

Lewistown, PA

May 5, 2016

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Lisa Nancollas, Stephen Dunkle and Kevin P. Kodish; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig, Solicitor Steve Snook and Confidential Clerk George Welsh.

Joe Cannon of The Sentinel/County Observer was the only representative present from the news media.

Guests present were Treasurer Deb Civitts; Co. Auditor Helen Kirk; Co. Auditor Teresa Hobbs; Planning and Development Director William Gomes; Public Safety Director Phil Lucas; Coroner Dan Lynch; Joann Tate; Gayle Landis; Nan Haller; Evelyn Coldron; Melda Leister; Mark Mitchell; Aaron Michalchik; Jacob Vallimont; Rebecca Hynd; Elwood Barger; Sam Alexander; Tim Nilson; Pam Sechrist; Earl Tabb; Ed Fike; Brett Rogers; Steen Peterson; Joy Byler; Lucas Parkes, EADS Group; and Charli Henry and Erica Bonson, Mifflin County High School.

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

I. The Invocation was given by Commissioner Kodish.

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

III. Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2016. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Bills:

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable:

Cks. #109265 to 109434 and EFTs #21653 to 21668 in the amount of \$993,570.50

2. Payroll Account: Cks. #77058 to 77081 and Direct Deposit Advices #7096 to 7310 in the amount of \$356,432.06

3. 911 Account:

EFTs #20215-20218 - \$587.74

4. LEPC Account:

Cks. #1321-1322 in the amount of \$557.14

5. Liquid Fuels Act 89:

EFT #8032 in the amount of \$10.10

6. CDBG:

Ck # 377 in the amount of \$6,534.46

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: 04/20/2016 to 05/03/16

General Account Starting Balance	\$ 5,178,462.21
Deposits – Receipts #80806-81170	2,087,035.79

<i>Interest</i>		2,523.16
<i>Voided Check</i>		27,599.00
	<i>Total Debits</i>	\$ 2,117,157.95
<i>Bills Paid – Cks. #109265-109424</i>		
<i>EFTs #21653-21668</i>		\$ 993,570.50
<i>Transfer to Payroll – Cks. #77058-77081</i>		
<i>DD #7096-7310</i>		356,432.06
<i>Total Credits</i>		\$ 1,350,002.56
<i>Ending Balance – Interest @ 0.580%</i>		\$ 5,945,617.60
<i>Liquid Fuels</i>	<i>0.580% @ JVB</i>	467,154.79
<i>Liquid Fuels – Act 89</i>	<i>0.1% @ JVB</i>	151,870.29
<i>911 Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.580% @ JVB</i>	396,242.32
<i>911 Wireless Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.1% @ JVB</i>	409,877.89
<i>Capital Reserve Account</i>	<i>0.60% @ JVB</i>	
	<i>General Account Funds</i>	
	<i>Total Capital Reserve</i>	\$ 2,656,381.97

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

VI. Meetings and Events:

Chairman Nancollas:

Opiate Conference at Geisinger/Lewistown

Joinder Executive Meeting: They have a draft of their administrative budget available. They are getting a new phone system. They will have some amendments to their budget.

Human Services Meeting: Allocations were finalized.

Prison Board Meeting: All three Commissioners attended.

Mann Edge Ground Breaking Ceremony: Yes there will be parking.

Higher Education Meeting

Housing Authority Meeting

Pictometry Demonstration: Part of Operation Fairness

Met with Centre and Clinton County Commissioners: Concerning the Natural Gas Project

Met with Representative Benninghoff: He has an intern and we showed him around.

Our Bonds were financed with a savings of \$360,000.00 this year.

Commissioner Dunkle:

Mifflin County Industrial Development Meeting

Mifflin County Planning Commission: All three Commissioners attended.

Post Secondary Education Meeting: We will continue to have these meetings. We are having dialogue with two institutions that provide post-secondary education.

Pictometry Demonstration: Lisa and I attended yesterday. Kevin has seen this demonstration previously. The County has contracted with a private firm that flies over the county and takes high resolution pictures both vertical and at angle of 40-45 degrees so you can get a side look at the buildings and everything that is below you. The purpose of this is to update our assessment records and to catch individuals who purposely or inadvertently missed the building permit process and having their properties placed on the tax roles. The reality is there is probably a number of residences, camps, decks, swimming pools, you name it that have not been caught on the tax assessment roles. We all pay our taxes, we all pay our fair share and it is not fair to those of us who are paying our fair share to let people slip between the cracks and not pay their fair share. and if everybody pays their fair share, we can avoid further tax increases and if tax increase have to come about in the future they could be at a lesser amount. We will get started this summer. We are going to call it "Operation Fairness".

Commissioner Kodish:

Board of Elections

JVBDS Annual Dinner

Meeting with Centre and Clinton Counties regarding Natural Gas Initiative

Valley View Haven Tour: We had a tour of the new wing.

CSBG Board

SEDA COG Board

Higher Education Planning Group

Human Services Quarterly Meeting

Regional Services Corporation Personnel Committee

Mann Edge II Ground Breaking Ceremony

Prison Board: All three Commissioners attended. We are looking at our Nursing staff.

Representative Benninghoff and Intern

Mifflin County Planning Commission

VII. Old Business: None

VIII. New Business:

A. Proclamation – May 2016 is Older Americans Month

PROCLAMATION - Older Americans Month 2016

WHEREAS, Mifflin County includes a community of older Americans who deserve recognition for their contributions to our nation; and

WHEREAS, Mifflin County recognizes that older adults are trailblazers – advocating for themselves, their peers, and their communities – paving the way for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Mifflin County is committed to raising awareness about issues facing older Americans and helping all individuals to thrive in communities of their choice for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate the value of inclusion and support in helping older adults successfully contribute to and benefit from their communities; and

WHEREAS, our community can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by;

- Promoting and engaging in activity, wellness, and social involvement.
- Emphasizing home – and community based services that support independent living.
- Ensuring community members can benefit from the contributions and experience of older adults.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mifflin County Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2016 to be Older Americans Month.

We urge every resident to take time this month to acknowledge older adults and the people who serve them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to our community

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Proclamation – May is Older Americans Month. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Proclamation – May 15-21, 2016 is Emergency Medical Services Week

Mr. Nilson: I want to thank the County Commissioners. I am with the Seven Mountains EMS council which is the organization contracted with the Pennsylvania Department of Health which coordinates EMS services. There are nine counties in our region. The EMS system is truly a system that begins with the person knowing to call 911 to the telecommunicator, those who dispatch to give tips of what to do before the ambulance gets there right on through to the rehab nurses that take care of the people after the injuries or illnesses. There are 70 EMS agencies in the county. There are about 59,000 EMS providers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is a dwindling population.

EMS Week Proclamation

To designate the Week of May 15-21, 2016 as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services is a vital public service and community public health safety net; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services System consists of public safety telecommunicators, first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, and others; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mifflin County Commissioners in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2016 as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

*With the theme, **EMS Strong; Called to Care**, and encourage the citizens of Mifflin County to join us in observing this week and recognizing our local EMS agency/agencies and providers.*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Proclamation – May 15-21, 2016 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award and Proclamation

Ms. Sechrist: Earl and others have been with us over the last 15 years. PA Cleanways was founded in 2001. We have cleaned up many illegal dump sites throughout the county and all of them but one have been done with volunteers. We are thankful for all our volunteers.

**PROCLAMATION
2015 Volunteer of the Year
Earl Tabb**

Whereas, the County of Mifflin is proud of the volunteers, who not only serve our local area with pride and commitment, but help to make sure Mifflin County is a great place to live, work and raise a family; and

Whereas, volunteers throughout the County of Mifflin donate their time to a wide variety of human service programs and worthwhile causes; and

Whereas, Earl Tabb is a volunteer with PA Clean Ways; and

Whereas, Earl Tabb has volunteered during many PA Clean Way cleanups and tire recycle events throughout the years; and

Whereas, Earl Tabb has helped with the last four river cleanups by offering his truck and trailer to haul tires from the river site for recycling and he has helped with planning future cleanups; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners proclaim Earl Tabb the 2015 Volunteer of the Year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award and Proclamation. Motion was made by Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Proclamation – May 2016 is Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

Mr. Peterson: Chapter and District Rep for District 6, Mifflin, Dauphin Counties down to Hanover and York. A.B.A.T.E. enforces education, protect the rights of motorcycles issues and safety. You see these signs along the highway so you will pay attention for motorcycles. “Operation Save-A-Life” we are doing this in conjunction with PennDOT. Just to give you an idea what the Chapters do is we have the largest toy run on the east coast to run through Philadelphia so every child has a toy for Christmas.

**PROCLAMATION
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 2016**

Whereas, the safety of all Pennsylvania motorists is an issue of the highest consequence and all highway users should unite in the safe sharing of roadways throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, motorcycle riding is a popular form of recreation and transportation for thousands of people across the Commonwealth and our nation. The Commonwealth’s 825,000 licensed motorcyclists are required to keep their vehicles inspected and obey current laws relative to operator safety equipment; and

Whereas, in efforts to reduce the number of motorcycle crashes and fatalities, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation encourages all motorcyclists to take advantage of free training courses through Pennsylvania’s Motorcycle Safety Program and pledge to be one less fatality by visiting www.LiveFreeRideAlive.com ; and

Whereas, it is especially important that the citizens of our Commonwealth be aware of motorcycles on the streets and highways and recognize the importance of staying alert, practicing safe driving techniques, and promoting motorcycle safety; and

Whereas, during the month of May, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education of Pennsylvania (ABATE), and the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Dealers Association (PMDA) will continue their advocacy of motorcycle safety.

Therefore, in recognition of motorcycle safety on our Commonwealth's roads and highways, We, the Commissioners of Mifflin County do hereby proclaim May 2016 as MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH. We encourage all motorcyclists to continue their efforts to promote safety and motorcycle awareness and all drivers to share the road and respect the unique safety needs of motorcyclists.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Proclamation – May 2016 is Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- E. Recognize Bill Gomes for receiving the 2015 Community Service Award from the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce.*
- F. Recommendation from Lucas Parkes of the EADS Group for the Boat Launch project Contractor pending Solicitor approval*

Mr. Lucas: Seven contractors had picked up the bidding documents. There were three contractors that submitted bids for the project. We opened the bids at 11:00 a.m. and we are pleased to report that all bids are within budget. We have a low responsible bidder. Solicitor Steve Snook reviewed the documents and he agrees that the bid documents are in order. Our recommendation is that we award the bid to the low responsible bidder, G.R. Charles Excavating Limited in the amount of \$177,948.26. They have worked with the County before and in their project history it is noted that they have done two or three boat launch projects. I ask that you recommend that we begin the award process. Over the next month we will process the remaining paperwork for securing insurances, performance bonds and securing the agreement. At one of the Commissioner meetings in June, we will finalize all the paperwork.

Solicitor Snook: You are about \$35,000.00 under your grant allocation. You always have stuff that comes up in the process and that gives you a cushion.

Commissioner Kodish: What was the range of bids?

Mr. Lucas: Low bidder was \$170,000.00 and high bidder was \$270,000.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the recommendation for the Boat Launch Project pending Solicitor approval. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

- G. Request for exoneration of 2016 county real estate tax bill and relieve the Tax Collector from collecting this bill:*

- Parcel No. 13,04-0137C-000 located in Bratton Township – parcel did not receive the Clean & Green preferential assessment and will be rebilled with the August supplement – County portion \$765.23*
- Parcel No. 15,09-0118A-,001 located in Decatur Township – mobile home was destroyed by fire – County portion \$7.13*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the request for exoneration of 2016 taxes for Parcel No. 13,04-0137C and Parcel No. 15,09-0118A-,001. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- H. Mifflin County Coroner, Dan Lynch – update on the relationship between the County Coroner's Office and Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital*

Mr. Lynch: I am here to talk about the relationship of the Coroner and the County with Geisinger/Lewistown Hospital. We have always had a good working relationship with Lewistown Hospital. When Geisinger was doing the takeover we were assured that all contracts and all agreements with Lewistown Hospital would be honored by Geisinger/Lewistown Hospital. That worked out for about the first year and now they are blatantly disregarding the agreement that they had with the County Coroner's Office. We

had an agreement that all our services would be discounted. The agreement is worth nothing now for using the services. So now we are having to go out of the County to Mt. Nittany Medical Center to have things done that should have been done here in the county. But because someone in Danville decided that that wasn't how it was going to be done, it is creating a problem with the Coroner's office as far as efficiency. In 1996, there was a case in court Lewistown Hospital Foundation vs Mifflin County and at that time administrative personnel from the Hospital testified in court that they indeed gave free autopsy services to the Coroner's office in lieu of paying property taxes to the County. In fact, that is not the case, there hasn't been an autopsy done through the Coroner's office at Lewistown Hospital since 2008. This was always the practice when it was Lewistown Hospital. We kinda had a wash the Coroner's office was providing services to the Hospital and the Hospital was providing services to the Coroner's office. We have a large number of coroner cases in this county, because of the size of the hospital coverage area not the size of our county. Juniata County does not have a hospital. Snyder County does not have a hospital. People are coming into Mifflin County for services at Geisinger/Lewistown Hospital so many of those people become coroner's cases. So the Hospital has made a profit off these people, but the Mifflin County taxpayers are getting no services from the Hospital but by them bringing these patients into the County since November 2013, when the merger occurred, the expenses are up about \$20,000.00 in the Coroner's office. A huge problem with the efficiency of the Coroner's office we have cases that families want an answer immediately, not that they are legal or binding answers, they want an answer. If you have somebody that dies in a fire death, there is one blood test that we do to say yes they were dead before the fire started, your loved one didn't burn. This provides a lot of consolation that they loved one was dead before the fire started. This is a very easy test to provide sympathy to the family and give them peace of mind. Now, that test must be driven over the mountain to State College to have that test done. Apparently this corporate healthcare that we now have in Mifflin County has total disregard for the sympathy and empathy of the persons that require services from the Coroner's office. So, my point of being here today is I feel that it is time incumbent on me to come before the Board of Commissioners and ask you or suggest to you that you have your legal staff and the County Chief Assessor reevaluate removing part or all of the Geisinger's tax exemption. If they are not going to provide services to the County for free then they need to pay their fair share. It is the same as Commissioner Dunkle's statement about putting swimming pools in. Mt. Nittany Medical Center is now functioning in Mifflin County in Brown Township. Mount Nittany Medical Center generated approximately \$31,000.00 in property taxes from their building in Brown Township. The rest of that building is now being renovated and will be occupied and it will double the tax money coming in. There are also plans to construct a dialysis center out there so there will more property tax increase. So, why should Mt. Nittany be paying to function here as a health care provider when Geisinger is not? So that is my request to you that you give serious thought to removing part or all of their tax exemption.

Chairman Nancollas: Would it also be helpful if we set up a meeting between all of us and you and them.

Mr. Lynch: No, that will not be helpful. They would bring one of their 15 attorneys from Danville, that knows nothing about Lewistown, can't find the agreement that we had, knows nothing about the court case in the Prothonotary's office. We tried and tried. I will say this for the record the local people in the administration have bent over backwards to try to rectify the problem but they are mire puppets on a string for the Corporate headquarters in Danville. If the local people had the authority to change it, it would be changed, but they can't.

Commissioner Dunkle: Dan, do you know is Geisinger doing this in all their medical facilities?

Mr. Lynch: I can't speak about any other facilities. In Montour County, Danville they support the Coroner's office and the Coroner's office will soon to move into their facility.

Commissioner Dunkle: So they have one policy where the home office is and then another policy here in Lewistown.

Mr. Lynch: And this was done without any notification to the Coroner's office. We had a fatality where one family wanted to know if their loved one was under the influence of anything. Very easy test we could do it was called a medical blood-alcohol. We went to have it done and they refused to run it. They informed me then that they were no longer going to do it. Now I have been in the Coroner's office for 28 years, it has always been standard practice and as a medical legal investigator, you can't do your job without being able to order medical exams. The law very clearly gives coroners these authorities to do what they need to do to investigate causes of death, but Geisinger has unilaterally agreed policies and imposed them and I am not willing to spend Mifflin County taxpayer money to go to court to fight them. If we did we would win.

Solicitor Snook: You need to go see them. I don't know what Dan has done with them so far, but you need to go see them. That is my recommendation.

Mr. Lynch: Kay Hamilton has been my biggest supporter and if she can't get it done, it can't be done. The pharmacies are competing against our local pharmacies. They are making a profit or they won't be there. So why shouldn't they pay taxes on it?

Solicitor Snook: I am not arguing. I am not the only guy. You would have to take this to the school district. The School district is the big player in this. I want to take a crack at talking to these people to see where we are.

Mr. Lynch: That is all well and good, but I have already switched everything to an out of the county service. And I would suggest that the Prison Board be taking their cases to Mt. Nittany. After all, they are paying our way.

- I. Amend the effective start date of Virginia Moyer, LPN at the Correctional Facility to April 21, 2016*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the amending of the start date for Virginia Moyer. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

- J. Hiring of Scott Durst for Part-Time Corrections Officer effective April 25, 2016*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the hiring of Scott Durst. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- K. Hiring of Darrel Campbell for Part-Time Corrections Officer effective May 1, 2016.*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the hiring of Darrell Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

- L. Hiring of Gloria Runk for temporary clerk in the Veterans Affairs Office effective May 2, 2016.*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the hiring of Gloria Runk.. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was 2-0, 1 abstencion.

- M. Hiring of Kyle Kenepf for Part-Time Correction Officer effective May 9, 2016*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the hiring of Kyle Kenepf. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

- N. Hiring of Marissa Long as an intern in the Probation Office effective May 9, 2016*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the hiring of Marissa Long. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

- O. Resignation of Jillian Yoder from the Human Services Office effective May 13, 2016.*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the resignation of Jillian Yoder. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

P. Resignation of Gage Baumgardner from Part-Time Corrections Officer effective May 26, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the resignation of Gage Baumgardner. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

Q. Resignation of Kristi Sutton from Judicial Law Clerk effective May 27, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the resignation Kristi Sutton. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. Public Comment:

Mr. Rogers: Board of Directors of the Mifflin County Library. I am requesting that you reinstate what you have taken away in the last several months, reinstate that in full.

Chairman Nancollas: We will go back and talk about it. Is that OK?

Mr. Rogers: Yes that would be great.

Commissioner Dunkle: I would like to offer a comment in relationship to the Library. The debate about the money for the Library really comes down to this – Fair Process, fair process. Branch Libraries were closed by having a notice posted on the door hat said “This Library is closed until further notice”. At some point down the road, another notice was posted on the Library that said “This Library is permanently closed”. Since Molly Kinney became Director of the Mifflin County Library, there have been 39 Library Board meetings. All those meetings with the exception of one have either been held at 6:15 or 5:15 in the afternoon or early evening. The one exception, the Library Board decided to meet at 2:00 in the afternoon. Why 2:00 and why only one exception in 39 meetings? It was the meeting they decided to close the Milroy branch and Allensville branch of the Library. By having a meeting at 2:00 in the afternoon, school children could not possibly attend. Working parents of school children could not attend to make their voices heard. The issue isn’t whether or not the Library had a right to close those branches and I think everyone would agree that the Library had severe financial issues at the time. The issue is simply stated Fair Play, Fair Play. I, if the meeting had been held at the regular time, would have taken a couple van loads of people from the Allensville area. I would have taken school children, I would have taken parents of school children, I would have taken senior citizens and we would have gone to that Library meeting and they could have spoken. That is democracy. That is fair process, but they were denied that opportunity by a Library Board that just wanted to railroad it through. That’s unfair. Let me state further that if you look at the closing of the McVeytown Library branch, which was about 1 year and a few months after the other two, they decided to hold that meeting in Belleville. Of the 39 meetings that have been held since Molly Kinney has become the Director, 38 have been held in Lewistown and only 1 in Belleville. And guess what happened at the meeting in Belleville, the McVeytown Branch was closed. The people in McVeytown had to drive up over the mountain to go and make their voices heard. Some people did that. I have a feeling that if the meeting had been held in Lewistown, several more people would have been at that meeting. And by the nature of the meeting itself and the time of the year, it was October 15th of 2014, the people had to drive back over the mountain in the dark. There are people that just won’t do that anymore especially older people. It is my opinion that the Library Board deliberately threw obstacles in the way of the people to express their democratic rights. It doesn’t mean that the Board couldn’t do what it wanted to do but the Board took steps to limit the conversation, to limit the discussion and that’s not democracy. That is not what our country is all about. And so the funding issue has developed because I asked the Board if they would issue a letter of acknowledgement or apology or whatever you

want that they could have done things very differently. They could have achieved the same result but they could have done it in a democratic way that allowed the people to speak. The issue here is for the Library to acknowledge that they made a mistake. I asked Molly Kinney in January "Why did you have this meeting in Belleville rather than in Lewistown?" and do you know what her answer was? We were told that the people in McVeytown don't go to Lewistown anymore. Really? I have to believe that more people from McVeytown go to Lewistown than go to Belleville. The process was not fair. I have a degree in Library Science. I just want a simple acknowledgement that the process they used was not fair and further we have a democracy. Our democracy is structured with the federal government, the state government and local government and local government consists of both counties and it consists of municipalities, townships and boroughs, in our particular case in Mifflin County. The Library Board chose not to go meet with the township supervisors, borough councils and the mayors of the municipalities in which the libraries were closed. That is wrong. Why do we even have local townships? Why do we have boroughs? Why do we have councilmen, mayors and township supervisors, if they can be circumvented, if somebody can just go in and do what they darn well please? That is not fair.

Commissioner Kodish: Commissioner Dunkle makes very valid points about those meetings and the people could have had an opportunity to speak. The board was under a lot of pressure, financial pressure, funds were very low. If you look at other counties in our area, I don't think you will find one with more than one branch supported by State and County funds. We had five going at the time and now it is down to two, but they run on a shoestring budget and they are under pressure. The other thing that is unfortunate about the current situation, five or six of the board members now weren't board members then. We have an approved budget from last year, we amended the budget and added \$15,000.00 which was split for McVeytown and Allensville branches, but we did not take money away from the Mifflin County Library, however funds are being withheld which are approved funds in their budget. The County Library budget already had \$60,000.00 in their line item this year and losing \$15,000.00 makes it \$75,000.00 in the range to break even. I think mistakes were made they were wrong, but withholding money is wrong. Two wrongs do no make a right.

Mr. Rogers: I cannot talk about what they did on the Board back then, I can only say that things can always be done differently. I will not admit that things have been done wrong and as far as the process goes, I would say that similar to the process that you guys are withholding the funds, that is a defamation of the process in itself, it is ironic one issue about the process and I think you guys are abusing the power in this regard when you are doing this. You did not run on Hey I am going to defund the Library or take allocations away until they come up with this letter. I think the voters would not support this kind of activity. I don't think we would support that from the State, if they come in and they say they want this and they want that if you agree or disagree you would roll over and do that. They may have that power but that does not mean it is right. That is why I am here, I am not to debate the rights or wrongs of the past boards, I am here to debate the process that you are using to defund the Library. I do not agree with that strong arm. I don't agree with that in any part of government.

Commissioner Dunkle: The situation would not even be here or be on discussion if the Library Board simply acknowledged they could have done things better. If the Library Board would simply acknowledge that, there would not be a withholding of \$15,000.00. You would have the money immediately. Whatever happened to the feelings of people, when the libraries were closed, people were hurt, people felt they were betrayed. Libraries today are a business, they have to be a business. Farming is a business, healthcare is a business, education is a business, everything is a business. When I was on the Mifflin County Library Board, I was asked to be finance--

Mr. Rogers: You were on that board when it closed those libraries.

Commissioner Dunkle: Yes.

Mr. Rogers: Did you go to those municipalities and hand out information telling them what was happening?

Commissioner Dunkle: Well, I wasn't on the board when McVeytown was closed.

Mr. Rogers: Did you inform the municipality that it was occurring?

Commissioner Dunkle: I was on the board in Menno and I was on the Library Board.

Mr. Rogers: Were the municipalities very aware of what was happening? Did you tell them something was going to be done and 3 years later there was something you needed to defund the Library for?

Commissioner Dunkle: Brett, you are a very good person and I don't think the way--

Mr. Rogers: I am head of the board and I have to try to get the money back.

Commissioner Dunkle: And you would have it back, if you simply acknowledge that you could have done better.

Chairman Nancollas: When this meeting is over, come back with us. OK? There are people here that need to get back to their job.

X. Adjournment

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Nancollas adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk