

OCTOBER 28, 2014 MINUTES
Formally approved November 10, 2014 meeting

FULL BOARD PRESENT: Susan Kauwell, Prothonotary; Linda Weaver, Register & Recorder; Scott Lynn, Coroner; Steve Traub, Valley Township Municipal Authority; Paul Krizan, Larson Design; Lloyd Bunch, Public; Karen Blackledge, The Danville News.

Mr. Finn asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Solicitor Robert L. Marks. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

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

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

General Account Disbursements	\$397,614.28
General Account Receipts	\$142,462.17
General Account Checking .15%	\$1,268,954.55
Capital Reserve Fund .10%	\$35,126.56
Operating Reserve .10%	\$40,150.15
General MMA	\$0.00
Total Checking, MMAs	\$1,344,231.26
Act 13 Highway-Bridge .10%	\$119,330.52
Act 44 .15%	\$100.92
Act 78 Checking .15%	\$3,833.17
Children and Youth Checking .15%	\$261,987.12
Domestic Relations Checking .15%	\$153,694.67
Domestic Relations Incentive	\$165,919.64
Flood Mitigation .15%	\$1,837.86
Hazardous Material Account Checking .15%	\$15,651.50
Human & Community Services Checking .15%	\$54,321.21
Improvement Fund Checking .15%	\$8,561.59
Liquid Fuels Checking .15%	\$263,826.60
Medical Assistance Transportation .15%	\$148,194.70
Offender Supervision Account Checking .05%	\$15,602.89
Transit Fund Account Checking .15%	\$18,266.96
Wireless 911 .16%	\$145,774.47

Mr. Finn called for public comment. Mr. Bunch asked the Board what functions Montour would give up when it consolidates with Columbia County. Mr. Finn explained that functions with Columbia while maintaining or enhancing current services. The Domestic Relations Office will merge with Columbia effective November 1 and since functions have gone online in September, the public shouldn't see too much of a difference. Also, the trial officer has the say in whether hearings are held in Montour County. At this point, the Probation Office is merely a title change, with no changes to personnel. Mr. Finn said

Montour's Transit is far superior to Columbia's, and there are initial talks of forming a two-county authority. Montour currently has no GIS service, so there is the possibility of utilizing Columbia's. The most urgent area – and one where a merger or consolidation is almost a certainty – is 911. With looming state mandates that will cost millions of dollars, counties statewide will need to consolidate as far as equipment or regional centers. Montour is already exploring options with Columbia, Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties, and possibly Lycoming County, Mr. Finn said.

As the process evolves, Montour may take the lead in some areas and Columbia in others, while other County functions might not be a good fit for any kind of cooperative agreement, he said. Counties working together are nothing new, he said, pointing to SEDA Council of Governments, the Columbia Montour Snyder Union Mental Health/Mental Retardation Joinder and Columbia-Montour Aging as “success stories.”

Mr. Ward said the Board is not “giving the County away” but savings dollars so taxpayers are not overburdened. He pointed out that regionalization is the wave of the future, and noted the saying of there being strength in numbers is especially true when dealing with state and federal agencies.

Mr. Gerst agreed, saying the Board is “looking to the future to save taxpayers money.” Mr. Gerst said the public should look at the Board's record to know Commissioners have always acted in the best interests of their constituents. “I think the County should know us by now and trust us. We make sure we are all safe and not overtaxed.”

On a question from Mr. Bunch concerning the future of the Conservation District, Mr. Finn explained that would be up to the Department of the Environmental Protection as the County's role is to appoint directors.

Under old business, Ms. Shrawder reported bids as follows for the County Home accessibility project: General Contracting – Zartman Construction, \$26,930.00; Reilly Mechanical & Construction, \$38,600.00; Plumbing and Electrical – James D. Brouse Electric, Plumbing & Heating, \$1,255.00 for electrical and \$2,237.00 for plumbing. With the low bid on general contracting and the only bid for electrical/plumbing, that puts the total at \$30,392.00, which is a \$13,432.00 budgetary shortfall, Ms. Shrawder said. She said CDBG funds could be rebudgeted from other projects to make up the shortfall. Mr. Finn suggested looking into the possibility of Children & Youth Services funds being used as a match as CYS dollars are being used to remodel a portion of the building. Mr. Ward moved to table awarding the bids until the November 10 meeting. Mr. Gerst seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Traub and Mr. Krizan asked the Board about the possibility of restoring CDBG funds to the Valley Township sewer project. Previously allocated CDBG funds from a number of years ago were rebudgeted for other projects as the Valley sewer work wasn't ready to proceed; CDBG program guidelines require the funds to be expended in a certain time period

Mr. Krizan said after several years of negotiations with Danville Borough, Valley Township is ready to proceed with the extensions from the township to Danville Borough, with construction to begin in early 2015.

Mr. Finn congratulated the Township Authority for successfully moving forward on the sewer line expansion, which will allow for the development of a corridor for economic

development. An empty building at the former Texaco station is already in the process of being converted into a new business. As the CDBG program must benefit low-to-moderate income people, Mr. Finn asked if the owner of the new business would be willing to sign a contract to hire low-income workers. The Board indicated its willingness to restore funding and Mr. Ward said the issue will be addressed at the November 10 meeting.

Under new business, Mr. Ward moved to approve a supplemental federal aid project agreement with PennDOT for the Bridge 6 replacement project. Ninety-five percent of the \$1,524,000.00 cost will be paid with federal and state funds, with the remaining 5 percent paid by the County. Mr. Gerst seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Ward moved to adopt Resolution R-10-28-14 granting signatory authority to Commissioner Ward to sign the agreement. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Gerst moved to approve an agreement with Forensic Pathology Associates on behalf of the Coroner's Office to provide autopsy services for 2015 at a rate of \$1,390.00 for routine services and \$625.00 for neuropathy consultative services. Mr. Ward seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Ward moved to approve a \$1,000.00 allocation from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund to Danville Borough for upkeep of Danville Memorial Park, which recognizes all County veterans. Mr. Gerst seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Gerst moved to approve the following purchase of service agreements on behalf of Children & Youth Services: Pennsylvania Mentor and Family Care for Children and Youth. Mr. Ward seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Gerst moved to promote Jennifer Onisick from Children and Youth Services Caseworker I to Caseworker II with a corresponding salary increase of \$1,000.00, per the collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Ward seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Gerst moved to affirm the resignation of Helen Appleman as interim Domestic Relations Office manager effective October 24. Mr. Ward seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$340,223.10; Children & Youth, \$70,866.90; Transit, \$13,428.61; Liquid Fuels, \$6,868.44; Act 78, \$5,570.32; Domestic Relations, \$27,672.66; Human and Community Service, \$1,157.02. Mr. Ward seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk

