

Lewistown, PA

March 03, 2016

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 03, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Lisa Nancollas, Stephen Dunkle and Kevin P. Kodish; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig, Solicitor Stephen Snook and Confidential Clerk George Welsh.

Joe Cannon and Buffie Boyer of The Sentinel/County Observer were the only representatives present from the news media.

Guests present were Treasurer Debra Civitts; Children and Youth Services Director Mackenzie Seiler; Human Services Department Head Allison Fisher; Crime Victim Services Coordinator Jami Glick; Public Safety Director Phil Lucas; Chief Probation Officer Todd Harpster; Co. Auditor Helen Kirk; Sheriff Chris Shade; Co. Auditor Teresa Hobbs; Larry Clark; Stephanie Foust, American Red Cross and Noah Fisher and Nicholas Koppenhaver, Mifflin County High School.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Nancollas.

I. The Invocation was given by Larry Clark.

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

III. Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2016. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Bills:

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable:

Ck. #108598 to 108742 and EFTs #21438 to 21466 in the amount of \$454,296.96

2. Payroll Account: Ck.#76974 to 76994 and Direct Deposit Advices #6245 to 6452 in the amount of \$373,836.17

3. 911 Account:

Cks. #51183 to 51186 and EFTs #20192-20197 - \$1,448.17

4. Liquid Fuels:

Ck. #1616 in the amount of \$14,951.17

5. Liquid Fuels Act 89

EFT # 8028 in the amount of \$22.41

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve payment of bills as listed above. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Treasurer's Report: 02/17/2016 to 03/01/2016

General Account Starting Balance	\$ 3,418,504.98
Deposits – Receipts #80342-80462	441,338.74
Interest	1,951.26
Voided Check 108455	9,962.40
Total Debits	\$ 453,252.40
Bills Paid – Cks. #108598-108742	
EFTs #21438-21466	\$ 454,296.96

<i>Transfer to Payroll – Cks. #76974-76994</i>		
	<i>DD #6245-6452</i>	373,836.17
<i>Total Credits</i>		\$ 828,133.13
<i>Ending Balance – Interest @ 0.50%</i>		\$ 3,043,624.25
<i>Liquid Fuels</i>	<i>0.510% @ JVB</i>	466,685.78
<i>Liquid Fuels – Act 89</i>	<i>0.1% @ JVB</i>	152,003.51
<i>911 Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.510% @ JV</i>	435,800.38
<i>911 Wireless Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.1% @ JVB</i>	409,809.59
<i>Capital Reserve Account</i>	<i>0.34% @ JVB</i>	
	<i>General Account Funds</i>	
	<i>Total Capital Reserve</i>	\$ 31.33

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to accept the Treasurer’s Report as received, subject to audit. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Meetings and Events:

Chairman Nancollas:

Planning Commission Meeting: We had a guest speaker to discuss passenger rail service. We were told by Western Pennsylvania Passenger Rail that we lack sufficient service west of Harrisburg. They want to connect the western part of PA with the eastern part of PA with a stop in Lewistown, looking at having service three times a day. They are having a meeting May 17th in Harrisburg 12 noon to 1:30 pm on the subject.

We are looking to have faster internet service for our community. Superior internet service is important for education and economic development in our community. Without this we are going to be left behind. Bill Gomes is spearheading the project.

Human Services Development Fund Advisory Board Meeting: We have a Veteran’s Outreach Grant for veterans of Mifflin County who are in need of emergency services. Vets should see Chris Dearment in our Veteran’s office on first floor.

Housing Authority Meeting: It was routine business.

JVBDS Executive Board Meeting

Meeting with the Sunshine Connection: They had a representation from Medicaid there They were talking about how to take you medication appropriately.

Citizen’s Advisory Board Meeting: It was routine business.

Commissioner Dunkle:

SEDA-COG Joint Railroad Authority: All three Commissioners. This was formed in 1983. It originally consisted of five counties and was expanded to eight counties and was basically to provide rail service for the counties. In the 1980’s Congress gave Conrail the authority to close rail lines throughout the Country. Since SEDA-COG devised this joint rail authority, the eleven county region served by SEDA-COG would have lost approximately 3,000 jobs. There are six different rail lines in the eleven county region. In 2014, rail traffic topped 26,000 carloads over 200 miles of track included in this Joint Rail Authority. The Joint Rail Authority actually owns the real estate, tracks, bridges, rail sidings but it partners with a private company that provides the locomotives. It is a partnership between public/private.

Luncheon with Penn State Extension: All three Commissioners attended. During this luncheon, the staff members of the Extension and Community volunteers were introduced. People who wanted to make remarks were offered that opportunity. A lot of the conversation centered around the Youth Fair. Tom Walker did an excellent job putting this together. Governor Wolfe has cut the line item that provides funding for County Extension programs throughout the State.

Commissioner Kodish:

Board of Elections: All 3 attended. A ramp is going to be installed at the Armory for voters

Penn State Extension Luncheon: All 3 attended.

Regional Service Corporation Negotiations

Regional Services Corporation Board

SEDA-COG Board: In Lewisburg.

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting: All 3 attended.

Mifflin County Planning Commission Meeting: All 3 attended.

Meeting with UGI Gas Representatives: Met about a gas line they have on a bridge in Yeagertown that the County owns. It used to be for vehicular traffic and was closed several years ago. It is now just open to foot traffic. The gas line runs right along the bridge and is attached to the bridge. It is deteriorating. Plans are under way to have that gas line relocated.

Prison Board: All 3 attended.

Meeting with Mike McGrady: He is a communications consultant to look at future 911 Collaborative projects with other Counties.

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business:

A. Proclamation – March 2016 is American Red Cross Month

PROCLAMATION - AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2016

In Mifflin County we have a long history of helping our neighbors in need. American Red Cross Month is a special time to recognize and thank our Everyday Heroes – those selfless Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members.

These heroes help families find shelter after a home fire. They give blood to help trauma victims and cancer patients. They deliver comfort items to military members in the hospital. They use their lifesaving skills to save someone from a heart attack, drowning, or choking. They enable children around the globe to be vaccinated from measles and rubella.

The American Red Cross depends on local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. **We applaud our heroes here in Mifflin County who give of themselves** to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand.

Across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. In fact, every eight minutes the organization responds to a community disaster, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It collects 40 percent of the nation's blood supply; provides 24-hour support to military members, veterans and their families; teaches millions

lifesaving skills, such as lifeguarding and CPR; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict, or migration.

We dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Lisa Nancollas, Stephen Dunkle, and Kevin P. Kodish, Commissioners of Mifflin County, by virtue of the authority vested in us by the Constitution and laws of Pennsylvania do hereby proclaim March 2016 as American Red Cross Month. We encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hand this 3rd day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Mifflin County

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Proclamation – March 2016 as American Red Cross Month. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Foust: We are always appreciative of the good volunteers of Mifflin County especially our lead volunteers Howard Jackson and Bob Soccio. They are able to come out when we have incidents like the Juniata Terrace fires. It just doesn't take the work of the two volunteers but of the whole community. Thank you.

B. Agreement with Dr. John Bauman, DDS to provide treatment and services during 2016 to the inmate population at the Mifflin County Correctional Facility

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Agreement with Dr. John Bauman, DDS. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Maintenance Contract with CenturyLink Sales Solutions, Inc. for support and service of the 911 system:

Mr. Lucas: This is a software maintenance contract for the E-911 call centers. We are kind of in the nine month period before it is replaced. My recommendation is to do the six month contract and see when we approach the end of the six month period we may need the additional time.

- *Six months - \$8,932.39*
- *One year - \$17,834.67*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve Maintenance Agreement with CenturyLink Solutions for 2016 for a period of six months. Motion was made by Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Application for the Victims of Crime Act Grant

Ms. Glick: This is a continuation of the grant for victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization under the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This is a three year non-competitive grant in the amount of \$111,876.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Application for the Victims of Crime Act Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Project Modification Request for the Mifflin County Intermediate Punishment Plan Grant – requesting additional funding

Mr. Harpster: County Intermediate Punishment Grant runs June thru July. There was money left over so they threw it out to the Counties that there might be money available

up to \$10,000.00 depending upon the number of Counties applying for the remaining funds. Talking to Lisa Stalnaker the other day, she thought it would be closer to \$2,500.00 or \$5,000.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Project Modification Request for the Mifflin County Intermediate Plan Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

- F. Offer for parcel 15 ,09-0122--,000 located in Decatur Township that is currently in repository for unsold properties – Troy Speece, Sr. - \$50.00*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to accept the Offer for parcel 15 ,09-0122--,000l. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- G. Treasurer’s report of 2015 Tax Duplicate and exonerate the tax collectors from any further collections of 2015 taxes*

Ms. Civitts: There were unpaid Real Estate bills totaling \$898,099.50 turned over to the Mifflin County Tax Claim Bureau. There were unpaid Per Capita bills totaling \$5,340.00 that was turned over to Miffco for collection.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Treasurer’s report of 2015 Tax Duplicate. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- H. Agreement with Susquehanna Accounting & Consulting Solutions, Inc., Harrisburg, PA to provide as needed accounting services for the hourly rates of \$145.00 up to \$275.00 per hour*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Agreement with Susquehanna Accounting & Consulting Solutions, Inc., Harrisburg, PA. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- I. Resolution No. 22 of 2016 urging the General Assembly and Administration to restore funding for human services programs to historic levels and to put mechanisms in place to assure any future budget impasse or budget delay does not become a burden on Mifflin County and its constituents*

RESOLUTION NO. 22 of 2016

A resolution of the county of Mifflin, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the General Assembly and Administration to restore funding for human services programs to historic levels, and to put mechanisms in place to assure any future budget impasse or budget delay does not become a burden on Mifflin County and its constituents.

WHEREAS, counties are at the forefront for delivery of crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable individuals, such as child welfare and protective, mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, homeless assistance, meal programs, lottery funded transportation, and others; and

WHEREAS, the capacity to meet critical service needs has been compromised by a steady decrease in state funding over the past decade, especially the drastic ten percent aggregate cut to the seven human services line items in FY 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, new mandates and additional program requirements continue to be placed on counties in the face of decreasing state funds; and

WHEREAS, while the rebalancing initiative for child welfare services is portrayed as only an accounting change, the initiative shifts a full quarter of funds for mandated child protective services into the following budget year with no more than a promise of being made whole; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the six-month budget impasse in FY 2015-2016, counties and the providers with whom they contract were forced to make difficult decisions about remaining open and meeting clients' needs while state payments were withheld; and

WHEREAS, many counties tapped reserves, borrowed funds, reduced or suspended payments to vendors or subcontractors, limited staff travel, laid off or reduced hours of employees, among other strategies, to maintain their focus on service delivery and assure that clients felt no harm; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue providing services during the budget impasse, Mifflin County was forced to limit spending on supplies and professional development, limit payments to vendors, and;

WHEREAS, Mifflin County has estimated lost revenue of approximately \$5,600.00 due to fees for professional services with regard to preparing and supervising the governmental proceedings for, and delivering an approving Note Counsel opinion for the 2016 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mifflin County remains committed to the important role we play in delivery of services to our communities; and

RESOLVED, that Mifflin County stands ready to work in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania in support of counties' top priority for 2016, the commonwealth budget and human services funding; and

RESOLVED, that Mifflin County supports restoration of funding of the ten percent reductions to the seven key human services line items that occurred in FY 2012-2013, as without restoration to prior funding levels, all counties find it difficult to serve the state's most needy citizens; and

RESOLVED, that Mifflin County opposes "rebalancing" initiatives for child welfare services that will force counties to reduce funding by a quarter, reduce payments to providers, shorten contract periods, or use county property tax funds to cover the state's obligation until a future budget makes a true allocation; and

RESOLVED, that Mifflin County asks that state leaders continue to work with them to find ways to administer human services programs in a way that ensures both quality and efficiency; and

RESOLVED, that Mifflin County will work in concert with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and state leaders to develop comprehensive solutions for any future budget impasse or delay to ensure that counties are never again put in a situation where they are forced to cover the state's funding obligations; and

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mifflin County legislative delegation, to Governor Wolf, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mifflin, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this _____ day of _____, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve Resolution No. 22 of 2016. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

J. Purchase of Service Agreements, for use if needed, by Children and Youth:

Ms. Seiler: Comments on the various programs.

- *Tuscarora Intermediate Unit, McVeytown, PA*
- *Vainey Siennick, Lewistown, PA*
- *Snyder, Union, Mifflin Child Development (SUMCD), Lewistown, PA*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Purchase of Services Agreements, for use if needed, by Children and Youth. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

K. *Purchase of Service Agreement with Sherri Botteicher for clerical duties for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 at the rate of \$13.80 per hour.*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Purchase of Services Agreement with Sherri Botteicher. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

L. *Agreement with Advance International, Inc. to upgrade the Child Accounting and Profile System for a cost of \$1,130.39*

Ms. Seiler: This system is required by the State. All counties share the cost.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Agreement with Advance International. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

M. *Appointments to SEDA-COG Nonprofit Coopertive Corporation:*

- *Rob Postal*
- *Mike Tate*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Appointments to SEDA-COG. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

N. *Commissioner's letter to Senator Corman, Representatives Harris, Benninghoff and Irvin on Economic Development*

Commissioner Dunkle: As you may recall last year during the campaign, one of the issues was to have the County do more to promote economic development and job growth. That is something that we as a full board fully believe is something that we need to embark upon so we have just written a letter to Senator Corman and our three representatives. I will read that letter to you.

March 3, 2016

Representative Richard Irvin
81st House District
Five East Wing
P.O. Box 202081
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Irvin,

Mifflin County has a proud heritage. Our people are resilient, hardworking and proud. We are a caring community, looking after our neighbors, friends and those in need. Yet in spite of this, Mifflin County has a number of issues casting long shadows on the horizon.

- As a county, we rank 66 of 67 counties in per capita income.
- Population growth is stagnant
- Our population is aging as our young people move elsewhere to find employment
- Our public school system ranks in the bottom third of the state
- Quality living wage jobs are increasingly difficult to find within the county

As a new Board of Commissioners, we are dedicated to improve both the short term and long term economic situation here in Mifflin County. Over the years our county has struggled to develop a comprehensive plan which is truly aimed at job growth and economic development. Part of our objective is to create a task force and, ultimately, a document that will inventory our

many assets, develop goals and objectives, and move Mifflin County forward in a structured and focused manner as we strive for expanded and improved job opportunities.

This effort will most certainly continue to incorporate those entities that are currently in place such as Mifflin County Industrial Development (MCIDC), the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce, the business community, labor, academic community, non-profits, county agencies, and various municipalities among others. Increased communication and interaction between each of the above will provide the foundation for this effort.

We write to you today to ask for your assistance as we embark upon this huge endeavor. We need to know what the commonwealth is currently doing and what its focus is to promote economic development within Pennsylvania, so that we may better align our work with that of the state. We need to meet with representatives of various state agencies that specialize in job creation and marketing. Further, we're certain that you will have suggestions that will better enable us to be successful in this effort including additional contacts and networking opportunities, potential pilot projects, incubators, and state funding sources.

With your help, additional doors will be opened. Together we will make a positive and lasting impact for the future of Mifflin County and generations yet to come.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Commissioner's letter. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

O. Hiring of Joshua Pennepacker for a Part Time Deputy Coroner effective March 1, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Hiring of Joshua Pennepacker. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. Public Comment:

Mr. Clark: Citizens have asked him how to get on the Invocation schedule. Do you have a policy or directive on how to do this?

Mr. Snook: Just give us a call. We have plenty of opportunities.

Commissioner Kodish: Anyone who is interested should call us.

Commissioner Kodish: I wanted to let Auditor Hobbs know that I talked to the Army recruiting station about Army ROTC and they are going to tell the other branches about the man interested.

X. Adjournment

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Nancollas adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk