

## SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 MINUTES

Formally approved at October 8, 2019 meeting

FULL BOARD PRESENT; Also present: Norma Bird, Treasurer; Susan Kauwell, Prothonotary; Bob Stoudt, MARC; Nancy Bishop, Visitors Bureau; Todd Deroba, Sean Levan, Tyler Servose, Conservation District; Robert Snyder, Mary Snyder, public; Karen Blackledge, The Danville News.

Mr. Holdren asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Assistant Solicitor Robert Marks Jr. 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.

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

General Account Disbursements	\$177,918.52
General Account Receipts	\$43,303.90
General Account Checking 2.17%	\$1,633,473.21
Capital Reserve Fund 2.12%	\$54,603.10
Operating Reserve 2.12%	\$86,950.68
Total Checking	\$1,775,026.99
Act 13 Highway-Bridge 2.12%	\$198,446.06
Act 44 2.17%	\$92,422.87
Act 89 2.12%	\$112,151.05
Children and Youth Checking 2.17%	\$367,681.31
Facilities Fund .05%	\$819,450.74
Flood Mitigation 2.17%	\$2,745.82
Hazardous Material Account Checking 2.17%	\$22,083.41
Human & Community Services Checking 2.17%	\$84,332.77
Improvement Fund Checking 2.17%	\$26,431.53
Liquid Fuels Checking 2.17%	\$211,533.70
Offender Supervision Account Checking 2.17%	\$79,857.86
Storm Water Ordinance Escrow	\$33,866.05
Uniform 911 Surcharge 1.97%	\$888,539.74

Mr. Holdren called for public comment. There was none.

Mr. Finn introduced Montour County Conservation District (MCCD) staff Todd Deroba, Sean Levan and Tyler Servose, who gave a presentation of work done by the district. Mr. Levan said the MCCD's goal is to protect water quality and improve and restore streams in Montour County. This is done through addressing manure runoff from farms, streambank stabilization, stormwater management activities, and dirt and gravel road projects that remedy ditch erosion and poor drainage.

Projects include helping owners of both large and small farms with enhanced manure storage facilities and restoring green space, restoring the Limestone Creek Watershed to the point where the state is reintroducing wild trout to the creek, creating stable animal crossings over creeks as well as creating a larger retention basin for a local church. Since 2007, the district has utilized \$4,716,140.00 in Growing Greener grants and \$745,137.00 through Dirt and Gravel Road grant money for projects in Montour County. The district plans to apply for \$6,700,000.00 in the next round of Growing Greener grant money to continue its work.

The Board lauded the district for its support of the farming community, noting that 80 – 90 percent of farms in the County are compliant with sedimentation and manure management plans. Its work, too, of improving the water quality in the County helps the economy because it boosts visitors to the County and creates jobs for local contractors.

Under old business, Mr. Hartman moved to adopt Ordinance 6 of 2019 to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Commonwealth’s Department of Human Services for its HealthChoices behavioral health program and to authorize the Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania (BHARP) to become the primary contractor for the DHS program and to enter into a single agreement with a behavioral health managed care organization on behalf of the 23 County members of BHARP. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the intergovernmental cooperation agreement for BHARP to act on the County’s behalf regarding the behavioral health managed care program. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Under new business, Mr. Holdren introduced Mr. Stoudt from MARC and Ms. Bishop from Visitors Bureau, stating Commissioners have worked with both organizations since January to attempt to ensure the future of MARC for the continued operation of Montour Preserve, North Branch Canal Trail, Hopewell Park, Hess Recreation Area and MARC special events. The result is the County’s intention to increase the Hotel Tax from 3 to 5 percent, with the increase dedicated to support MARC funding into the future.

The dedicated funding, combined with discussions for a long-term lease of the Preserve from Talen, should given confidence to corporate partners looking for assurance of MARC’s continued viability, said Mr. Holdren, who noted two-thirds of Pennsylvania counties current assess a 5 percent Hotel Tax. The funding mechanism is not unique to the area as the Union County Board of Commissioners approved a similar levy to support the Buffalo Valley Rail Trails.

Mr. Stoudt said the news is a “game changer” for MARC operations. Ms. Bishop commented that a Visitors Bureau survey found outdoor recreation is the top reason visitors come to Montour County, adding the Montour Preserve and County trails are “a gem.” Mr. Finn agreed, saying robust recreational opportunities are among things that attract economic development.

Mr. Holdren moved to approve an intent to adopt an amendment to the Hotel Room Rental Tax by moving the rate from 3 to 5 percent for the purpose of funding tourist promotion. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve a lease agreement between the County, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Susquehanna Union Railroad Company and its affiliate, North Shore Railroad Company, related to the Multimodal Transportation Grant project. Under the

10-year lease, the County will pay \$1.00 annual rent to the Authority for a 10-year period to allow DRIVE to construct track facilities with the grant dollars. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve a lease agreement between DRIVE and the County related to the Multimodal Transportation Grant under which DRIVE will lease the County its property for \$1.00 per year for a five-year period to enable DRIVE to construct access facilities with the grant dollars. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren moved to enter into a lease agreement with Diversified Treatment Alternatives (DTA) retroactive to May 3, 2019, through August 31, 2024, under which DTA will rent the second floor and two rooms of the third floor of the County Administration Center (formerly Danville Elementary School) for \$3,768.00 per month through August, 31, 2019; \$4,768.00 per month from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021; and \$5,768.00 per month for two years beginning September 1, 2021, with a 5 percent increase yearly after that. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn Hartman moved to approve a \$27,287.29 Emergency Management Performance Grant agreement with PEMA for the period of October 1, 218 through September 30, 2021, and grant Commissioner Finn signatory authority for the document. Mr. Holdren seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to appropriate \$1,000.00 for Zamboni Park operations and \$2,000.00 for the Thomas Beaver Free Library from the County Hotel Tax Administration Fund. Mr. Hartman seconded. Mr. Holdren said the Administration Fund is a portion of Hotel Tax administration fees the County has set aside to fund worthwhile projects that might not be approved by the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau through regular Hotel Tax grants. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$170,573.61; Children & Youth, \$62,912.07; Liquid Fuels, \$401.35; Human and Community Service, \$996.07; Facilities, \$2,702.06; Other Funds, \$4,111.53. 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