

The regular meeting of the Clearfield County Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 with Chair Sobel conducting the meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Scotto and McCracken; Kim Kesner, Assistant Solicitor; Tom Adamson, Controller; Mary Jones, Clearfield County League on Social Services; Dave Glass, Commissioner Candidate; Jessica Shirey, gantdaily.com; Yvonne Lehman, WOKW Radio; Diane Byers, Courier/Progress; Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk.

Minutes of the previous meeting of September 24, 2019 were approved by motion of Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Controller Adamson presented the following bills for approval: General Fund, \$1,129,732.83; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$4015.98; 911 Fund, \$271,976.33; Domestic Relations Fund, \$613.46; Children Youth Services Fund, \$38,540.53. Approval of the bills by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Changes

New Hires – Devon Bradford, Caseworker/CYS, effective 9/30/16.

Sasha Brock, Part-time Corrections Officer/Jail, effective 9/30/19

Transfers – Justin Millinder, Part-time Telecommunicator/911 to Full-time, effective 9/22/19.

Alex George, Caseworker/CYS to Deputy Warden at the Jail, effective 10/14/19.

Separations/Retirements

Vincent Felli, LPN/Jail, effective 10/2/19

Separations/Retirements

Vincent Felli, LPN/Jail, effective 10/02/19.

FMLA

Employee WE82639 FMLA from 9/23/19-9/30/19

Employee DO03154, Intermittent FMLA commencing 9/12/19.

Approval of the personnel changes, separating out the transfer of Alex George to the Deputy Warden position by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel called for a motion to approve the transfer of Alex George to the position of Deputy Warden – 2nd shift, effective October 14, 2019 with a training period of 30 days on first shift and then after 30 days training permanent to 2nd shift. Chair Sobel said Mr. George would be paid at the rate of the 1st shift Deputy Warden during his training and then increased to \$35,000 once training is complete. Controller Adamson questioned the salary as he said there was only one set rate not a training rate and then a permanent rate. Commissioner Scotto explained that Mr. George would be paid that of the 1st shift Deputy Warden and then adjusted for the 2nd shift Deputy Warden position once training has been complete. Controller Adamson contended that there is only one rate set for a Deputy Warden and for payroll purposes would need to know the set salary. Solicitor Kesner suggested reconvening the Salary Board meeting after the Commissioners meeting to discuss the salary issue. Motion to approve the transfer of Alex George to Deputy Warden 2nd shift effective October 14, 2019 who will be trained for

30 working days on dayshift and then move to 2nd shift by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Commissioner Candidate Dave Glass attended the meeting and addressed the recent County Audit report by the independent auditor. Mr. Glass read from a prepared statement “He said it appeared that the auditor was trying hard to put a “positive spin” on the audit. “He was emphasizing the good, and not mentioning some of the bad. “That’s not his job. He should’ve presented all the relevant facts on both sides of the ledger.” Glass said after reviewing the audit, he found the auditor’s oral report both misleading and incomplete. While it’s true the county doesn’t have any debt, he said the county has capital project needs that demand attention at both the courthouse and prison. At some point soon, Glass said the county will have to take on debt to address repairs at both buildings. He said it’d be best to make the public aware now, and also to build a capital reserve. However, he was more concerned about what was “not discussed” by the auditor in his oral report. According to information provided by Glass, the county ran a 2018 deficit approaching \$1 million and had an ending fund balance of around \$3.9 million. He said it appeared that the general fund was depleted by over 20 percent and the unrestricted fund balance was depleted by almost 40 percent. According to information provided by Glass, there’s a note on page 41 indicating the operating and capital reserves are reclassified into the general fund as per requirements of GASB 54. According to information provided by Glass, it appeared that \$625,000 was added into the unrestricted fund, which makes it look much larger. “... Due to the change, there’s effectively no reserve fund at all,” he said, noting the funds were reclassified now when GASB 54 went into effect in 2010. Glass also addressed concerns over the county hiring an outside budget consultant. Amid a “serious budget crunch,” he said the county can’t even work together to get its budget done in-house. He reminded the commissioners that while budget pressure has created tension between county offices, they were elected to handle these types of issues. Glass asked everyone who’s involved in the budget process to put their personal animosities aside and to work together for the good of the county.

Old Business - None

New Business

Chair Sobel introduced Mary Jones from the Clearfield County League on Social Services. Ms. Jones explained the importance of responding and replying to the 2020 Census. Ms. Jones said the League on Social Services is a non-profit agency that provides services to children age birth to 3rd grade and depend on state and federal funds to maintain these services. The census is a great source of information for the agency to obtain funding and impressed upon everyone to please participate in the 2020 census. Chair Sobel asked for a motion to adopt the 2020 Census Partnership Resolution. Motion by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel asked for a motion to approve a Fiscal Consulting Services Agreement/Proposal with Service Access and Management, Inc. (SAMS). SAMS will prepare 2018-2019 fiscal reports and the Needs Based Budget for Children Youth & Family Services. Approval of the agreement/proposal by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel asked for a motion to approve the School Based Probation Agreements with DuBois and Clearfield School Districts. Motion by Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Liquid Fuel Allocation was approved for Coalport Borough in the amount of \$3,000 by motion of Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report

Assistant Solicitor Kesner said that he no report but would ask the Commissioners to enter into executive session for the purpose to discuss two commercial assessment appeals.

Motion to suspend the Commissioners meeting to reconvene the Salary Board to discuss the 2nd Shift Deputy Warden salary by Commissioner McCracken, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to reconvene the Commissioners meeting by Commissioner Scotto, seconded by Commissioner McCracken; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner's McCracken to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of legal discussions at 10:34AM, seconded by Commissioner Scotto; motion carried unanimously. The press and public were advised that no official action would be taken after Executive Session that they were excused.

Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk