

Lewistown, PA

April 21, 2022

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Kevin Kodish; Mark Sunderland; Robert Postal; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig; Solicitor Stephen Snook; Treasurer Diane Griffith; and Fiscal Affairs Assistant Makyla Henry.

No one was present from The Sentinel.

Guests present were Helen Kirk, Lisa Stalnaker, Ralph Aitkin, Rebecca Wills – Abuse Network, Zander Crader, Craig Knepp, Robin Knepp, Heather Knepp Crader, Planning Director Mark Colussy, Director of Area Agency on Aging Patrick Fitzgerald, Physical Plant Director Lonnie Griffith, Human Services Director Allison Fisher, Lucas Parkes, Deputy Sheriff Laurie Kozak, Supervisor of Adult and Post-Secondary Education Mike McMonigal, Drayton Price and Marlaina Boozel from MCTV.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Sunderland.

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

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 April 7, 2022. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Bills:

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable

Ck. #'s 136981-137177 and EFT #'s 29476-29492 in the amount of \$1,369,696.02

2. Payroll

Ck. #'s 79369-79376 and Direct Deposit Advice #'s 43828-44064 in the amount of \$358,151.29

3. 911 Account

Ck. #'s 52346-52353 and EFT #'s 20905-20907 in the amount of \$9,800.16

4. CDBG Account

Ck. # 1597 in the amount of \$4,950.00

5. Act 137 Account

Ck. # 3133 in the amount of \$200.00

6. LEPC Account

Ck. # 1550 in the amount of \$55.81

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

V. Treasurer's Report:

TREASURER'S REPORT

4/6/2022-4/19/2022

General Account Starting Balance	\$2,037,104.87
DEBITS	
Deposits Receipts #110768-110971	866,064.95
Transfer from	0.00
Transfer from CAPITAL RESERVE	0.00
Transfer from 911	0.00
Voided Checks	20,774.45
Transfer from LEPC	254.54
Interest	0.00
TOTAL DEBITS	\$887,093.94
CREDITS	
Bills Paid CK's 136981-137177 EFT #'s 29476-29492	1,369,696.02
Transfer to Payroll CKS 79369-79376, DD 43828-44064	358,151.29
ADJUSTMENT	76.15
Transfer to SFPP	18,048.22
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,745,971.68
Ending Balance (Interest @ 0.990% as of 4/19/2022)	\$1,178,227.13
Liquid Fuels	
Invested at JV Bank @ 0.990% as of 4/19/2022	\$264,771.65
Liquid Fuels - Act 89	
Invested at JV Bank @ 0.0990% as of 4/19/2022	\$442,113.93
911 Telephone Account	
Invested at JV Bank @ 0.990% as of 4/19/2022	\$722,951.43
LEPC	
Invested at JV Bank @ 0.990% as of 4/19/2022	\$24,319.89
Local Use Fund	
Invested at JV Bank @ 0.990% as of 4/19/2022	\$539,376.72
Capital Reserve Account	
Invested at JV Bank @ 0.350% as of 4/5/2022	\$11,698,396.73
Report Subject to Audit	

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

VI. Meetings and Events:

Chairman Sunderland:

*Meeting with Careerlink
Human Services Quarterly
Open Repository Bid
Tri-County Drug and Alcohol
JVBDS*

Commissioner Postal:

*Central Counties Youth Center
JVBDS Mental Health Provider Council
M-J Human Services Quarterly Meeting
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority (2)
JVBDS Joinder Board
SEDA-COG Natural Gas Executive
Committee
CCAP Policy Task Force
PA Dept Drug and Alcohol Opioid Meeting
CCAP/PEMA County Meeting
PA Dept of State/SURE Webinar
Internal Meetings: MCCF, MC Academy,
Tri District D&A, Tax Services, ARPA,
Blacks Hospital Bid, MC RLF*

Commissioner Kodish:

*Mifflin/Juniata Human Services Quarterly
Meeting
Open Repository Bid
PIMCC Finance and Audit Committee
Meeting with Mike Hannon, Tri-County
Drug and Alcohol
JVBDS Joinder Meeting
Regional Services Board
Mifflin County Library Board
SEDA-COG Review Committee
SURE System Modernization Security
Review
Meeting with Academy Directors*

VII. Public Comment:

Mr. Colussy said the Federal Government passed a law that allows the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be in motion. The CARES Act did not provide monies to local governments so ARPA did. They provided to local municipalities and the county. Working with the county commissioners, we were trying to be very prudent and thinking this all through. Going forward we would like to make an official announcement that starting on May 1, 2022 we are going to be accepting pre-applications from all municipalities, non-profits and broad band providers in the county since those are the types of projects eligible under ARPA. The applications will be accepted May 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. The form can be found on the county's website with a link on the home page, or you can call the planning office at 717-242-0887. Commissioner Postal added that the money cannot be used to reduce net tax revenues, or fund a pension.

Mr. Colussy also wanted to share that they have been working on their very first Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (a.k.a Active Transportation Plan). It is a plan to encourage

better biking and walking in Mifflin County. The info can be found on our website and on tinyurl.com/mifflinmoves.

VIII. New Business:

A. Proclamation honoring Eagle Scout Zander Crader

PROCLAMATION

IN HONOR OF EAGLE SCOUT ZANDER K.L. CRADER

WHEREAS: the mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law; and

WHEREAS: the designation of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in the Boy Scouting program, which was founded over one hundred years ago; and

WHEREAS: only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted the distinguished Eagle Scout rank; and

WHEREAS: Zander Crader, a member of Boy Scout Troop 106 of Milroy, has completed the requirements and was examined by the Eagle Scout Board of Review which found him worthy of the rank of Eagle Scout on October 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS: The Boy Scouts of America encourage Eagle Scout candidates to complete worthy projects to improve their neighborhoods and their communities; and

WHEREAS: Zander's Eagle Scout project was completed at the walking trail at the Armagh Township Building. Zander's project entailed building and installing three new benches and repairing one bench along the trail. Zander also built and installed four bird houses and placed four distance markers around the trail. Zander's project service hours totaled one-hundred twenty (120); and

WHEREAS: Zander has served in the positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Quartermaster; and

WHEREAS: Zander Crader serves as an example to the youth of our community through his high level of personal achievement, leadership and community service and has made Mifflin County very proud.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mifflin County Commissioners, do hereby recognize and congratulate Zander Crader for his outstanding accomplishment, extend to him our deepest appreciation for all of his dedicated work and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

Proclaimed this 21st day of April, 2022.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to be approved. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Proclamation – April 2022 is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Proclamation

APRIL 2022

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community.

- The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it.
- Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community.
- Statistics show 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be victims of sexual abuse, while 1 in 5 women and 1 in 67 men will experience rape at some point in their lives.
- In 2020, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children reported a 106% increase in reports from the public relating to online sexual exploitation.
- 25% of children report having had an online sexual interaction where they were asked to send nude photographs of themselves, live stream nude or sexual content, send sexual messages, or have had nude photos of an adult or other child shared with them.
- Sexual Assault, harassment, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. Harassment, cyberbullying, sexual abuse, and exploitation have come to be expected as typical and unavoidable behaviors online.
- "Building Safe Online Spaces Together" is possible when we practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content and behaviors, and promote online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety.
- April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.
- We join advocates and communities across the country in proclaiming that we can build safe online spaces together.
- We hereby proclaim on this 21st day of April, 2022, as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and are committed to the prevention of violence -- especially sexual violence in the home, in the workplace, in our community, and on social media.

Rebecca Wills thanked the commissioners for having her there at the meeting and for having a proclamation on Sexual Assault Awareness.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be accepted. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Patrick Fitzgerald, Director of Mifflin-Juniata Area Agency on Aging and Allison Fisher, Director of Mifflin-Juniata Human Services – Housing needs Assessment Survey

Mr. Fitzgerald started out with saying a housing study that his agency has undertaken to address affordable housing for seniors in Mifflin/Juniata County. He said his agency knows that there is a lack of affordable housing for the older folks. He also said because of this, we find more elderly people in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. Mr. Fitzgerald described a concept that other counties in PA are doing to help. There is a Shared Housing and Resource Exchange, which would pair them with homeowners who want to share their homes with elderly people in exchange for rent or work around the house. Another concept is the ECHO Housing program. It allows agency offices to build cottages for the elderly. Ms. Fisher spoke as well and said the pandemic really showed us that we just don't have a good housing stock in our community. Senior citizens 60 years old and over can find the survey on the Mifflin and/or Juniata County websites. The survey will close on May 6.

D. Offer for Parcel No. 05,09-0404--,000 located in Lewistown Borough that is currently in repository for unsold properties - \$1,000.00

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Cooperation Agreement between Mifflin County and Union Township for Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation:

- *Kish Street Bridge – not to exceed \$96,430.92*
- *Mechanic Street Bridge – not to exceed \$104,742.00*

Commissioner Postal mentioned that the Bridge Program is from the \$5.00 fee when registration is done for vehicles. We have done six (6) bridges so far, and if approved today that will make eight (8) bridges that the Bridge Program has helped. Mr. Griffith added that any municipalities can reach out to us if they have a bridge that is in need of replacement or rehabilitation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- F. User License Agreement for Online License to Carry Applications with Permitium, Pineville, North Carolina for the period June 17, 2022 through June 16, 2023*

Ms. Kozak said this is a continuation from before and nothing has changed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- G. Project modification request for the Innovative Policing Initiative Grant – received a better price on routers and use the unspent money for laptops*

Ms. Stalnaker said Granville Township was able to get a better price on the laptops and routers, so they went with less expensive routers and used the unspent money on laptops for the patrol cars. All of the money in the grant has now been accounted for.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- H. Resolution No. 10 of 2022 requesting appropriate funding to support the Mental Health System in the fiscal year 2022-2023 State Budget*

RESOLUTION NO. 10 of 2022

RESOLUTION BY THE MIFFLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM IN THE FY 2022-2023 STATE BUDGET

WHEREAS, counties provide essential community-based mental health services such as crisis intervention, community residential programs, family-based support and outpatient care, which are critical to the well-being of our constituents and our communities; and

WHEREAS, as the providers of community-based mental health services, counties are seeing demands for mental health services in communities that far exceed state funding levels and without adequate and sustainable funding, counties may not be able to meet the mental health needs of some of our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the commonwealth cut \$84 million that counties used to fund programs for people with intellectual disabilities, mental health challenges, and other needs forcing programs to close and putting the human services system into a vulnerable state; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) made the top priority of the association’s advocacy in 2022 the “Appropriate Funding to Support the Crumbling Mental Health System”; and

WHEREAS, state funding has lagged far behind needs and caseloads, which has negatively affected services while also putting tension on communities and local budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Rural Progress published a report on Suicide Trends and Prevention in Rural Pennsylvania Counties and Schools and key findings included the steep rise in suicides in

Pennsylvania over the past two decades and that the increase was greater in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf's initial budget proposal included supporting the behavioral health needs of Pennsylvanians by investing \$36.6 million additional funds in county mental health base funds on top of \$75 million in federal funds for recruitment and retention payments to qualifying home and community-based service providers, as well as \$18.8 million to provide services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism currently on the emergency waitlist; and

WHEREAS, Mifflin County has invested in community-based mental health services that coordinate and invest in programs and services that meet the needs and challenges of local communities; and

WHEREAS, counties will need collaboration between the legislature and administration to work closely with them on a targeted, strategic investment of dollars into community mental health services at the county level in order to continue the existing safety net and bolster the availability of mental health services to those who need them as vital steps in the right direction; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners do hereby support an increase in funding for community mental health base programs in accordance with the priorities of the County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania by the General Assembly and Administration; and

RESOLVED, that the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners will submit this resolution and accompanying letter of support to the PA state representatives and senators, and provide copies to the state Department of Humans Services and the Governor's office, in an effort to respectfully request the Administration and General Assembly take steps to address the mental health system.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mifflin, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 21st day of April, 2022.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- I. *Project Modification Request for the Intermediate Punishment Grant for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022*

Ms. Stalnaker said that there was staff changes in Probation, which changed the salary and benefit amount and left some money for additional supplies.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- J. *Application for the Intermediate Punishment Grant for 2022-2023 in the amount of \$95,000.00*

Ms. Stalnaker said this is something the Probation department receives every year. It is for \$95,000.00, but there is a condition on it where \$35,000.00 has to be spent for supervision, and the other \$60,000.00 is spent for consultants or treatment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- K. *Proposal from R.L. Abatement Inc., Hopewell, PA for Asbestos Abatement Project at the former Blacks Hospital Building - \$112,000.00*

Mr. Griffith said Blacks Hospital is a county owned facility. This is Phase 1 of projects we have for Blacks Hospital. We recommend that you accept this bid for \$112,000.00. Commissioner Postal asked Mr. Griffith if he could give us a break down of the dates for all the projects. If the bid is accepted, we will start that the second week of May. Demolition should be able to get started in mid-May. We are counting on the 100 day period for seeding it, and in October we will plan to plant grass. The goal is to put this facility back on the tax rules for the county.

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

L. Personnel:

- *Hiring of Kaleb Smith for Probation Officer effective May 9, 2022*

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to be approved. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. Adjournment:

With no other business on the agenda, Commissioner Sunderland adjourned the meeting at 9:36 am.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk