

Lewistown, PA

June 2, 2016

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 2, 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 and Frank Jost of The Sentinel/County Observer were the only representatives present from the news media.

Guests present were Treasurer Deb Civitts; Co. Auditor Helen Kirk; Co. Auditor Teresa Hobbs; Sheriff Christopher Shade; Children and Youth Services Director Mackenzie Seiler; Children and Youth Services Assistant Director Nicole Patkalitsky; Laureen Mowry, Financial Manager; Deputy Sheriff James Drayer; Prothonotary Tammy Stuck; District Attorney Chris Torquato; Brett Rogers; Buffie Boyer; Cindy Kennedy; April Foltz; Debbie Wilt; Don Corbin; Terry Wade; Jack Potts; Staci VanArt; Rev. Rick Bender; Clare Flynn; Judy Jackson; Howard Jackson; Jean Yetter; Deborah A. Bargo; Charles Zannino; Frankie Zannino; Gino Zannino; Kristy Bagrosky; Mary Murray; Mrs. Crystalties; Elmer Erb; Deanna Mills; Abel Rager; Shawna Ridley; Debbie Shoemaker; Ann McNabb; Tom McNabb; Edie Meachum; Ralph Meachum; Dennis Deamer; Jim Bryner; Jessica Bavahona; Eli Bavahona; Javan Bovahona; Lena Bovanona, Lia Bavahona, Heather McNabb; Sarah Leason; Ade Leason; Owen Leason; Kathy Spagnoletti; Jennifer Mitchell; Mike Mowery; Ed Fike; Nelson Rieffannacht; Jim Smith; Ann Thompson; Jason Forshey; Mike McMonigal; Caty Keim; Marianne Wilson; Rose Niman; Gary Niman; Kathy Knarr; Corrine Pierce; Brady Clemens; Jessica Cavanaugh; Shirley Hennesrs; Shaelyn Bagrosky; Jace Bagrosky; Maggie Creighton; Leah Noerr; Keith Altiery; Margaret K. Zook; Philip Quinn; Jenna Powell; Harry Holmes III; Michael Spahr; Lisa Spahr; Meg Rupert; Joey Rupert; Marsha Shelley; Patricia Forshey; Melody Wray; John Pendergast; Mark Knarr; Ron Rheam; Lucas Parkes, EADS Group; and Taylor Boozel and Kylie Wakefield, Mifflin County High School.

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

I. *The Invocation was given by Chairman Nancollas.*

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 May 19, 2016. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Bills:

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable:

Cks. #109728 to 109929 and EFTs #21757 to 21770 in the amount of \$608,895.81

2. Payroll Account: Cks. #77103 to 77125 and Direct Deposit Advices #7529 to 7752 in the amount of \$365,603.76

3. CDBG Account:

Ck. #378 in the amount of \$3,175.00

4. 911 Account:

Cks. # 51211-51217 and EFTs #20226-20231 - \$4,489.44

5. LEPC Account:

Cks. #1326-1328 in the amount of \$2,358.89

6. *Liquid Fuels Act 89:*

EFT #8034 in the amount of \$34.33

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: 05/18/2016 to 05/31/2016

<i>General Account Starting Balance</i>		<i>\$ 10,913,736.92</i>
<i>Deposits – Receipts #81939-82055</i>		<i>814,314.75</i>
<i>Transfer from Capital Reserve</i>		<i>125,249.58</i>
<i>Transfer from 911</i>		<i>100,000.00</i>
<i>Interest</i>		<i>3,718.66</i>
	<i>Total Debits</i>	<i>\$ 1,043,282.99</i>
<i>Bills Paid – Cks. #109728-109929</i>		
<i>EFTs #21757-21770</i>		<i>\$ 608,895.81</i>
<i>Transfer to Payroll – Cks. #77103-77125</i>		
<i>DD #7529-7752</i>		<i>365,603.76</i>
<i>Total Credits</i>		<i>\$ 974,499.57</i>
<i>Ending Balance – Interest @ 0.600%</i>		<i>\$ 10,982,520.34</i>
<i>Liquid Fuels</i>	<i>0.600% @ JVB</i>	<i>451,270.16</i>
<i>Liquid Fuels – Act 89</i>	<i>0.1% @ JVB</i>	<i>151,807.23</i>
<i>911 Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.600% @ JVB</i>	<i>608,258.30</i>
<i>911 Wireless Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.1% @ JVB</i>	<i>409,912.61</i>
<i>Capital Reserve Account</i>	<i>0.54% @ JVB</i>	
	<i>General Account Funds</i>	
	<i>Total Capital Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 1,081.63</i>

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:

JVBDS Executive Committee

Citizens Advisory Board Meeting: Went over the budget for 2016-17

Prison Board Meeting: All 3 Commissioners attended

Operation Fairness

Housing Authority Meeting

Natural Gas Cooperative

Prime Care and Diamond Services: Jail Issues

Community Meeting given by Senator Corman: Discuss issues about Mifflin County

Youth Board Meeting

Commissioner Dunkle:

Operation Fairness: Operation Fairness is a program that we are initiating with the use of Pictometry to capture properties that have been built, additions that have been built, pools that have been installed, major improvements that have been made that are not on the tax rolls. Each of you pay your fair share of taxes, but there are a number of people out there and when this project was done in other counties, it has resulted in tax revenue of hundreds of thousands of dollars. There are people that have deliberately avoided the permitting process to avoid paying taxes. Each of you need to pay more since they are not paying their fair share.

Commissioner Kodish:

Natural Gas Initiative Meeting

Solid Waste Authority

SEDA-COG Board

Operation Fairness Meeting

Planning Commission Meeting

Belleville Memorial Day Parade

MCAST Advisory Board

Prison Board

VII. Public Comment:

Commissioner Dunkle: I just want to make a comment here before we begin. Most of you in this room probably know that the reason \$15,000.00 has been withheld because I had serious concerns about the closures of the branch libraries and the process that was used. Clearly there was a financial crisis at the time, there is no doubt about that. I believe that it could have been resolved if the board at the time had chosen to roll up its sleeves and raise money. And I believe that it could have been resolved if the County Commissioners, at the time, would have out in an additional \$20,000.00 to get us through the difficulty at the time. Those two things did not happen. There are some fundamental issues of fairness with the closing of the branches so my objection today has been on principal and on the elements of fair play. Having said that, there have been individuals that have come to me and said are you engaging in fair play Steve? There was a budgeted amount prepared in advance of \$160,000.00. They were planning on having it this year and you have now taken away \$15,000.00 of that amount that we planned on having from the very beginning, so they are questioning whether or not what I am talking about over here about unfair play for practices or perhaps violations of the same thing about when the budgeted amount was made and I have cut that amount. My second objection is the fact that I do not believe that the Library has sufficiently fund raised to put away funds for a rainy day fund. My guess is that about each and every one of you have a 401K, a retirement plan, a savings plan something that is there for you when that rainy day comes. The Library in my estimation has done a very inadequate job of preparing for that rainy day. You need to understand just a couple things and I will soon be done that the State Budget in Pennsylvania right now is a little over thirty billion dollars. What you need to understand is that over the last six or eight years, Library funding has fluctuated considerable from the State from a low of \$110,000.00 to a high of well over \$500,000.00. That's a huge rollercoaster and what our Library gets from the State is very, very important in terms of the Library's operations. We have, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has an unfunded liability to the two state retirement systems in excess of 56 billion dollars. How is the state going to pay that – I am not sure, you are not sure. It will probably be a combination of things. It may be that the State will raise taxes. Hey they could also put sales tax on funeral services, on lawyer services, on medical bills, as has been proposed in the past. They can raise the earned income tax and tax retirement income. They can cut services. They can cut programs. They can look at State employees and

cut benefits. They can trim welfare. They can trim vacation time. They can make modifications to the pension system. My guess is to resolve this huge bill they will probably do some of all three. So my goal and objective in pushing the Library Board forward in fund raising is that what if, this year the Library is receiving \$218,000.00 what if next year if the Library only gets \$110,000.00 like before? Where is the extra \$108,000.00 going to come from? It can't come from us. We have many, many other obligations. That is a huge amount of money and that's why I believe the Library needs to pursue fund raising so that they have a rainy day fund so if something like this happens, the Library will be prepared to carry on with their services. Now, having said that, and because some people have questioned the principals and the fair play that I have argued from my position as it relates to the fact that we have trimmed \$15,000.00 that was already budgeted, I am sharing with you now that I believe that in fairness to all, we will return the \$15,000.00 to the Mifflin County Library. However, we are kicking the ball down the field. I still have my same concerns. I still have my same objections that we are going to kick the ball down to the next budgeting period, to the budget for next year for 2017 and between now and then we will be able to measure exactly how much money the Library raises and if the Library fails to raise a significant amount of money to have for a rainy day fund so if the State in lieu of this 56 billion dollars comes in next year and cuts the Library by \$100,000.00 and the next year by another \$100,000.00, the Library will at least have money to carry on. This is not a resolution. The Library Board and the Directors and myself and the other Commissioners need to discuss the issues at hand. My challenge to the Library is to go out and raise money. That day is going to come and if you are not prepared and if you don't have money there where are we going to be?

Chairman Nancollas: I want to clear up a misconception that I heard on the radio and I've been told by people going into the library. They have been told by people that the Library is going to close and they were raising money because it was going to close. That is not true. We gave a handout, we pay for additional expenses. In 2015 additional expenses were \$60,419.95 that came from here. It was taxpayer money but you gave the extra \$60,419.95. The Commissioners in 2014-15 allowed that to happen. This year, we said OK to giving up to \$90,891.00. and that is \$30,000.00 over which we pay for. So saying the Library was going to close, I don't appreciate that rumor getting out there. We own the building, we pay for services.

Crowd: Who is "we"?

Chairman Nancollas: The Library was not going to close. That just wasn't true.

Commissioner Dunkle made a motion that the \$15,000.00 in question for Library funding be restored for the 2016 fiscal year. The budget for next year will be determined based on a course of action for fund raising by the Library between now and then. A review of the issues, I have mentioned. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Rogers: I want to thank the board for this. We will be raising funds. I will second the comment that the Library is not closing. Thank you to all the people who came in support of the Library. Please help us raise funds for the Library.

Mr. Spahr: I want to know if there is a shortfall in the County budget what kind of fund raising are the Commissioners going to do?

Commissioner Dunkle: What kind of fund raising are we going to do. Well here's the situation, there are very few organizations today that do not have to do fund raising.

Mr. Spahr: What are the Commissioners going to do? I know what other volunteer organizations do. Your answer is to raise more money. Are you going to do fund raising, Are you going to hold chicken barbeques on the courthouse steps?

Chairman Nancollas: To raise funds, we have gone to Kerry Benninghoff to release funds. I don't think we are allowed to do that.

Mr. Pendergast: I am glad to see all the passion behind this, but I think we are focusing on the wrong issues overall. We have to create an environment here so businesses are attracted to come here, work here, employ people here, grow here and stay here and we are not seeing that. That is what I would ask the Commissioners that you focus more time and energy on that. These

townships do not care what revenue is raised at the County level. We need to be looking out for each other. The townships need to be pulling together and the county needs to be pulling together, and we need to create an environment so companies want to come here. If this would happen, we would not have to do all this fund raising, we would have people and businesses paying taxes. I am willing to work with anyone on that with personal insight. I want to see Mifflin County thrive. The Library issue seems a little childish overall. We need to focus on making this a place to attract business.

Mr. Wade: I was on the Library Board when this issue was approved. Mr. Dunkle was head of the Library Board. All we heard from him was what he was going to do. In fact, he has done nothing. He has not moved us forward one bit. What Steve Dunkle did is what he is good at, he went to the Library in Belleville and terrorized the librarian. Personal vendettas have no place in running government.

Chairman Nancollas: I cannot let this happen. If you want to talk about an issue you can, but you cannot talk about on individual.

Crowd: Let him speak. Let him speak.

Chairman Nancollas: He may speak but not about a person.

Mr. Wade: I thought he was of poor character at that time. When he did what he did to both libraries. He needs to stop this trivial bull crap. We are hurting, we need help

Commissioner Dunkle: Because this gentleman made some accusations against me, I did indeed raise money for the Library. I raised quite a bit of money for the Library and it is there, Terry, go look. One gentleman gave me a check for \$1,200.00. I asked him if he would give me \$100.00 per month. I went to his farm and he wrote me a check for \$1,200.00. I raised several other checks beyond that as well. I wrote a 4-1/2 page fund raising plan for the Library, illustrating how the Library could go about raising substantial funds which I shared with you Brett, did I not? The Library Board chose not to do anything with it. I don't mind if you attack me on an issue, but when you say I never did a thing for the Library, that is not true.

Mr. Wade: You don't need to scream.

Commissioner Dunkle: Your comment was not true.

Mr. Wade: Then I stand corrected.

Young Man: We need the library. If we don't have books, we can't read or be smart.

Harry: What would be reasonable to do now and in the future?

Ms. Smith: You said there needs to be some fund raising for a rainy day. Do you have in your mind the minimum amount that the Library should raise so they would have something to work toward. Do you have a goal in mind?

Commissioner Dunkle: I think it is an ongoing process. I don't have a specific amount that I think should be raised every year, but I think the Library should work towards having a rainy day fund of somewhere in the range of \$100,000.00 over the course of the next year or two simply because that shoe may drop. If the shoe does drop, how is the Library going to maintain the services? There is no magical number here.

Mr. Knarr: I am a retired school teacher. I love the County. How important is money when it comes to our kids? It is so important that the Library stays. Could we hear some comments from Commissioner Kodish? I am here for the kids, I am here for the community, I am for the people. I don't see the Commissioners doing a whole lot for us.

Mr. Altiery: I want to thank the Commissioners for restoring the funding. The community has really responded to us with donations. Is the rainy day fund going to be held over us all year? I would like to hear Commissioner Nancollas 's reason for the vote for the funding for the Library initially. Everything is coming from Mr. Dunkle. I would just like to understand why?

Chairman Nancollas: Actually it wasn't a vote. I did support it because I did feel that those two libraries and the people there were not given the chance to do what they needed to do to keep those libraries open and two of them are open now. I felt the way it was done in posting a note and in my mind, I saw kids and families going up and the door was shut and I didn't care for that because if I went up to this library and the door was shut, I would be very unhappy and I would want to know why. I would want to be heard just like we are giving everybody here the chance. That really offended me.

Mr. Altiery: What are you looking for? \$100,000.00 is not the answer. We need a goal.

Chairman Nancollas: I think we would like to have a meeting with your board.

Commissioner Dunkle: I wrote a plan. It can be changed and modified. It's too early to say.

Mr. Altiery: Will you work with us?

Commissioner Dunkle: I will work with you.

Mr. Rheam: It sounds like someone up there got their feelings hurt and demanded an apology.

Ms. Kinney: I am the Director of the Library. The children have something.

Children Sing

Ms. Kinney: In 2017, the Mifflin County Library will celebrate its 175th anniversary of continuing service to the citizens of Mifflin County. It also marks the 76th year of a formal agreement with the County Commissioners to provide support in an amount of dollars. I want to thank you for your contribution. I want to thank everybody who came to this rally. Our mission has not changed. We still satisfy curious minds. We just do it differently than we did 175 years ago. We provide materials in a variety of formats. We offer programs that look different than 175 years ago. People have come to us for a variety of services and we have provided those services. What I am asking myself is what kind of legacy are we going to leave for the citizens of Mifflin County?

Ms. Mills: I read in the paper that Mr. Dunkle wanted Molly to publicly admit wrongdoing and apology.

Commissioner Dunkle: I assume you go to the library here in Lewistown. What if you lived in Milroy, Allensville or McVeytown and you went to the library and saw a note on the door that said this library is closed until further notice. My argument was that it wasn't done properly.

Commissioner Kodish: I want to talk about what Mr. Pendergast brought up. Natural Gas Initiative - we work together with Clinton and Centre Counties to try to get natural gas to more parts of our county. Right now we do not have natural gas to certain locations. We do not have broadband internet to different locations. We are working with SEDA-COG to provide access to broadband. These are things that are going on all the time. Yesterday, we had a meeting at the Academy. We had someone from GE talking about the need for Academy grads and to have different programs to help GE. Now, they hire almost all their people from out of the area. We need to get our programs up to date. We are working on the Community College. We are working on things every day to try to bring the level of water up here to raise all the boats up. I applaud all the people here for the passion of the Library. We have to have a strong library. I worked for an educational organization for nearly thirty years. We had a bumper sticker that said "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance". It is important for us to have an educated people. People use the Library from when they are little kids. We need positive energy for Mifflin County, not walking around saying how bad it is. Let's work together. I will leave you with this motto "Don't point a finger, lend a hand".

At 10:00 AM, Commissioner Dunkle made a motion that we recess this meeting so we can collect contributions for the Library before you depart.

The meeting reconvened at 10:15 AM.

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business:

A. *Announcement – General public fingerprinting fees were increased from \$25.00 to \$30.00 effective May 24, 2016*

B. *Application for County Aid – 2016 Liquid Fuels Allocation:*

- *Brown Township - \$5,029.07*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Application for County Aid for Brown Township. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. *Tourism Tax increase from 3% to 5% effective July 1, 2016*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the increase in Tourism Tax. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. *Offer for Parcel No. 05,04-052--,000 located in Lewistown Borough that is currently in repository for unsold properties – Scott Holding Investments, LLC - \$200.00*

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Offer for Parcel No. 05,04-052--,000 located in Lewistown Borough. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. *Request for exoneration of 2016 county portion per capita taxes*

- *Derry Township Tax Collector Bret Treaster - 103*
- *Wayne Township Tax Collector Mary Ellen Reed - 31*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the exoneration of 2016 per capita taxes. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. *Purchase of Service Agreements for use, if needed by Children and Youth and Probation*

- *LifeSpan Family Services of PA, LLC, Punxsutawney, PA*
- *McCloskey Counseling Center, Milesburg, PA*
- *Neuropsychological Services at Clear Vision LLC, Williamsport, PA*

Ms. Seiler: LifeSpan Family Services provides foster care services for youth. McCloskey Counseling Center provides individual and family counseling, evaluations and psychological testing for those who need services. Neuropsychological Services provides individual and family counseling for those who need services.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Purchase of Service Agreements. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

G. *Purchase of Service Agreement for use, if needed, by Children and Youth*

- *Raystown Development Services, Inc., Huntingdon, PA*

Ms. Seiler: This is a company that provides truancy services for children and families that need these services in Mifflin County. We have partnered with Mifflin County

School District.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

H. Retirement of Larry Druckenmiller from Caseworker in the Children and Youth Department effective June 24, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve Resolution No. 24 of 2016. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. Adjournment

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Nancollas adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk