

The regular meeting of the Clearfield County Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 with Chair Scotto conducting the meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Sobel and Glass; Heather Bozovich, Solicitor; Tom Adamson, Controller; Adam Curry, Director of IT; Jessica Shirey, gantdaily.com; Diane Byers, Progress/Courier; Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Commissioners meeting was live streamed at https://youtube.com/channel/UCFb0gMwBAi3HI2Ai8iJ_bmQ and only the press were permitted in all County buildings. The buildings have been under lock down since March 20, 2020 – allowing no public access.

Minutes of the previous meeting of March 10, 2020 were approved by motion of Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Controller Adamson presented the following bills for approval: General Fund, \$862,579.55; Liquid Fuels, \$20,385.74; 911 Fund, \$4,794.52; Hotel Tax Fund, \$28,555.36; Records Improvement, \$1,678.00; Domestic Relations, \$9,526.83; Children Youth Services Fund, \$472,566.92. Approval of the bills by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Changes –

New Hires – Walter Britton, Security, effective 3/24/20.

David Mabon, Full-time Telecommunicator/911, effective 3/20/20

Separations/Retirements

Tessa Irvin, Part-time Corrections Officer, effective 3/7/20.

Tiffany Anthony, Part-time Corrections Officer, effective 3/20/20

Gregory Collins, Warden/Jail, effective 3/27/20

Barry Angstadt, Maintenance Worker II, effective 4/13/20.

Approval of the personnel changes by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Collins and Mr. Angstadt for their many years of service to the County.

Public Comment – None

Old Business – None

New Business

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to ratify and extend the Disaster Declaration the Commissioner adopted on March 16, 2020 with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion to ratify and extend by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto presented the 2020 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Grant Awards for approval. Lisa Kovalick provided the following information:

Recently Clearfield County solicited applications for affordable housing activities to be funded by the Clearfield County Affordable Housing Fund. Projects which increase the availability of quality affordable housing either through sales or rental to any county resident whose annual income is less than the median income of county were considered. Eligible projects included owner occupied rehabilitation, rental rehabilitation, first time home buyers programs, housing counseling programs, emergency repair programs, elderly, special needs, & disabled housing, veterans housing, new home construction, land banks, transitional housing, homeless shelters, community stabilization programs, foreclosure prevention, emergency rental assistance, and bridge loans for rental housing development. A total of six applications were received and reviewed by the County's Office of Planning & Community Development based on the program guidelines. The request for funds totaled \$90,100 which was more than the award funding available therefore not all projects could be funded or fully funded. Upon the 2020 award of funds the County will have awarded over \$394,170.00 in Affordable Housing Trust funds since 2012.

Those projects include:

1. Young People Who Care (YPWC) – (Homeowner repair – Blight Prevention) Funds will be used to purchase materials for the agency's summer home repair and ongoing emergency repair programs. This project provides homeowner repairs detrimental to the health and safety of the occupants. YPWC provide these serves as last resort. \$15,000.00
 2. Real Equity LLC – (Create New Affordable Rental Units) a private development company that offers safe affordable rental options in the DuBois area. Real Equity will utilize AHTF funds to transform a blighted property into three new affordable housing units. This company has cultivated working relationships with Community Connections of Clearfield & Jefferson County, and members of the Local Housing Option Team, to provide much needed safe, decent and affordable housing for the chronic homeless people in Clearfield County. \$15,000.00
 3. Clearfield County Housing Authority (Rental Repair Program) The Housing Authority will continue to provide an incentive for private investment in the improvement of rental units. This program would offer landlords 50% reimbursement of costs for making code improvements up to \$1,000. This ensures that there are quality rental units available thereby assuring that County families have safe decent and affordable housing. \$ 10,100.00
 4. Clearfield Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Hammers- Emergency Housing Repair Program) The Presbyterian Hammers is a group of church volunteers that provide emergency housing repairs for Clearfield County residents in need. This group serves residents with physical and/or mental disabilities who have limited income and no other support system to help them with the emergency house repair. \$ 5,000.00
- TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED \$45,100.00

Motion to award the grant funds to Young People Who Care, Real Equity, LLC; and the Clearfield County Housing Authority by motion of Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Motion to award grant funds to Clearfield Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Hammers) by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Chair Scotto, Commissioner Sobel abstained due to conflict; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to appointment of George Hunsinger to the Clearfield County Library Board. Approval by motion of Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chief Clerk McFadden asked for permission to advertise bids for repairs to Camp Corbly and McGees Mills Bridges. Camp Corbly Bridge in Greenwood Township is in need of some rust and scouring rehab repairs and the McGees Mills Bridge is in need of a roof replacement. Motion to grant permission to advertise by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto presented two Communication Tower leases with Boggs and Bell Townships. Both Townships will be placing communication equipment on the County owned towers. Bell Township will reimburse the County \$50/month and Boggs Township will provide summer and winter maintenance in exchange for payment. Both agreements are for a five-year period with a 30-day termination notice for each party. Motion to approve the agreements by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Liquid Fuel allocation was approved for Gulich Township, \$3,297.97 by motion of Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners announced that in light of the COVID-19 crisis they would be canceling the Work Session of April 7, 2020.

The Commissioners also reminded the public that all County Buildings are locked with no public access. Employees are still working and contact can be made via telephone, email and drop boxes outside each building. As of the meeting, there were no reported cases of the Corona Virus in the County. However, County residents should react like there are cases and to do as the Governor has asked to practice "Social Distancing" and do not go out if not necessary. The County is taking this situation day by day and will keep the press and public aware as we are notified.

Solicitors Report - None

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk