ck. #971 – MCCDBG 10 – HD Supply Waterworks – Inv. #2978878 - \$5,045.13
Ck. #972 – MCCDBG 08 – County of Mifflin – Reimb., 2011 PA County Observer
\$19.20

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to approve payment of the bills as listed above. Seconded by Commissioner Riden. Motion carried.

VI. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Riden: CJAB Board Meeting
Memorial Day Parade in Belleville
Visited Speicher Farm in Belleville
Prison Board Meeting

Commissioner Reck: The Abuse Network Meeting
Atty. General's Senior Law University Program
Retirement Celebration for Peggy Stewart
Meeting with PennDOT
Prison Board Meeting

Commissioner Sunderland: Kick-off for Senior Games at the Moose
Veteran's Day Parade in Belleville
Toured Speicher Farm in Belleville
Prison Board Meeting

VII. Public Comment:

Larry Clark thanked the Commissioners for planting flowers in front of the Courthouse.

What is the last date for the Assessment Appeals? Don't know but ask at the Assessment Office.

Tax Collector Terry Reed: She was here in December 30, 2010 at the Commissioners' Meeting and had asked for a meeting of the tax collectors and the taxing authorities. It was scheduled for January 26, 2011 but was canceled because of bad weather. It has yet to be rescheduled. She would still like to have that meeting to discuss, as tax collectors, what we can do things better collectively and how we could make changes to the bills to make them more readable. For instance, per capita bill is face, discount, penalty; the real estate bill is discount, face, penalty and that adds confusion to the mix when people are paying their taxes. It is a change that could be made relatively quickly. The next billing cycle is coming up with the tax bills having to go out on August 1st. We continue to get tax information later and later.

Chairman Sunderland asked whose fault is that? Ms. Reed responded she was not sure. There is no flex in the system with regard to the tax collectors or tax payers with regard to deadlines. The other thing is, as the fiscal managers for the County, it should be noted that last year I requested information on how much the County paid on getting an existing tax program updated. There were two programs in use by the tax collectors – one the County chose cost \$9-10,000. I was not pleased with the level of service or the timeliness of that vendor, so I opted to go with a second program and I paid \$875.00 out of pocket to have that program updated. It could continue to use that program with no expense to the tune of \$9 or 10,000. I do not think that was prudent use of County money. Then, I was looking at a webinar notice that had to do with customer service. It said that our community is our customer. The question is how well do we communicate with our customers. It went on to say that actions, outreach and services speak louder than words. I think it would nice if the County were to publish public notices in the paper to call attention to the fact that tax bills have

gone out. If you do not receive a tax bill – contact your present or former tax collector.

Commissioner Reck asked what purpose would that provide. You get your tax notice in the mail. Ms. Reed replied – outreach. Commissioner Reck said you are getting outreach with your tax bill – I don't understand. Ms. Reed said if you don't get a tax bill it would prompt you to go looking for one.

You say you want to save taxpayers money but you want us to spend taxpayers money. Ms. Reed said sometimes you have to spend money to make money.

Commissioner Reck said that you (Reed) are the only tax collector who complained about that program – nobody else complained. They seemed to work it real well.

Chairman Sunderland asked who is the vendor. Ms. Reed told him Imagitech.

Commissioner Reck said, if there was a flaw in the system you would think all the tax collectors would contact us. I don't understand.

You would have to agree that paying \$875 vs. \$9 – 10,000 – Chairman Sunderland interrupted saying we don't pay that much – we agreed to pay \$50 per tax collector. Ms. Reed said she requested the information through the “Right to Know” option and that was the information I received from your office with regard to how much the vendor was paid. The Commissioners said there is no way they pay that kind of money. It's my understanding that the municipalities are reimbursing \$25 of the \$50.

We could reschedule a meeting within the next month but if it is a vendor problem, us setting down with two or three tax collectors isn't going to solve the problem.

Ms. Reed said the vendor issue is not a problem for her. She just wanted to call attention to how much money was spent on that vendor vs. how much she paid. The other thing is that it is getting pretty late to effect any change to the next billing cycle.

Chairman Sunderland said they will do what then can.

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business:

Chairman Sunderland said that according to the agenda there are three proclamations and then recess the Regular Meeting to go into a public hearing for Emergency Shelter Grant at 9:15 a.m. It is 9:20 a.m. now so we will recess the Regular Meeting now.

At 9:20 a.m. motion was made by Commissioner Riden to recess the Regular Meeting in order to hold a public hearing for Emergency Shelter Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

At 9:22 a.m. motion was made by Commissioner Riden to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

D. Resolution No. 4 of 2011 authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development:

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to adopt Resolution No. 4 of 2011 authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

The resolution is as follows:

Resolution of the Municipality No. 4 of 2011

Resolution of the County of Mifflin authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, The Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, as amended, authorized the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has received ESG program funds and is making these funds available to units of local governments for eligible emergency shelter activities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mifflin desires to submit an application to DCED for ESG Program funds on behalf of a homeless shelter housing and service provider.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the County of Mifflin that:

1. The proposed projects for the Shelter Services, Inc. to be funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania ESG Program are hereby eligible and approved.
2. The County of Mifflin on behalf Shelter Services is authorized and directed to execute an ESG Program application in the amount of \$0.00 to DCED (\$0.00 from the grant and \$0.00 to be matched).
3. Shelter Services, Inc. will assume the responsibility for securing the required matching amount of project funds.
4. The County of Mifflin will reimburse the Commonwealth for any expenditure found to be ineligible.
5. The County of Mifflin is authorized to provide such assurances, certificates, and supplemental data or revised data that DCED may request in connection with the application.

At this point the meeting returned to "A" on the agenda.

A. Proclamation – honoring Eagle Scout Daniel Todd Foster, Jr.:

Chairman Sunderland read the proclamation as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
IN HONOR OF DANIEL TODD FOSTER, JR.
EAGLE SCOUT**

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2010 Daniel Todd Foster, Jr. received the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the **Eagle Scout Award**; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Todd Foster, Jr. has demonstrated commitment to his fellow citizens through countless hours and tireless efforts; and

WHEREAS, Daniel's Eagle Scout Project involved leading a group to do repair work at the Parkview Church of the Brethren. He and his work parties repaired and

painted the concrete window wells and outside steps. They also painted the steps metal railing and grate covers for the window wells. Daniel's crew weatherproofed the church's pavilion and shed. He also created and landscaped a flower bed near the pavilion. Daniel has served in the positions of, Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

WHEREAS, the **Eagle Scout Award** is recognized by the Commissioners of Mifflin County as a positive indicator that the youth of today ARE the leaders of tomorrow and we extend our congratulations to Daniel Todd Foster, Jr.

THEREFORE, we, the Mifflin County Commissioners, hereby do issue this proclamation in honor of Daniel Todd Foster, Jr.

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to adopt the proclamation honoring Eagle Scout Daniel Todd Foster, Jr. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

B. Proclamation – Relay for Life:

Chairman Sunderland read the proclamation as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
RELAY FOR LIFE**

**American Cancer Society Relay for Life Proclamation
For Mifflin/Juniata Relay for Life**

WHEREAS, Relay for Life is the signature activity of the American Cancer Society and honors cancer survivors (anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer) and remembers those lost to the disease; and

WHEREAS, money raised during the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Mifflin/Juniata helps support research, education, advocacy, and patient services; and

WHEREAS, Relay for Life helps fund more than \$100 million in cancer research each year; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Mifflin County Commissioners, hereby do proclaim June 11th and 12th, 2011, as

“AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY REALAY FOR LIFE DAYS”

and encourage citizens to participate in the Relay for Life of Mifflin/Juniata at the Derry Township Community Park on June 11th and 12th, 2011

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to adopt the proclamation for Relay for Life as listed above. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

C. Proclamation – June Dairy Month:

Chairman Sunderland read the proclamation as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
JUNE DAIRY MONTH**

WHEREAS, June is the month when nature bestows upon us her most nearly perfect weather; and

WHEREAS, milk is one of nature's most nearly perfect foods with vitamins, minerals and protein that a healthy body needs, it follows that June is the most fitting month to celebrate the importance of dairy products and dairy farmers to our good health and to our community; and

WHEREAS, Mifflin County's 285 dairy farms produce more than 215 million pounds (about 27 million gallons) of milk at a value to the local economy of 30 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers are hard at work to provide not only a safe, wholesome product for consumer's enjoyment, but also to provide a clean environment for future generations through the use of new technologies and a better understanding of the links between soil, plants, animals and the natural environment.

THEREFORE, we, the Commissioners of Mifflin County, do hereby proclaim **June, 2011** to be **DAIRY MONTH**. We encourage you to become better acquainted with all of the healthy products, and economic and environmental contributions this industry provides to our County, our State and our Nation.

After the Dairy Princesses presented the Commissioners with a tray of cheese, motion was made by Commissioner Riden to adopt the proclamation making June Dairy Month as noted above. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

E. Hiring of Rose Diven for an unpaid intern in the Treasurer's Office effective June 6, 2011:

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to approve the hiring of Rose Diven as an unpaid intern in the Treasurer's Office effective June 6, 2011. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

F. Hiring of Zachary Leight, Penn State University, as an intern in the Register & Recorder's Office effective June 2, 2011:

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to approve the hiring of Zachary Leight as an intern in the Register & Recorder's office effective June 2, 2011. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

G. Purchase of Service Agreement for use, if needed, by Children & Youth:

- *Pyramid Health Care, Inc – Duncansville, PA*

Motion was made by Commissioner Riden to approve the purchase of service agreement as listed above. Seconded by Commissioner Reck. Motion carried.

H. Request for exoneration of 2011 real estate tax bill and relieve the tax collector from collecting this bill:

- *Parcel No. 15,13-0114--,031 located in Decatur Twp – mobile home was destroyed – County portion \$156.49*

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to approve the request for exoneration of 2011 real estate tax bill and relieve the tax collector from collecting this bill as noted above. Seconded by Commissioner Riden. Motion carried.

I. Request for exoneration of the County portion of 2011 per capita taxes:

- *Brown Twp. Tax Collector Teresa (Terry) Reed - 26*

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to grant the request for exoneration of the County portion of 2011 per capita taxes as listed above. Seconded by Commissioner Riden. Motion carried.

J. Request for exoneration of Rollback taxes issued for Parcel No. 12,17-0100B and relieve Treas. Janice Peachey from collecting this rollback tax – a corrective

deed has been filed to include the 9.36 acre parcel not included in previous transfer:

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to grant the request for exoneration of Rollback taxes issued for the above-listed parcel. Seconded by Commissioner Riden. Motion carried.

K. Service Agreement for 911 services from CenturyLink:

EMS Dir. Phil Lucas explained that this service agreement provides 911 service access to the northern areas of Mifflin County that are served by CenturyLink. Basically, what that does is to allow those residents to call through Embarq CenturyLink to 911. We pay similar fees for Verizon to serve the southern areas of the County. The cost is approximately \$1,470.50 monthly. This fee comes out of the \$1.50 the telephone line pays to the 911 so you have dial access to 911 services.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to approve the service agreement for 911 services from CenturyLink. Seconded by Commissioner Riden.

Question: Why doesn't Verizon service the whole County? Mr. Lucas said our County is split in two – the northern half of Mifflin County is served by the old United Telephone which was bought by Sprint and then bought by CenturyLink. The lower half of the County is served by Verizon. Many counties are split into 4-5 different carriers – some counties only have one depending on who provided the original telephone service.

Motion carried.

L. Authorizing the Planning Commission Solicitor to assist the Planning Commission concerning alleged sub-division ordinance violations:

Anthony Geno said we didn't know we had a Planning Commission Solicitor. Larry Clark said wouldn't the Planning Commission allow the Solicitor to assist the Planning Commission.

Chairman Sunderland said this is basically a public announcement because it is a legal issue.

County Solicitor Gardner said there are alleged sub-division ordinance violations so the Planning Commission Solicitor is going to look into it and then determination will be made whether is going to be any litigation. It was then asked why does it need authorization? Because when you work for someone you have to take direction from whoever you work for. They have their own solicitor but ultimately it is the Board of Commissioners who decide.

Chairman Sunderland said they could have probably said OK but we felt it was better to make the announcement. We could probably have directed it as part of our administrative duties.

Sol. Gardner said the County passed the sub-division ordinance. It falls under the office of Planning. Planning has their own solicitor as do many other offices in this County. Chairman Sunderland said Sol. Gardner represents the Commissioners and a few others; Treas. Janice Peachey has a different solicitor; the Coroner has a different solicitor as does the Sheriff. They are employed at different rates. Solicitor Gardner does not represent all of Mifflin County.

Shirley Geno asked if the Commissioners know what the violation is? Solicitor Gardner said there will be no answer to that because it is a potential litigation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to authorize the Planning Commission Solicitor to assist the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Riden. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reck to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Riden.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk