

## MARCH 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Formally approved at April 13, 2021 meeting

FULL BOARD PRESENT; Also present: Norma Bird, Treasurer; Sue Kauwell, Prothonotary; Greg Molter, Planning/Zoning Director Kristin McLaughlin, SEDA-COG; Lloyd Bunch, Public; Geri Gibbons, Press Enterprise; Rick Dandes, The Daily Item; Geri Gibbons, Press Enterprise.

Mr. Holdren asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Assistant Solicitor Michael Dennehy. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

General Account Disbursements	\$169,593.30
General Account Receipts	\$288,537.64
General Account Checking .05%	\$1,038,947.68
Capital Reserve Fund .10%	\$9,853.43
Operating Reserve .10%	\$366,347.80
Total Checking	\$1,415,148.91
Act 13 Highway-Bridge .10%	\$232,399.81
Act 44 .05%	\$117,448.73
Act 89 .10%	\$146,764.32
Children and Youth Checking .05%	\$425,749.86
Facilities Fund .10%	\$65,624.44
Flood Mitigation .05%	\$2,815.94
Hazardous Material Account Checking .05%	\$15,659.34
Human & Community Services Checking .05%	\$105,834.11
Improvement Fund Checking .05%	\$9,616.17
Liquid Fuels Checking .05%	\$184,877.05
Offender Supervision Account Checking .17%	\$42,307.62
Storm Water Ordinance Escrow	\$34,961.05
Uniform 911 Surcharge .05%	\$732,638.95

Mr. Hartman moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren called for public comment. Mrs. Kauwell asked for an update on the sale of the County's Woodbine Lane properties, noting records from her office are being stored there and would need to be moved. Mr. Holdren said the properties are currently on the market and there have been a few inquiries. As the renovation project is wrapping up, moving records between buildings will be addressed next.

Mr. Dandes asked for comment on the Governor's announcement that Montour County would be the site of major solar energy investment. Mr. Holdren said beyond hearing a short sound bite on local newscasts, the Board has heard nothing from the Governor's Office. The County is in the process of updating its zoning ordinance to include solar energy development but has been left "completely in the dark" on the state's plans.

Mr. Dandes asked where the Board is philosophically on the subject of solar energy. Mr. Finn replied solar energy is a good idea. However, where you put it is what matters. For instance, Chevron has solar panels in its parking lots, which makes sense. Montour wants to take a smart approach in developing solar production. Could farmland be used? Possibly, he said, but Montour has some of the best soil in the United States and we need to be cognizant of that.

Mr. Finn said the state's solar development announcement is an ongoing problem with lack of communication from the Governor's Office. He pointed to the decision to no longer provide vaccines to smaller pharmacies. In Montour County, Danville Pharmacy administered some 3,000 doses, many of them to the most vulnerable populations in nursing homes. The pharmacy has provided vaccines to those living in elderly housing units. Who's going to do that now, he asked.

According to Mr. Holdren, 7,397 vaccines have been administered in Montour County and Danville Pharmacy has potentially delivered 40 percent of those vaccines. Further, Montour is leading the state in number of vaccines administered to adults and the way to do it is with local pharmacies. Saying he was very disappointed with the Governor, Mr. Holdren said the Wolf administration needs to be much more communicative with Montour County as the County needs to have its own say for the public wellbeing.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Mr. Holdren introduced Ms. McLaughlin, who presented SEDA-COG's 2020 Professional Services Agreement of \$70,300.00 to administer the CDBG program in Montour and Danville Borough. The agreement costs increased over the 2019 contract due to additional delivery fees required for DeLong Memorial Hall and Danville Area Community Center projects. Mr. Holdren moved to approve the agreement. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren approved a revision to the CDBG program, moving \$2,421.23 in leftover 2017 dollars from the Cooper Township sewer laterals program to the DACC sponsorship program. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Susquehanna Opportunities Inc. (CSO) to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program on behalf of the County at a fee of 4% administration and 4.09% housing administration from the \$1,198,992.43 grant. Mr. Finn seconded. Mr. Molter said a CSO staffer will be physically present at the County Human Services office three days a week and will field telephonic inquiries as well. Mr. Hartman said CSO will take a weight off the shoulder of the two-person Human Services Office, which is already responsible for a number of other programs. Program parameters are more generous than the previous round of funding with income limits at 80 percent of the County median income, said Mr.

Holdren, who said he expects many more County residents will be eligible for the rent and utility assistance offered under ERAP. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to approve a preliminary proposal from EADS Group to update the County's comprehensive plan for \$35,000.00. Mr. Hartman seconded. Mr. Holdren said the plan must be updated every 10 years, with the last one in 2009 completed by EADS. Mr. Holdren said a complete rewrite would cost six figures, and the cost estimate seems reasonable. He noted the public will have lots of opportunity for input over the 15-month period planning period proposed by EADS. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to enter into an agreement with Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania to provide information and referral services through its 2-1-1 help line answering service after regular working hours, weekends and holidays for \$782.00 per month from July 1 through June 30, 2022. Mr. Hartman seconded. Mr. Finn noted the cost is a savings from what the County had been paying 911. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve an addendum to the physician service contract with Steven Kramm to provide services at the Prison for an additional two-years retroactive to March 1 with no rate increase. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to accept a letter of retirement from Brock Deihl, part-time custodian, effective May 28. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to terminate the probationary employment of Jason Machinski, custodian, effective March 12. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to approve a resolution designating April 11 through 17 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Montour County. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

As evidence of feedback from the public, Mr. Holdren read an email from constituent Adrian Koehler of Liberty Township, stating his support of land use for solar energy, providing it is done so with local consideration and that the energy stays in Pennsylvania, and specifically in Montour County.

Mr. Finn said there have been requests for clarity regarding the distribution of Covid vaccines in light of the Governor's Office to no longer distributing them to small pharmacies. The Governor, he said, has injected confusion into the whole process and now people who received the first shot think they have to shop around for the second one, which is not true. He encouraged the public to write to legislators and the Governor's Office to complain about the inappropriateness of the action taken by the state.

Mr. Hartman moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$173,105.98; Children & Youth, \$66,582.99; Uniform 911, \$0; Human and Community Service, \$941.05; Facilities, \$164,366.89; Liquid Fuels, \$349.57; Other Funds, \$134,034.72. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk