

The regular meeting of the Clearfield County Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 with Chair Sobel conducting the meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Scotto and McCracken; Kim Kesner, Solicitor; Tom Adamson, Controller; Del Spafford and Darrel Beatty, Defense Department Volunteers; Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist; Jessica Shirey, gantdaily.com; Yvonne Lehman, WOKW Radio; Diane Byers, Progress/Courier Express; Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk.

Minutes of the previous meeting of January 9, 2018 were approved by motion of Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Controller Adamson presented the following bills for approval: General Fund, \$1,025,402.85; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$13,078.36; Capital Reserve Fund, \$7,504.36; Children Youth Services Fund, \$918,495.84; Domestic Relations Fund, \$714.66. Approval of the bills by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously. Controller Adamson noted that the bills included a drawn of 1.5 million on the County's Tax Anticipation Note.

Personnel Changes

New Hires – Steven Johnston, Assistant Public Defender/Public Defender office, effective 1/10/18

Lori Swatsworth, Advocate/Victim Witness Department, effective 2/5/18

Transfers – Curtis Irwin, Assistant Public Defender to First Assistant Public Defender, effective 1/19/18

Amanda Rowles, Department Clerk II, Clerk of Courts to Department Clerk III, Clerk of Courts, effective 1/19/18

Nicole Borkenhagen, Part time Corrections Officer/Jail to Full Time Corrections Officer, effective 1/26/18.

Curtis Irwin, First Assistant Public Defender, Public Defenders office to Staff Attorney/Courts, effective 2/5/18.

Separations/Retirements

Debar Robison, Department Clerk III, Treasurers Office, effective 1/17/18

Donald Gibboney, Staff Attorney, Courts effective 2/9/18

FMLA – Employee PI27696 beginning approximately 2/26/18 for a period of up to 8 weeks.

Approval of the Personnel Changes by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners noted the passing of Paul Winslow and recognized him for his many years of service to the County specifically to the County Planning Commission for 27 years. Mr. Winslow was an educator with the Glendale School District and also served on BCI Municipal Authority, Coalport Borough Council and a founding member of the Moshannon Valley Council of Governments. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Winslow was very civic minded and served his community and the County unselfishly. Solicitor Kesner also offered his thoughts of Mr. Winslow who served his community with grace and gave without wanting anything in return.

Del Spafford and Darrel Beatty attended the meeting to ask the Board to join in the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve. Messrs. Spafford and Beatty are members of ESGR/ Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve affiliate organization of the Department of Defense whose purpose is to advocate for members of the Guard and Reserve as to employment in the civilian world. Currently members of the Guard and Reserve make up 50% of the current military force and Pennsylvania’s contingent of Guard and Reserve are 2nd in the Country. Mr. Spafford explained that they a volunteer group of seven and cover a large area of Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York and their job is to ensure that soldiers are not abused at their work site and they try to settle any issues with the employers. If there are problems they investigate the situation and work with the employers and advocate for the soldiers. Motion to execute the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve by Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Kovalick asked the Board to consider applying to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women (OVW) for the 2018 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program for approximately \$492,125. Ms. Kovalick provided the following information
 ““According to OVW “This program is authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (34 U.S.C.1234).Recognizing Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking in rural communities face unique challenges and barriers to receiving assistance rarely encountered in urban areas. The geographic isolation, transportation barriers, economic structure, strong social and cultural pressures, and lack of available services in rural jurisdictions significantly compound the problems confronted by those seeking support and services to end the violence in their lives. These factors also complicate the ability of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases. In addition, socio-cultural, economic, and geographic barriers make it difficult for victim services providers to identify and assist victims of these crimes.”

2015 Family court Caseload –Protection from Abuse Filings to the 2016 year in Clearfield County

	Clearfield County Pending from Previous year	Clearfield County New Cases filed	Clearfield County Cases processed	Clearfield County End Pending	Clearfield County Petitions Requesting Temp Orders	Clearfield County Temp Orders Granted	PFA Cases Filed in Clearfield County	6 th Class Counties Average PFA Cases Filed
2015	14	183	188	9	183	175	188	129
2016	9	165	169	5	165	159	165	130
2017	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

From Caseload Statistics of the Unified Judicial system of PA

It is disheartening that in Clearfield County the average amount of protection from abuse cases filed since 2007-2016 has remained above the average of other 6th class counties in the Commonwealth. While the caseloads reported have decline from 2015 to 2016 we know that the severity of crimes against victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and staling has worsened in the County. Clearfield County along with the District Attorney’s Office, Clearfield County League on Social Services, Community Action Inc., CROSSROADS Program, and PASSAGES will increase the safety for victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking utilizing the following measures:

- Clearfield County District Attorney Office will hire a full time investigator for the sole purpose of investigating Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking cases. This will allow for the additional man power to successfully prosecute perpetrators of these crimes.
- The Clearfield County League on Social Services will help provide financial assistance to victims for transportation and civil legal assistance.

- Community Action, Inc., CROSSROADS Program will receive funding to increase manpower providing additional advocate time for victims of domestic violence.
 - PASSAGES, Inc. will increase the manpower of victims' advocates in Clearfield County, to assist victims of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking.
- Together these partners will design and implement a unique and innovative program that will provide security and peace for the victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking for up to three years.
- Motion to execute the grant agreement by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel presented an agreement with Seven Mountains Media for advertising. Chief Clerk McFadden explained the service will be used to advertise promoting Foster Parent Care in the County through Children Youth and Family Services. Approval by motion of Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel asked for a motion to appointment of Cody Fye to the Curwensville Lake Authority. Approval of the appointment by Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel presented a Data Release Agreement between the County and Penn State University. The purpose of the agreement is to share information between PSU and Children Youth and Family Services so they may participate in a Child Health Study. Approval of the agreement by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Consider appointment of Jeannine Swisher to the Clearfield County Industrial Development Authority.

Chair Sobel asked for a motion to approve a copier lease with DBB, Inc. for a copier to be used in the Prothonotary office for 36 months at a cost of \$139.65/month. Approval by motion of Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Purchase of Service Agreements with Professional Family Care Services, Inc. was approved by motion of Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report – Solicitor Kesner reported the County closed the Tax Anticipation Note with CNB Bank.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto, motion carried unanimously.