

The regular meeting of the Clearfield County Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 with Chair Scotto conducting the meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Sobel and Glass; Heather Bozovich, Solicitor; Tom Adamson, Controller; Dawn Graham, Director of Elections; M/M Jim Maultauff, citizens; Andrea Schickling –Administrative Assistant, Senator Langerholtz; Jeff Corcino; Progress/Courier; Jessica Shirey, gantdaily.com; Yvonne Lehman, Radio WOKW; Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk.

Minutes of the previous meeting of January 14, 2020 were approved by motion of Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Changes

New Hires – Gabriel Good, Part-time Corrections Officer, effective 1/6/20.

Jammie Shomo, Caseworker/CYS, effective 1/20/20

Frank Verbeck, Part-time Security Guard, effective 1/28/20.

Roy E. Cross III, Assistant District Attorney, effective 2/3/20.

Patti Baker, LPN/Jail, effective 2/3/20.

Transfers

Mary Horner, Department Clerk II/Prothontary to Department Clerk III/Clerk of Courts, effective 1/6/20.

Richard Casher, Part-time Security Guard to Part-time Special Deputy Sheriff, effective 2/10/20.

Separations/Retirements

Paula Gallaher, Department Clerk II/Clerk of Courts, effective 1/15/20.

Jammie Shomo, Caseworker/CYS, effective 1/22/20.

Andrew Edinger, Juvenile Probation officer, effective 2/7/20.

Robert McQuillen, Part-time Security Guard, effective 1/1/20.

Approval of the Personnel Changes by motion of Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Controller Adamson presented the following bills for approval: General Fund, \$677,127.58; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$3,178.67; Hazardous Materials Fund, \$190.05; 911 Fund, \$331,385.19; Community Development Block Grant, \$1,705.00; Domestic Relations, \$9,648.92; Children Youth Services Fund, \$465,080.63. approval of the bills by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Dawn Graham attended the meeting regarding Act 77 and the changes it brings to Voter Registration and Elections. Ms. Graham provided the following information:

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline for registering to vote in any election is now 15 days before Election Day as opposed to 30 days previously.

The application MUST be in the County Election Office by close of business on the day of the deadline. Postmarks are no longer considered timely.

PETITION CHANGES

The changes to the petitions involve the "Circulators"

Circulators no longer need to be residents of the election district in which they are circulating petitions.

Circulators now need only to complete a statement for signature pages, rather than a notarized affidavit.

Do not use "old" petitions, as they are no longer valid. Always get your petition packets from the local County Election Office.

STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING

Voters will no longer have a shortcut option to vote straight party, (this only applies to November elections as Primary ballots are “party” ballots)

Voters do have the option to individually select only candidates from one party.

STICKERS FOR WRITE-IN BALLOTS

The use of stickers and paste-on labels for write-in candidates is now prohibited. Write-in names must be either written or stamped.

ABSENTEE BALLOTING

Absentee ballots are available for anyone who;
Will be out of the municipality on Election day
Due to illness or permanent disability

Voters with a permanent disability may request to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list. These individuals will have an application mailed to them by the first week in February each year, which, if completed and returned, entitles them to receive ballots in the mail for all elections taking place in the remainder of the calendar year and for any special elections through the third week in February of the following year.

These “permanent” voters will require a Doctors affidavit, which will be found on the second page of the Absentee application.

Deadlines for absentee ballots are as follows:

Applications must be in the correct county Election office by 5:00 PM the Tuesday before any election.

Voted ballots must be received in the correct county Election Office by 8:00 PM on Election Day

A voter who votes a timely received absentee ballot now MAY NOT vote at the polling place. If the voter requests but does NOT mail back their absentee ballot in time, they may still deliver the absentee ballot, IN PERSON, to the county election office until 8:00 PM on Election Day, or if they cannot do so, may vote by Provisional Ballot at the polling place.

MAIL-IN BALLOTING

This is a new ballot option available to the voters in Pennsylvania

Unlike Absentee Ballots, voters requesting a Mail-in ballot do not have to provide any reason or excuse for voting by mail

Voters may request to be placed on a permanent mail-in voter list. These individuals will have an application mailed to them by the first week in February each year, which, if completed and returned, entitles them to receive ballots in the mail for all elections taking place in the remainder of the calendar year and for any special elections through the third week in February of the following year.

Unlike Absentee voters, you do not need a Doctors affidavit to be placed on the Permanent Mail-in voter list. Just simply check the box in section 7 of the application and you will be placed on the Permanent list.

Deadlines for Mail-in ballots are as follows:

Applications must be in the correct county Election office by 5:00 PM the Tuesday before any election.

Voted ballots must be received in the correct county Election Office by 8:00 PM on Election Day

A voter who votes a timely received Mail-in ballot now MAY NOT vote at the polling place. If the voter requests but does NOT mail back their Mail-in ballot in time, they may still deliver the Mail-in ballot, IN

PERSON, to the county election office until 8:00 PM on Election Day, or if they cannot do so, may vote by Provisional Ballot at the polling place.

APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOT

Voters can apply for either of these ballots on line at votesPA.com

Applications are available by request through the Election Office

Clearfield County Voters can print off the applications that can be found on our website at clearfieldco.org

Be sure to contact the county election office in the county that you live in to receive proper instructions for voting in that county.

Chair Scotto presented Ordinance 2020-#1 -regarding the imposition of a \$10.00 increase in the fees charged by the recorder of deeds for recording deeds and mortgages to fund the Clearfield County demolition fund program. Chair Scotto explained that the fee will be assessed on all mortgages and deeds filed in the Register and Recorders office and those funds will then be used to combat blight throughout the County. The funds will be placed in a County Demolition Fund, with 80% of the funds used for demolition of blighted properties, 15% will be used by the Clearfield County Planning Department for Administration of the Program and 5% will remain in the Register & Recorders office for collection cost. The Ordinance will become effective 60 days from adoption. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-#1 by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sobel presented a Subcontract with Penn State for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant. The grant funds will be used for the North Central PA Launchbox and Innovation Collaborative. The Launchbox project provides assistance in supporting manufacturing competitiveness and workforce needs, growing and attracting talented innovators and entrepreneurs, and creating new high-knowledge, high-technology businesses in the region. The County is the sub-recipient of the grant in the amount of \$725,850 for the program administered by Penn State. Motion to execute the subcontract agreement by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to approve Agreements with Cen-Clear Child Services for Extended Monitored Visitation and Family Group Decision Making Programs. Approval by motion of Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to approve a Linkage Agreement with Service Access Management, Inc. for sharing of information with common Probation clients. Approval by motion of Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for motion to appoint Kate Roberts to the Community Action Board of Directors and Henry Daugherty and Michael Vaow to the County Planning Commission. Motion to approve the appointments by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto presented the owner County Agreement with Central Counties Youth Center for approval. Motion to approve the agreements by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto announced that the Commissioners had received notice during the meeting that the Department of Environmental Protection had issued the permit to PA Waste, LLC for the Camp Hope Run Landfill, Boggs Township. The Commissioners are very disappointed in the decision by DEP and will be in contact with Attorney Bruder to discuss action to appeal the decision. The Commissioners will keep everyone informed as things develop with the status of the appeal process.

Solicitors Report – None

Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk