

The regular meeting of the Clearfield County Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 with Chair Scotto conducting the meeting. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Sobel and Glass; Heather Bozovich, Solicitor; Tom Adamson, Controller; Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist; Chris Luzier and Kelly Hawkins, Roads to Recovery; Jeff Corcino, Progress/Courier; Jessica Shirey, gantdaily.com Yvonne Lehmann, WOKW Radio; Adam Curry, IT Director; Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk.

Minutes of the previous meeting of August 25, 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, \$880,436.47; Liquid Fuels Fund, \$12,675.79; Hazardous Materials Fund, \$47.03; 911 Fund, \$702.37; Domestic Relations, \$47.05; Children Youth Services, CARES Act Funds, \$62,207.00. Approval of the bills by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Changes

Transfers – Alex George, Deputy Warden of Programs to Temporary Deputy Warden of Programs, effective 8/17/20.

Separations/Retirements – Amber Richards, Administrative Assistant/Prothonotary, effective 9/1/20
Phyllis Bracken, Conference Officer, Domestic Relations, effective 9/30/20.

Beverly Oswalt, Assistant Director, Domestic Relations, effective 11/13/20

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

Chair Scotto welcomed Chris Luzier and Kelly Hawkins from Roads to Recovery and read a Proclamation naming September as National Self-Care Month. Mr. Luzier explained the importance of taking care of your mental health and wellbeing both mentally and physically. Motion to Proclaim September as National Self-Care Month by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Kovalick asked the Board to consider approval of Resolution 2020-#5 CDBG CV. 2020 COVID 19 for the County, Clearfield Borough, and Lawrence Township. Ms. Kovalick provided the following breakdown of the distribution of funds

“ Clearfield County will submit the FFY2020 Community Development Block Grant – Cares Act (CDBG-CV) application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on or before September 9, 2020. Clearfield County non-entitlement funds as follows: \$29,907 Administration; \$37,217.74 to meet urgent needs of Penn Highlands Clearfield and DuBois Hospitals and \$3,655.26 to Clearfield County League on Social Services to assist Child Care Providers with PPE; \$46,898.82 to Crossroads Inc. Crisis Shelter to assist Victims of Domestic Violence; and \$48,473.18 to Haven House Homeless Shelter.

Penn Highlands will use these funds to reimburse costs associated with protecting staff and the community from the spread of COVID 19. In accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, an electrostatic sprayer for decontamination of surfaces was purchased. Additionally, at Clearfield and DuBois hospitals created negative pressure patient rooms for the protection of staff and community.

Clearfield County League on Social Services (the League) administers subsidies for child care providers and early learning programs. As day cares re-opened the League provided PPE and thermometers as recommended by the CDC. The County will reimburse these costs from the CDBG CV Program.

Those left homeless by means of domestic violence or otherwise have had a more of a struggle finding somewhere to stay during this pandemic. Homeless shelters such as the Haven House in DuBois had to pare down the number of homeless

individuals it could house, as did crisis shelters, in accordance with CDC social distancing guidelines. Funding is need to help place homeless in motels, purchase electrostatic sprays, food, operational costs of the shelters and personal items.

Clearfield Borough funds as follows: \$11,996 Administration, \$16,396 Urgent Need to assist Fire Department \$38,258 to assist low-moderate income residents of the borough with arrearages in their utilities.

Lawrence Township funds as follows: \$12,703 Administration, \$17,362 Urgent Need to assist Fire Department \$40,514 to assist low-moderate income residents of Lawrence Township with arrearages in their utilities.

Based on needs assessment conducted in from April to July Clearfield Borough and Lawrence Township will offer a utility assistance program to help low-income residents reduce their utility arrearages. Additionally both the Borough and Township will use their urgent needs funding to support new communications radios for the Volunteer Fire Departments of the appropriate municipality.

This application will be submitted within 24 hours of the meeting. Once the Department of Community and Economic Development approves the programs, we will announce the procedures for utility assistance for Clearfield Borough and Lawrence Township.”

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-#5 by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Bozovich presented a Lease Addendum with Harry J. Salvatore for rental space utilized by Penn State Cooperative Extension and Clearfield County Conservation District. The extension is for 2 years to end November 20, 2022 with no automatic renewal. Motion to execute the Lease Addendum by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to approve the Engagement Agreement with The Reschini Group to comply with the ACA Employer Reporting. Approval by motion of Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to approve an agreement with PA Dept of Human Services for the Child Welfare Information System Data Sharing. The agreement allows DHS to share information with Children Youth and Family Services. Approval by motion of Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to approve a Purchase of Service Agreement with Appalachian Youth Services for use by Children Youth and Family Services. Motion by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Glass; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Scotto asked for a motion to grant the Chief Clerk Permission to advertise bids for an Infirmary Module to be used at the County Prison to house an inmate or inmates who may be diagnosed with COVID-19 or any other contagious disease. The infirmary would be a independent building on the grounds of the jail. Motion to grant the Chief Clerk permission to advertise by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Sobel; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sobel discussed the recent news of the potential closure of the Lock Haven Clearfield Campus and provided the following press release.

We are very concerned over the potential closing of the Clearfield Campus of the Lock Haven University, currently being studied by the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education Board of Governors. The loss of the Campus would be a terrible blow to our County. Closure of the Clearfield Campus would eliminate what has been for years an affordable opportunity for County residents to further their education close to home. Non-traditional students have in particular been able to take advantage of being able to work full-time and still obtain a degree.

The nursing program at the Campus has been a very valuable tool in meeting the growing need for professionals in the healthcare field. That need in our area will only continue to grow with the recent growth and reconfiguration of our regional healthcare systems.

Finally, it provides valuable cultural outlet for our County, as do all institutions of higher learning in our area.

The County Commissioners believe that Clearfield County and Central Pennsylvania citizens need the Clearfield Campus. Therefore, we urge the Board of Trustees of Lock Haven University and the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education to keep the Campus open. It has become very important in meeting the region's cultural and workforce needs. We believe that this service will only become more vital in the future.

The Commissioners urged residents who are concerned with the closing to contact their State Representatives as they will be involved in the decision of merging or closing.

Solicitors Report

Ms. Bozovich asked the Board for a motion to approve the Recipient Agreements for the ACT 24 CARES Act Funds that she and Attorney Miller have been creating. The agreements will be used by the government and non-government entities who will be receiving CARES Act funds from the County. Ms. Bozovich and Attorney Miller are also preparing a separate Recipient Agreement for the businesses that have applied and will receive funds. Ms. Bozovich said the agreements needed some additional information but asked that the Commissioners approve the agreements pending final approval. Commissioner Sobel made a motion to approve the agreements, Commissioner Glass commented that he did not see the documents and wasn't really comfortable with approving the documents without reviewing them. Commissioner Sobel said he received an email with the documents for review and thought everyone else had received the email but evidently was not the case. Commissioner Glass said he would trust Commissioners Sobel and Scotto's judgement and second the motion but in the future would like to review any agreements for approval; motion carried unanimously.

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

Lisa McFadden, Chief Clerk