

Lewistown, PA

January 4, 2016

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for the purpose of Reorganization Monday, January 4, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Lisa Nancollas, Stephen Dunkle, and Kevin P. Kodish; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig and Assistant Director of Fiscal Affairs George Welsh.

There were no representatives present from the news media.

Guests present were: Sheriff Christopher Shade; Co. Auditor Helen Kirk; Planning Director William Gomes; GIS Director Laura Simonetti; First Deputy Peg Bulick, Register and Recorder; Nancy Laub; Stephen Snook; Bonnie Hackett; Jim Smith; Sonya Smith; Harry Peffer; Debra Peffer; Neil Knable and Michelle Knable.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chief Clerk Cathy Romig.

- I. A moment of silent prayer was observed as the Invocation.*
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.*
- III. New Business:**

A. Selection of Chairman

Commissioner Dunkle nominated Lisa Nancollas to be Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Selection of Vice-Chairman

Commissioner Kodish nominated Commissioner Dunkle to be Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Chairman Nancollas. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Selection of Secretary

Commissioner Dunkle nominated Commissioner Kodish to be Secretary. Seconded by Chairman Nancollas. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Appointment of Chief Clerk

Commissioner Kodish nominated Cathy Romig to be Chief Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Appointment of Assistant Director of Fiscal Affairs

See Note 1 Below.

F. Appointment of County Solicitor

Commissioner Dunkle nominated Stephen Snook to be County Solicitor. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish, to get into discussion.

Commissioner Kodish: Nothing against Steve, I think he is a fine attorney. He did a good job as District Attorney. I was on a jury one time and I thought he did a great job as a Prosecutor. So it not an anti-Steve Snook vote as much as it is a Pro Pat Gardner vote after working with people you get a sense of how a place runs and all departments you have people you go to the wall for and people who are top of the line some people are middle road. Pat Gardner was the type that was top of the line and you could go to the wall for and in Children & Youth she has over twenty years did exemplary work there. She faced six or seven different judges and never lost a case. I just think it is not a good move to make a change in that area.

Commissioner Dunkle: Did she not submit her letter of resignation?

Commissioner Kodish: No she did not submit her letter of resignation.

Commissioner Dunkle: What was the action of the board?

Commissioner Kodish: The previous Board terminated her. Word got around to her that many people said she was going to be ousted so she determined that she wanted to be terminated by the previous Board.

Mr. Snook: I never had a problem with Pat all through the years. Pat is qualified. I graduated near the top of my class. I won several book awards. I did Regional Police. I've done Children & Youth cases. I've worked closely with Children & Youth for many many years. You guys do what is your pleasure. I'm willing to do it and am qualified.

Ms. Laub: I am interested in knowing what experience Steve has in Tax Claims, the Assessment Office, GIS, Planning, Public Safety, that sort of thing. The County Solicitor job is way more than Children & Youth.

Mr. Snook: Public Safety, I worked with Phil Lucas for many years. I didn't do a lot of Tax Claim work. I set up the jail, which is a lot of what we do. I've worked with budgets, municipal budgets.

Ms. Laub: So you feel you could hit the ground running?

Mr. Snook: I am not going to tell you that I can replace Pat. I can do this work. It is going to be a problem picking up where we are, but I feel confident that we can do this work and it won't be just me.

Ms. Laub so it won't be you appointed as Solicitor?

Mr. Snook: It will be BMZ Law. I'm not going to be an employee. It is not my firm that is going to be Solicitor.

Ms. Laub: I question the motion to appoint you Solicitor, it should be BMZ Law.

Mr. Snook: It will be BMZ Law.

Mr. Knable: I have a comment . With Patricia Gardner requesting to be terminated on a rumor, I just think it is kinda foolish myself. And if she has already asked to be terminated, is she still wanting the job?

Chairman Nancollas: I can't answer that because she hasn't come to me.

Commissioner Kodish: I believe she would. The format before we have two items F and G. It was set up before that she was County Solicitor and Children & Youth Solicitor – 95% was Children & Youth and 5% County. We had an Assistant County Solicitor, John McCullough, contract person possibly \$25,000.00 if Pat was unavailable he did a lot of the extra stuff when her case load in Children & Youth was too high.

Mr. Snook: We will be here anytime. There isn't a problem when someone can't be here for you. You don't need health insurance anymore. I see there is an increase in the budget. I will do it for what the budget was last year.

Ms. Laub: You said you were going to work on a fee for services. Is the firm going to do it for that budget or is there going to be a fee above that?

Mr. Snook: Whatever she earned we will do it for that.

Ms. Laub: And that will be firm?

Mr. Snook: Whatever the number is, that is what it is.

The motion was revised by Commissioner Kodish that the County Solicitor would be BMZ Law with Steve Snook as the principal. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. Vote was two in favor with Commissioner Kodish voting No.

Commissioner Dunkle: For the record, Patty Gardner has never reached out to me to discuss her interest in the Solicitorship and to discuss any details and I have no idea where she heard that she was going to be escorted out by Sheriff's deputies. I thought that was just a terrible thing to say to the newspaper and public. I can assure you that I never said those words. Nor, do I believe were they uttered by anyone at this table. Where that came from I truly do not know, but I would like it stricken from the record. Patty Gardner never telephoned me or made any effort to contact me or email me. If she still has an interest in this position, I would have thought that she would have reached out in some degree or have someone reach out to me on her behalf.

G. Appointment of Children and Youth Solicitor

Commissioner Kodish: F and G should be combined.

Chairman Nancollas: BMZ shall be County Solicitor and Children and Youth Solicitor.

H. Appointment of Tax Claim/Voters Director

See Note 1 Below.

I. Appointment of Chief Assessor

See Note 1 Below.

J. Appointment of Veterans Affairs Director

See Note 1 Below.

K. Appointment of GIS Director

See Note 1 Below.

L. Appointment of Planning Director

See Note 1 Below.

M. Appointment of Children & Youth Director

See Note 1 Below.

N. Appointment of Public Safety Director

See Note 1 Below.

O. Appointment of Physical Plant Director

See Note 1 Below.

P. Appointment of Prison Administrator

See Note 1 Below.

Q. Appointment of Public Defenders

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to appoint Robert Ferguson and Steven Wade Parker to be Public Defenders. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish.

The motion was unanimously approved.

R. Appointment of all other County Personnel

See Note 1 Below.

Note 1: *Chairman Nancollas went back to Appointments skipped as follows:*

- E. Appointment of Assistant Director of Fiscal Affairs*
- H. Appointment of Tax Claim/Voters Director*
- I. Appointment of Chief Assessor*
- J. Appointment of Veterans Affairs Director*
- K. Appointment of GIS Director*
- L. Appointment of Planning Director*
- M. Appointment of Children & Youth Director*
- N. Appointment of Public Safety Director*
- O. Appointment of Physical Plant Director*
- P. Appointment of Prison Administrator*
- R. Appointment of all other County Personnel*

Commissioner Dunkle made a motion that the individuals currently sitting in those positions be retained for thirty days – in the interim, this board will sit down and meet with each of the individual directors – we will discuss their budgets, we will discuss their programs within their departments and then we will make a more permanent decision as to the relationship as to who the individuals are sometime after that thirty day period. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

S. Set Workshop and Meeting Day Schedules for 2016

**MIFFLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING/WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
2016**

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Thursday | January 7 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | January 14 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | January 21 st | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | January 28 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | February 4 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | February 11 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | February 18 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | February 25 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | March 3 rd | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | March 10 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | March 17 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | March 24 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | April 7 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | April 14 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |

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| Thursday | April 21 st | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | April 28 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | May 5 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | May 12 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | May 19 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | May 26 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | June 2 nd | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | June 9 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | June 16 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | June 23 rd | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | July 7 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | July 14 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | July 21 st | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | July 28 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | August 4 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | August 11 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | August 18 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | August 25 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 1 st | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 8 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 15 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Sept. 22 nd | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | October 6 st | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | October 13 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | October 20 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | October 27 nd | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Nov. 3 rd | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Nov. 10 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Nov. 17 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday | Nov. 23 rd | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Dec. 1 st | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |

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| Thursday | Dec. 8 th | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thursday | Dec. 15 th | Public Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday | Dec. 22 nd | Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |

Commissioner Kodish made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle.

Chairman Nancollas asked if this was the whole year.

Commissioner Kodish replied Yes.

Chairman Nancollas responded that she thought maybe the first six months keeping it as it is and the second six months changing it for the community because at 9:00 in the morning it is hard for citizens to attend.

Solicitor Snook said you can amend the schedule.

Commissioner Kodish said they stopped having in the evening for lack of attendance.

The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comment:

Ms. Laub: I have another question. There is no Tax Claims/Voters Director. Will that be appointed at a later date?

Chairman Nancollas: Yes.

Ms. Laub: So that will be a non-appointment for that position?

Solicitor Snook: Do you have a first assistant?

Ms. Laub: I have an Assistant Director but that is a union position and nobody has contacted me, not even the Commissioners or Commissioners Elect, have talked to me about the office and my retirement was announced in mid-November.

Ms. Hackett: I would just like to know why the Commissioner that got the most votes is not the Chairman.

Chairman Nancollas: Because the Republicans have the majority. Sorry. She wants to know why Kevin is not Chairman.

Commissioner Dunkle: I don't know what total historical precedence has been in this County, but I can tell you when I was elected County Commissioner in 1975, I was the top vote getter, as Kevin was, but I was the only Republican with two Democrats and in that Board the Democrat with the most votes was Chairman. Herb Yingling with the second highest votes was Vice-Chair and I, with the most amount of votes, as the minority member was the Secretary. That was the situation from 1975 through 1979.

Ms. Laub: In that time what political party was sitting in the Governor's office?

Commissioner Dunkle: Probably a Democrat – Shapp was Governor. Does that answer your question? Do you think the person with the most votes should be the Chairperson?

Ms. Hackett: It has been that way.

Commissioner Dunkle: Not always, because I just shared with you an example where it wasn't.

Commissioner Dunkle: I would just like to ask in the future when we have meetings that if individuals have questions that they identify themselves prior to asking the question

V. Adjournment:

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Nancollas adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk