

Lewistown, PA

February 02, 2017

*The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 02, 2017 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 Debra Civitts; Financial Manager Lauren Mowry; Planning and Development Assistant Director James Lettiere; Human Services Department Head Allison Fisher; Chief Probation Officer Todd Harpster; Public Safety Director Phil Lucas; MIS Director Nate Smitchko; Auditor Helen Kirk; Ed Fike; Nancy Laub; Lawrence Clark and Dan Beyer, EADS Group.*

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

*The Invocation was given by Lawrence Clark and Lisa Nancollas.*

**I.** *The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.*

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2017. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**III. Approval of Bills:**

**1. General Fund, Accounts Payable:**

*Cks. #112902 to 113089 and EFTs #22582 to 22601 in the amount of \$538,294.63*

**2. Payroll Account:**

*Cks. #77493 to 77517 and Direct Deposit Advices #11476 to 11702 in the amount of \$408,466.06*

**3. 911 Account:**

*Cks. # 51303 to 51307 and EFTs #20310 and 20318 in the amount of \$6,929.62*

**4. LEPC Account:**

*Cks. #1358 to 1359 in the amount of \$1,364.81*

**5. Liquid Fuels Account:**

*Cks. # 1631 to 1633 in the amount of \$35,664.27*

**6. Liquid Fuels Act 89 Account:**

*EFT #8050 in the amount of \$41.34*

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

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** 01/18/2017 to 01/31/2017

*General Account Starting Balance* \$ 4,004,945.52

<i>Deposits – Receipts #84442-84668</i>		2,539,384.27
<i>Interest</i>		3,832.95
<i>Voided Check</i>		2,105.85
<i>Total Debits</i>		\$ 2,545,323.07
<i>Bills Paid – Cks. #112902-113089</i>		
<i>EFTs #22582-22601</i>		\$ 538,294.63
<i>Transfer to Payroll – Cks. #77493-77517</i>		
<i>DD #11476-11702</i>		408,466.06
<i>NSF CKS</i>		3,032.36
<i>Total Credits</i>		\$ 949,793.05
<i>Ending Balance –</i>	<i>Interest @ 0.640%</i>	\$ 5,600,475.54
<i>Liquid Fuels</i>	<i>0.780% @ JVB</i>	465,796.07
<i>Liquid Fuels – Act 89</i>	<i>0.780% @ JVB</i>	227,370.99
<i>LEPC</i>	<i>0.780% @ JVB</i>	22,696.60
<i>911 Telephone Account</i>	<i>0.780% @ JVB</i>	1,308,240.86
<i>Capital Reserve Account</i>	<i>0.76% @ JVB</i>	
	<i>General Account Funds</i>	
	<i>Total Capital Reserve</i>	\$ 231,628.78

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

#### **V. Meetings and Events:**

*Commissioner Nancollas:*

*Red Cross has free totes, hats and gloves  
Need help with Earned Income Tax Credit contact the Human Services Office  
April 8<sup>th</sup> is Bowl for Kids Sake to benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters  
Primecare Prison Healthcare  
YMCA tour – they need someone to rent the upper floor  
JVBDS Executive Board Meeting  
Interviewing for a CYS Administrator  
Special Olympics  
Housing Authority Meeting  
911  
Pet Pantry  
Juniata County Commissioners  
New Phone System  
Warden concerning PREA*

*Commissioner Dunkle:*

*Mifflin County Planning Commission Meeting  
County Extension Meeting: Major overhaul from Penn State, we will be receiving less service from Penn State than we have received before. State budget for 2017 for County Extension is nearly \$2 million short of 2011 budget. Penn State has decided to reorganize the State. Currently there are 20 districts with Mifflin and Juniata County being one of the 20. Now there will be 10 districts. Mifflin and Juniata Counties will be part of an 8 county region and rather than having our normal County Agent, we will now have 2 people responsible for the eight counties. The two agents that will be responsible for our region, one is a business manager and the other is a customer relations manager. (Commissioner Dunkle holds up a map of the region). We are in the extreme northeast corner of the region. The region includes Juniata, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Bedford and Somerset Counties. We are all familiar with the drive time between*

here and Somerset County. As a result of a reduced budget and this reorganization, it placed us in a situation where we had to increase funding to that particular organization or we would have jeopardized the services. Mifflin County pays \$243,423.00, which is nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Our budget last year was \$220,665.00. Our rent increased from \$85,600.00 to \$114,000.00 per year. As a result of everything that Penn State has done and is doing we will likely find ourselves in a situation where we are paying more and getting less than what we got with our own County director. This troubles me considerably because County Extension was formed initially to serve rural America, rural Pennsylvania and once again rural Pennsylvania is getting the short end of the stick. County Extension does a great deal. They have a staff person that helps in the science lab. We have an individual that is involved in the Horticulture and Master Gardner program. We have a special poultry program. We have the 4-H which is a phenomenal program for our youth. We have a nutrition education advisor and we have an Ag engineer and dairy specialist. These people and their positions will continue, but the administration from the top will be much less. And when you look at this reorganization coming less than a year after Penn State made the decision to close our learning center, I must tell you that I am very disappointed in Penn State. Penn State is not being the good neighbor that it should be. I know that there are budget issues everywhere but if you take a look at Mifflin County and its relation with Penn State and what Penn State is now doing or not doing for this County that it has a history of doing, it is very, very disappointing.

Commissioner Kodish:

Chamber of Commerce Board  
SEDA-COG Board  
Juniata River Valley Visitor Bureau  
Planning Commission  
Human Services Quarterly

## **VI. New Business:**

- A. *Project Modification Request for the Intermediate Punishment Grant – additional hours and benefits totaling \$12,627.00*

*Mr. Harpster: This is additional funds we were able to get in our Grant and put it to the salaries of those individuals that do that part of the program.*

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

- B. *Appointment of Tracy Reesman to the Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services Citizens Advisory Board for a three year term*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Appointment of Tracy Reesman to the Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services Advisory Board. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- C. *Professional Services Agreement between, The County Commissioners, McVeytown Borough Authority and Gwin, Dobson and Foreman, Inc. to provide engineering services for the McVeytown Sewer Project*

*Mr. Lettiere: We had one or two changes to the documents and had Solicitor Snook review the documents. These are for engineering services for the McVeytown Sewer Project in the amount of \$125,000.00.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Professional Services Agreement to provide engineering services for the McVeytown Sewer Project.. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- D. *Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) 9-1-1 Fund grant agreement allowing Mifflin County to update the E-911 telephone system in the amount of \$1,188,587.15*

*Mr. Lucas: This is a Grant renewal between Mifflin County and PEMA including other counties. The Total Grant Award from PEMA is \$4 million. We will be upgrading our microwave radio system. We will be replacing our E-911 telephone system with a shared system throughout the region. We will be updating our radio system and adding two new radio towers covering the areas in Armagh Township and the Kistler, Wayne Township and Newton Hamilton. Mifflin County Project will be approximately \$2 million dollars, of that \$1.2 million is coming from the grant and just over \$1 Million Dollars is coming from money we saved over the last five years, so it is no cost to the County. We hope to have that finished by fall.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the PEMA 9-1-1 Fund grant agreement to update the E911 telephone system. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- E. *Contract Amendments with the EADS Group, Inc. for the Jack's Creek and Chestnut Street Ext. Bridges to move funds from one survey line to the right of way line*

*Mr. Beyer: With this additional work we are not asking for any additional fees from our original agreement, there are extra funds left from surveying and we want to move the funds to the right of way line.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Contract Amendments with EADS Group. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*Mr. Bleyer: This is an update of what we are working on:*

- 1. Waiting on revised plans for the Riverside Greenhouse*
- 2. Juniata River Boat Lunch Parking Lot – approval of permits from PennDot*
- 3. NDIS Bridge Inspection schedule with PennDot*
- 4. Bridge inspection schedule details for other bridges with PennDot*
- 5. Barefoot Bridge inspection project*
- 6. Chain Link fence relocating from road depends upon DEP workload*
- 7. County Bridge Maintenance Project coordination*
- 8. Victory Park walking trail contact DCNR for additional funds*

- F. *CSBG Sub-Recipient Contract with the Union-Snyder Community Action Agency and the Mifflin County Commissioners for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 - \$109,012.00*

*Ms. Fisher: Yearly contract with nothing changed.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the CSBG Sub-Recipient Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- G. *Contract with LSI, West Chester, PA to upgrade the phone system.*

*Mr. Smitchko: We have been working with the Commissioners and the Consultant to come up with the best possible vendors for upgrading our phone system. LSI out of West Chester, PA is the company that the Commissioners decided to move forward with. This service will be paid for monthly.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Contract with LSI, West Chester, PA. Seconded by Commissioner Kodish. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- H. *Hiring of Robin Werner for Communications Specialist in the Human Services Department effective February 6, 2017*

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

I. *Hiring of Tina Harpster for a temporary employee in the Assessment Office effective January 24, 2017*

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

**VII. Public Comment**

Ms. Laub: *When do the extension changes take effect?*

Commissioner Dunkle: *Immediately. We will likely move Tom Walker as a result of all this.*

Ms. Laub: *What is the cost of the telephone system?*

Mr. Smitchko: *\$3,694.94 per month for a sixty month term with \$675.00 upfront for equipment. They are leased phones.*

Ms. Laub: *You hired Tina Harpster. Is that in addition to Gloria Runk or a replacement?*

Commissioner Kodish: *Replacement for Gloria Runk.*

Ms. Laub: *Is the salary still \$10.00 per hour?*

Commissioner Dunkle: *It is actually \$10.25 per hour.*

Ms. Laub: *I have a rhetorical question in regards to the separation of church and state. How effective is it that our elected officials are reading from the bible and praying before a meeting?*

Chairman Nancollas: *We are allowed. There's a Federal Law. People can step out if they don't want to listen to it.*

Solicitor Snook: *Different people do different things. All you have to do is give us a call if you would like to participate.*

Commissioner Dunkle: *There was a Supreme Court ruling in a 5 to 4 decision that prayers are permitted at the beginning of public meetings. The prayers cannot be tied to one particular faith.*

Solicitor Snook: *We have a system that anyone that wants to give the prayer just give us a call.*

**VIII. Adjournment**

*With no other business on the agenda, Commissioner Kodish adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.*

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Secretary

ATTEST:

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Chief Clerk