

March 20, 2008

McKean County Commissioners in special session assembled on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners meeting room. Present were Commissioners Joe DeMott, Al Pingie and Judy Church, Chief Clerk, Audrey Irons. Also present were Sharon Linnan, Dustin Laurie, Dan Hartle, Mike Schreiber, George Petrisek, and Tom Ball.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting.

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

Mr. DeMott – Opened the meeting for public discussion.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to abolish the McKean County Prison Board and name Sheriff Brad Mason as Warden of the jail.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve payment to Urban Engineers of Erie, Inc. in the amount of \$3,980.50 representing payment for professional services rendered for the Boyer Crossing Bridge Replacement Project. This money is to be taken from the County of McKean Boyer Bridge Project Fund.

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

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. Pingie, to approve payment to the Area Transportation Authority in the amount of \$250,000.00 representing the 1st quarter actual and 3rd quarter advance payment for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program that they administer for the county. This money is to be taken from the Grants Public Welfare Fund.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve payment to Zito Media Communications, LLC in the amount of \$50,000.00 representing payment for up charge costs for fiber for County and Municipal use under the Construction and Ownership Agreement. This money is to be taken from the Capital Reserve Fund.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve the following county aid applications for the year 2008.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Bradford City | \$16,843.00 |
| 2. Bradford Township | \$10,899.00 |
| 3. Kane Borough | \$ 7,817.00 |
| 4. Mt. Jewett Borough | \$ 2,251.00 |
| 5. Sergeant Township | \$ 1,152.00 |
| 6. Wetmore Township | \$ 6,071.00 |

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to issue a real estate tax refund to Shane and Shannon Renner in the amount of \$494.31 as their property was double assessed with another parcel for the years 2003 through 2006.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve the following real estate tax exemptions for the year 2008.

1. City of Bradford – 129 School Street – Property is vacant-not habitable.
2. City of Bradford – 35-39 Pearl Street – Vacant land.
3. City of Bradford – 31-39 School Street – Vacant-not habitable.
4. City of Bradford – 59 Pearl Street – Vacant-not habitable.
5. City of Bradford – 57 Pearl Street – Vacant-not habitable.
6. City of Bradford – 120-122 W. Washington Street – Building to be demolished.
7. Comm. of Pa. /Pa. Game Commission – Loop Road – Land owned by Comm. of Pa.
8. PA Conference of Seventh Day Advent – 222 Derrick Road – Church Parsonage.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to proclaim the month of April 2008 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to proclaim the month of April 2008 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into an agreement with the Redevelopment Authority for them to be responsible for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant funds for McKean County and the Borough of Kane.

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

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. Pingie, to enter into a provider contract with Terry Songer as a mental health delegate for the Department of Human Services.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into an Administrative Entity and Wavier Provider Contract, a Letter of Understanding and Business Associate Agreement Addendum with John Golden III for the Department of Human Services.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to advertise for bids for upgrading the electrical system and uninterrupted power supply at the 911 Center.

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

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. Pingie, to advertise for bids for docket and index scanning, filming, and indexing project for the Prothonotary's Office.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to select a consultant to apply for a Planning grant that will affect county properties and trails in the Smethport area.

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

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to reappoint Anthony Clark to the McKean County Planning Board for a four year term.

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

Mr. Pingie – Mentioned they were still looking for someone from the Bradford Township area to serve on the McKean County Planning Commission.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into a contract with Pashek Associates to do the application for the planning grant for the Fairground area, for the Sena Kean area and for trails in the Smethport Area. The grant is in the amount of \$4,000.00.

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

Mr. DeMott – Mentioned that the county received a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 for a grant from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission for the McKean County Historical Society.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. Pingie, to grant permission to the McKean County Historical Society for using the courthouse for programs on June 25 and 26 in the courtroom for the trial reenactment that they have done in the past and on November 15, 2008 for their art program.

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

Mr. by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to authorize the acceptance of bids for insurance from Sundahl & Company for providing insurance to the McKean County Solid Waste Authority.

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

Mr. Pingie – Mentioned that today is the last day for applicants to apply for the EMA Director's position.

George Petrisek – The \$4,000.00 - is that for them to prepare the application for the grant.

Mr. DeMott – Yes.

Mr. Petrisek – Can you briefly explain what they are doing?

Mr. DeMott – That is about looking at the county properties – there are 3 different areas. One is the county properties out in the old Sena Kean area – the county owns 300 to 400 acres of property out there and there are a number of things that need to be done out there – we need to evaluate the old buildings to see what needs to be done to the buildings to maintain them to see whether that would be worthwhile – we want to have a land use plan for that area – we received inquiries from several drilling companies who would like to explore for gas in that area – our Soil and Water Conservation District would like to do some stream stabilization projects out there – we have been looking at possible agriculture demonstration projects and this would give us a plan on how to develop that property, what should be reserved for future county buildings, and how all this ties into a system that allows for multiple use without destroying the property. So it is an overall view of that area.

The second area would be the fairgrounds area and we are looking at development or grant possibilities that would be available to improve that area.

The third area would be to do some planning in the Smethport area to include our properties and perhaps other properties in some sort of an expanded trail system so those are the areas that will be explored.

Mr. Petrisek – What is the name of the consultant?

Mr. DeMott – Pashek Associates Limited out of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Church – They are going to do the study and then get back to us with the projects.

Mr. DeMott – They will be making the planning applications to DCNR.

Mr. Petrisek – What is the status of the Solid Waste Authority?

Mr. DeMott – To my knowledge they are trying to schedule a reorganizational meeting for next week.

Mike Schreiber – What is going on with the dissolution of the McKean County Prison Board today – why today? It was my understanding that you were going to wait until the next prison board.

Mr. Pingie – The prison board that was held last Friday – there had been some discussion since we received the information from Greg Henry and we chose to turn the work session into a regular meeting and take some action. It has been dragging on way too long. We found out what we needed to know and we jumped through the hoops we had to jump through to make this decision.

Mr. Hartle – With the action the Commissioners took today, there won't be any more prison board meetings.

Mr. Schreiber – And all of that is effective today.

Mr. Petrisek – Are they going to be surprised?

Mr. Pingie – I don't think so.

Mr. Petrisek – At the prison board meeting there was a discussion about reviewing the applications.

Mr. Pingie – Everyone knew that we only had 2 applications and there were several discussions about whether the Sheriff could be named Warden and we just felt it was the best move to make at this time.

Mr. Petrisek – What happens now to Acting Warden Morlock?

Mr. Pingie – She will be under the direction of Sheriff Mason and it will be up to him to choose his staff and move on and conduct the jail in an orderly fashion. He would control the staff and what happens over there and report to us. He has assured us that he will keep in contact with us. He is an elected official and also has to report to the public. We basically handle the purse strings.

Mr. Petrisek – It's up to his discretion as to whether she is retained?

Mr. Pingie – Yes. He will ultimately choose his staff.

Mr. Schreiber – Asked Joe why he changed his mind – you were on the fence there for awhile as to what you wanted to do?

Mr. DeMott – I think it is time to take action. I do believe that Sheriff Mason is the best qualified to lead the staff there. We did take some time to look into a lot of the alternatives and I do have personal confidence in Sheriff Mason.

Mr. Schreiber – Do you feel there is going to be a lot of turn over of staff over there?

Mr. Pingie – He hasn't indicated anything to us about his staff other than he would prefer to make his own selections.

Mr. Schreiber – What is his salary?

Mr. Laurie – Around \$47,000.00.

Mr. Ball – If you stop in my office after the meeting, I can get you the exact figure.

Mr. Pingie – Any additional salary increase will be done through a salary board meeting. The savings to the county will be approximately \$80,000.00 by returning the Sheriff as Warden.

Mrs. Church – I have a lot of confidence in Brad and he has indicated to us that he is going to work with us and keep us apprised of any problems and will ask for our opinions and advice and share information.

Mr. Schreiber – So you don't expect any of the stuff that was going on over there to keep occurring?

Mr. Pingie – I think we all have plenty of confidence in Mr. Mason – I have known Brad for over 20 years and he is an elected official and was a top vote getter so I assume he has public support also.

Mr. Schreiber – Have you had anyone contact you that had anything negative to say about returning the Sheriff as Warden?

Mr. Pingie – No, I have not had one call or anyone state to me that they were against us taking this action.

Mrs. Church – I have not heard from anyone either that they were against this move. We needed to take action to resolve this issue.

Mr. Schreiber – Asked Tom if he wanted to say anything as he was a member of the prison board?

Mr. Ball – I was only a member by statute. What does a Controller have to do with overseeing the jail? I never felt that I had a level of expertise in the area of penal confinement.

Mr. DeMott – At one of the county commissioners training session the state director of prisons was asked the question whether jails in counties were jails or prisons and he said in counties they are jails – prisons imply places where you are going to be incarcerated for 2 or more years.

Mr. Schreiber – You don't get any benefit by calling the prisons verses jails – do you?

Mrs. Church – No.

Mr. Schreiber – How many applications have you received for the EMA director's position?

Mrs. Church – I think we have received about 12 and hopefully we will be able to review them next week and start the interview process.

Mr. DeMott – Mentioned that all the Commissioners went to an Emergency Management training program in Ridgeway on Wednesday. It was quite interesting.

Mr. Pingie – It was very informative. It dealt with the distribution of the money they receive and how the 911 center operates with the line fee and the wireless fee. They had a slide presentation and they are going to provide it to me. I thought it was that interesting.

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

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

Chief Clerk