

February 28, 2008

McKean County Commissioners in special session assembled on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners meeting room. Present were Commissioners Joe DeMott and Judy Church, Chief Clerk, Audrey Irons. Also present were Dustin Laurie, Dan Hartle, Mike Schreiber, George Petrisek, Steve Zwerin, and Bill Gallagher.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. DeMott, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. DeMott, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Church – yes. Two – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Mr. DeMott – Opened the meeting for public comment.

No public comment.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. DeMott, to enter into a service agreement with BV Mobile Shredding, Inc. pending approval of the contract by the county solicitor.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Church – yes. Two – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. DeMott, to enter into a one year service agreement with Johnson Controls for the McKean County Prison pending approval of the contract by the county solicitor.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Church – yes. Two – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. DeMott, to enter into a construction and ownership agreement with Zito Media Communications, LLC.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Church – yes. Two – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. DeMott, to enter into a Collocation Agreement with Zito Media Communications, LLC.

Mr. DeMott – This agreement is for housing some of the communication equipment at the 911 Center.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Church – yes. Two – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Mr. DeMott – Opened the meeting for public comment.

Mike Schreiber – Asked if they could give a quick overview of the Zito Media Communications Project?

Steve Zwerin – The initial work, including engineering and mapping the county for the loop, has already been completed. The actual construction of the loop will begin within 45 days, with the entire project being completed by August.

Mr. Schreiber – And how much will the project cost?

Mr. Zwerin – Approximately \$1.1 million dollars.

Mr. DeMott – When the project is completed it will rival the systems in large cities across the country and it will touch on all sectors, including governments, businesses, institutions and residents. It will help eliminate the last major impediment we have to future economic development. Businesses rely on new telecommunications and it will allow the county to compete for new industries which would provide more jobs.

George Petrisek – Who is the county consultant that is going to be reviewing the project?

Bill Gallagher – That would be me – I work for Insight Technology. The new telecommunications public-private partnership being established in northwestern Pennsylvania is being monitored by other companies across the country. This will be the first model of its type in the state of Pennsylvania – it's all about accessibility.

Mr. Zwerin – Officials involved with the project have already been contacted, and in some cases have entered into agreements, with major businesses, a school and one of the county's hospitals. Interest is extremely high. We also want to bring this product to the small and mid-size business level. Zito Media is committed to entertaining discussions with any business in the community already spending \$500 a month or more in telecommunications costs. The small and mid-size companies comprise a majority of those already in operation across the county.

Mrs. Church – The technology will eventually filter down to individual homeowners as well.

Mr. Zwerin – That will be part two of the project. We want to bring the Internet to the most rural parts of the county. The installation of the loop will also pave the way for cellular companies to expand their service in the area. It would provide additional coverage for tourists visiting certain recreational sites in the county to go online when

visiting the region. In the meantime the technological upgrade will enable the region's hospitals to delve further into the telemedicine field, which helps bridge the gap between small rural facilities and those in larger cities.

Mr. Gallagher – This will allow rural hospitals to survive and flourish. They need that added connectivity to have those affiliations with larger hospitals.

Mr. Zwerin – What's coming here to McKean County in the coming years is astounding for medical care.

Mrs. Church – The county will also be able to save on its bottom line by sharing software and other technology with neighboring counties.

Mr. Petrisek – Can you tell us again where the fiber optic loop will go through?

Mr. Gallagher – The loop will travel through the county's population centers, including Bradford, Smethport, Kane, Eldred, Lewis Run and Port Allegany. It will also include such organizations as the airport. In addition to McKean County – Potter, Elk and Cameron counties are already set to be part of the system. They are also trying to get Warren and Forest counties to take part in the project. Looking down the road, there could be shared data services and lower expenses for the counties.

Mr. DeMott – The optical ring will also allow for redundant services to businesses and other organizations which means there won't be a disruption in service should one strand or a portion of the system be affected by the weather or other means.

Mr. Gallagher – The establishment of such a large fiber optic loop is an attraction for major telecommunications companies to do business across northwestern Pennsylvania – they would usually only be interested in working with individual businesses that spend thousands of dollars on their telecommunication needs. By getting the larger players that will help recruit other carriers into the area. I'm pleased to see the commissioners had the foresight and progressive understanding to do this.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. DeMott, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Church – yes. Two – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Chief Clerk