

Lewistown, PA

January 17, 2019

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Kevin Kodish, Stephen Dunkle and Robert Postal, Jr.; Solicitor Stephen Snook, BMZ Law; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig and Assistant Chief Clerk Angela Shuey.

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

Guests present: Treasurer Deb Civitts; Director of the Physical Plant Lonnie Griffith; Director of Planning Bill Gomes; Housing Rehabilitation Specialist Doug Marks; Director of Voter Registration and Elections Zane Swanger; GIS Analyst Kyle Bodtorf; County Auditor Helen Kirk; Sheriff James Drayer; Director of Fiscal Affairs Mike Baker; Terry Styers; Jim Smith; Kay Hamilton; Margaret Zook; Murray Laite; Craig Bubb; John Rhone; Scott Welham; Gene Wolfkill; Kristy Bagrosky; Nick Felice; Lattimore Griffith; Keith Altiery; Max Oburn and Steven Gibson, MCTV

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Kodish.

I. Invocation: *The Invocation was given by Commissioner Postal.*

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

III. Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2019. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Bills:

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable:

Cks. #122116 to 122342 and EFTs # 24770 to 24846 in the amount of \$1,061,979.11

2. Payroll Account:

Cks. #78561 to 78566 and Direct Deposit Advices #23363 to 23592 in the amount of \$360,816.59

3. 911 Account:

Cks. #51660 to 51678 and EFTs #20542 to 20546 in the amount of \$1,129,210.63

4. LEPC Account

Ck. #1443 in the amount of \$124.77

5. CDBG Account:

Cks. #1436 to 1440 in the amount of \$44,658.20

6. CDBG Home Account

Cks. #433 in the amount of \$710.00

7. Liquid Fuels Account:

Ck. #1665 to 1666 in the amount of \$2,713.75

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve payment of bills as listed above. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Treasurer's Report:

**TREASURER'S REPORT
01/02/2019-01/15/2019**

General Account Starting Balance	\$230,293.02
 DEBITS	
Deposits Receipts #94933 – 95221	427,268.56
Transfer from 911	22.22
Transfer from Capital Reserve	900,000.00
Transfer from LEPC	266.46
Voided Checks	105,892.57
Interest	
TOTAL DEBITS	\$1,433,449.81
 CREDITS	
Bills Paid CK # 122116-122342, EFT'S # 24770-24846	1,061,979.11
Transfer to Payroll CKS 78561-78566, DD 23363-23592	360,816.59
NSF Checks	599.37
Transfer to LEPC	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,423,395.07
 Ending Balance (Interest @ 01.390% as of 01/15/2019)	 \$240,347.76
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Liquid Fuels	
Invested at JV Bank @ 01.390% as of 1/15/2019	\$301,294.55
 Liquid Fuels - Act 89	
Invested at JV Bank @ 01.390% as of 1/15/2019	\$264,444.06
 911 Telephone Account	
Invested at JV Bank @ 01.390% as of 1/15/2019	\$1,583,306.21
 LEPC	
Invested at JV Bank @ 01.390% as of 1/15/2019	\$15,323.99
 Local Use Fund	
Invested at JV Bank @ 01.390% as of 1/15/2019	\$192,749.51
 Capital Reserve Account	
Invested at JV Bank @ 02.62% as of 1/15/2019	\$2,858,762.54
 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	
Invested at FNB @ 2.55%	\$3,054,389.22
 Report Subject to Audit	

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Treasurer's Report as received, subject to audit. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Meetings and Events:

Chairman Kodish:

*Court Security Meeting
Meeting on Blighted Properties
Future Lewistown Trail Project Meeting
AAA Board Meeting
Salary Board Meeting
Bridge Program Meeting
Operation Fairness Meeting
Department Head Meeting
Regional Services Corporation Meeting
Regional Services Property Committee Meeting
Success Together Meeting*

Commissioner Dunkle:

*Department Head Meeting
Court Security Meeting
Meeting on Blighted Properties
Salary Board Meeting
Bridge Program Meeting
Meeting with Sam Price regarding prototype for goose
public art
Operation Fairness Meeting
Central Counties Youth Detention Center Meeting
Airport Authority Meeting
Success Together Meeting*

Commissioner Postal:

*Court Security Meeting
Future Lewistown Trail Project Meeting
Salary Board Meeting
Bridge Program Meeting
Operation Fairness Meeting
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
Meeting with County Auditors
Meeting on Blighted Properties
Meeting with MCIDC
SEDA-COG Natural Gas Co-op Executive Committee
National Association of Counties Conference Call –
Implications of Ongoing Federal Government Shutdown
LEPC Meeting
Communities that Care Meeting
Mifflin County Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting
Downtown Lewistown, Inc. Executive Committee Meeting
Success Together Meeting
Juniata Business and Industry Annual Meeting*

VII. Public Comment:

Commissioner Dunkle discussed that at the last Mifflin County Commissioners' public meeting he illustrated some ways in which the Mifflin County Library Board of Directors and Molly Kinney were less than transparent in the tactics they chose to use in the closing of the library branches in McVeytown, Allensville and Milroy. He reiterated that he will continue to highlight these tactics at the next several meetings. He invited Molly Kinney

and Previous Board Members Tom McNabb and Teddy Snyder to come to the next Public Meeting on January 31, 2019 to publicly explain why they chose to operate in ways that are unacceptable for public institutions largely supported by tax dollars. Specifically, Mifflin County tax dollars in the amount of almost \$250,000 per year. From the beginning, he has asked for a public acknowledgement from Molly Kinney and the previous Board that their tactics were uncourteous, unfair and unprincipled. Should they fail to show up at the next meeting, he will be prepared to itemize the multiple ways in which Molly Kinney and the Library Board abridged their authority by using methods that were less than transparent.

Keith Altiery, the President of the Mifflin County Library Board of Directors spoke and said that the Board wanted to make themselves available for public comment. They plan to have two Board members present at every public meeting to address questions. In line with their last comment in the Lewistown Sentinel, the Board stated they have moved on from the issue that Commissioner Dunkle is referring to and will entertain any future questions about the Library.

Commissioner Dunkle asked why the Library chose to post closing notices on the doors of the branch libraries knowing the branches wouldn't be opened again and given the fact that the municipalities provided for the Library over many years.

Mr. Altiery reiterated that the current Board of Directors was not involved at that time. His goal is to promote the Library going forward. He does not wish to discuss anything a past Board did because it is not known why they did what they did.

Commissioner Dunkle asked that Mr. Altiery, as a current Board Member, share the logic behind the closure notices. Again, Mr. Altiery mentioned that he'd be glad to discuss what is being done now and in the future at the Library, but he will not speak about something he was not involved with. Commissioner Dunkle mentioned that he'd like to put this issue behind him, and he would like a public acknowledgement that the Board could have done things in a more professional manner.

VIII. New Business:

A. Recognize organizations/municipalities for assisting the county in its efforts to improve internet service in Mifflin County:

- *Mifflin County School District*
- *Geisinger Lewistown Hospital*
- *Municipal Authority of Lewistown*
- *Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation*
- *Armagh Township*
- *Brown Township*
- *Derry Township*
- *Granville Township*
- *Lewistown Borough*
- *Menno Township*
- *Oliver Township*
- *Union Township*
- *Wayne Township*

Mr. Gomes stated that this project to improve internet service began three years ago. He mentioned that at this point, some additional financial help was needed to move this project forward. The above-referenced organizations/municipalities have contributed a collective total of \$9,500 out of \$13,000 to this effort. The County will pay the difference of \$3,500. There will be a report generated in late April or early May from the consultant that has been hired to assist in this project.

Chairman Kodish thanked all of the organizations/municipalities contributing to this project. He also thanked the Committee for their hard work and dedication on this

project. Their efforts have produced results already as Atlantic Broadband has begun to offer high-speed internet in Decatur Township. The Governor's Office is looking at putting more funding into internet service as well. He feels that this survey will lead us in a direction for more improved opportunities for people to gain access to high speed internet services.

B. Proclamation designating April 2019 as Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month

Proclamation

Mifflin County, designating the month of April 2019 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month."

WHEREAS, As engineers, designers, excavators and homeowners work to keep pace with this Commonwealth's unprecedented economic development, it is important to minimize damage to underground utility lines, danger to workers, environmental pollution and loss of utility service to Pennsylvania citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania One Call System, a utility service information center celebrating its 47th year of continuous service to the Commonwealth, is key to preventing injuries and damage when excavating; and

WHEREAS, This unique service provides easy, one-call notification about construction and excavation projects which may endanger workers and jeopardize utility lines while promoting workplace and public safety, reducing underground utility damage, minimizing utility service interruptions and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, This vital service, which began with only six utility companies in western Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh, now serves more than 100,000 excavators and 3,600 critical infrastructure owners throughout this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Pennsylvania One Call System receives more than 750,000 notification requests and transmits more than six million notifications, providing protection to utility companies, their employees and customers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mifflin County Commissioners designate the month of April 2019 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month" to encourage all excavators and homeowners of Mifflin County to Dial 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776 at least three business days before digging in order to "Know What's Below," avoid injury, protect the environment, and prevent millions of dollars in damages and to remind excavators that three business days' notice is the law, for safe digging is no accident, and that more information may be obtained by visiting www.pa811.org.

Proclaimed this 17th Day of January, 2019.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to adopt the Proclamation designating April 2019 as Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was recessed at 9:22 a.m. to take a picture of the representatives of the organizations and municipalities in Agenda Item A.

The meeting reconvened at 9:28 a.m.

C. Request for exoneration of 2018 county portion per capita taxes:

- *Kistler Borough Tax Collector Cynthia Hobbs - 10*

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the request for exoneration of 2018 county portion per capita taxes – Kistler Borough Tax Collector Cynthia Hobbs - 10. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- D. *Amending the action taken on May 31, 2018 to exonerate Granville Township Tax Collector Billi Weaver from collecting 2018 per capita tax bills as presented (92) – corrected total 89*

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve amending the action taken May 31, 2018 to exonerate Granville Township Tax Collector Billi Weaver from collecting 2018 per capita tax bills as presented (92) – corrected total 89. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- E. *Request for exoneration of 2018 county real estate tax bills and relieve the tax collector from collecting these bills:*

- *Parcel No. 17,12-0109--,000 located in Granville Township – parcel designated as Keystone Opportunity Zone parcel - \$172,850.24*
- *Parcel No. 17,12-0109--,001 located in Granville Township – parcel designated as Keystone Opportunity Zone parcel - \$129,346.33*

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the requests for exoneration of 2018 county real estate tax bills and relieve the tax collector from collecting these bills. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- F. *Proposal from J-Way Architectural, Summerhill, PA, for a county building study - \$9,800.00*

Commissioner Postal mentioned this study is to determine if County buildings are being utilized to their best use and also whether it's feasible to combine or move departments for more efficient operations. The architect will be working with the appropriate departments and will report his findings to the Commissioners. This doesn't mean that departments are being relocated or combined, it's just to gather information.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve proposal from J-Way Architectural for a county building study. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- G. *Inmate Housing Agreement with Union County to house their prisoners, as needed, for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021*

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the Inmate Housing Agreement with Union County. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Kodish noted that we must have housing agreements with any County we're going to house prisoners for. Union County's agreement expired at the end of 2018, so this is a new agreement.

- H. *Update Fees/Costs for Tax Claim Bureau effective February 1, 2019*

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the Fees/Costs update for the Tax Claim Bureau effective February 1, 2019. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- I. *Coroner Lynch – Coroner Fees:*

- *Autopsy Reports - \$500.00*
- *Toxicology Reports - \$100.00*
- *Inquisition or Coroner's Reports - \$100.00*

Chairman Kodish added that the legislature recently enacted new regulations regarding autopsy reports, toxicology reports and coroner's reports. This action today adjusts our fees to match those specified in the legislation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Coroner Fees. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- J. Proposal from Morocco Electric Inc., Somerset, PA, to upgrade the security system - \$56,495.00*

Mr. Griffith mentioned that this came from the Court Security Committee and sub-committee that was formed to look at security issues. Morocco Electric is the current vendor that provides our security system. Under this proposal, they will be upgrading the door control software and upgrading/replacing door control systems throughout the entire Courthouse. They will also program and perform the interface. This will be paid for by various sources including CCAP in the amount of \$24,500.00, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in the amount of \$19,200.00 and Mifflin County in the amount of \$12,795.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the proposal from Morocco Electric to upgrade the security system at a cost of \$56,495.00. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- K. Agreement with Perfection Commercial Cleaning, McAlisterville, PA, to provide cleaning services at Magisterial District Judge 58-3-02 (Reed) at a rate of \$200.00 per month*

Mr. Griffith discussed that this is for a bi-weekly cleaning at Judge Reed's office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the agreement with Perfection Commercial Cleaning to provide cleaning services at Magisterial District Judge Reed's office at a rate of \$200.00 per month. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- L. Personnel:*

- Promotion of Kathy Ritter from Second Deputy Register and Recorder to First Deputy effective January 7, 2019*
- Promotion of Michelle Terry from Domestic Relations Receptionist to Intake Officer effective January 21, 2019*
- Resignation of Harry Clever from Tax Services Director effective January 21, 2019*
- Hiring of Steven Durst for part-time corrections officer effective January 28, 2019*

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to accept the above personnel items. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Kodish adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk