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February 27, 2024
11:00 A.M.

FULL BOARDPRESENT; Also present: Susan M. Kauwell, Prothonotary; Norma Bird, Treasurer; Will McKenna, Sheriff; Greg Molter, Planning; Melissa Matthews, SEDA-COG; Hestia Brown, 4-H; Steve Bevans, Denise Baney, DCDC; Mark Giesen, DACC; Lenaire Ahlum, Henry Baylor, Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project; David Ackley, Mike Kuziak, Beth Goldman, Karen Tinstman, Diane Sones, Jared Fenstermacher, public; Anna Wiest, The Daily Item; Geri Gibbons, Press Enterprise.

Ms. Dressler . asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Rev. Molter. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

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

General Account Disbursements	\$299,934.78
General Account Receipts	\$18,661.03
General Account Checking	\$1,019,532.73
Capital Reserve Fund	\$5,070.61
Operating Reserve	\$1,162,734.87
Total Checking	\$2,187,338.21
Act 13 Highway-Bridge	\$112,546.48
Act 44	\$109,790.14
Act 89	\$229,432.03
American Rescue Plan	\$715.93
Children and Youth Checking	\$1,137,067.05
Debt Service Fund	\$1,235,309.88
ERAP 2	\$44,215.29
Flood Mitigation	\$2,868.51
Hazardous Material Account Checking	\$13,584.44
Human & Community Services Checking	\$124,227.64
Improvement Fund Checking .01%	\$17,877.51
Liquid Fuels Checking	\$263,242.55
Offender Supervision Account Checking	\$68,170.24
Opioid Settlement Fund	\$121,346.12
Storm Water Ordinance Escrow	\$52,078.55
Uniform 911 Surcharge	\$631,315.61
Whole Homes Repair	\$95,264.00

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

Mr. Finn moved to add a letter of support to the agenda on behalf of the Danville Area Community Center's grant application. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to add public comment related to the Susquehanna Valley Community College Project to the end of the meeting and limit comment to five minutes. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler called for public comment. Ms. Sones announced a Comedy Night for April 20 at Washies Fire Co. to benefit the pickleball courts project. She said of the \$700,0000 fund-raising goal, \$108,000.00 is in hand. Sunnybrook Park, which will host the site of the courts has put in \$20,000.00 for engineering costs.

Under old business, Mr. Lynn moved to not renew the current AED maintenance agreement through a third-party and instead handle maintenance in-house at a significant savings. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Under new business, Ms. Matthews presented the Montour Rural Broadband Sole Vendor Contract with ConxxNE for approval. The project, funded through CDBG FFY 2019 funds, will provide an auxiliary emergency operations center at the Montour-DeLong Fairgrounds and connectivity to the Blue Springs Trailer Park. The \$29,756.32 project includes environmental review and labor and compliance costs. Mr. Finn moved to approve the contract, pending solicitor review and providing the bond requirement is replaced with a 10 percent retainer. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to approve the 2022 CDBG Professional Services Agreement with SEDA-COG of \$71,100.00, with \$46,100.00 of the cost for Montour County services and the remaining \$25,000.00 for Danville Borough services. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Lynn moved to adopt Resolution R-2-27-2024 to approve submission on an updated Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Application 681,011.00 on behalf of the Danville Area Community Center for upgrades to its HVAC system. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn affirmed the hiring of Zachary Thomas Kremer as a Deputy Sheriff effective February 26 at a starting rate of \$17.00 per hour. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn read a proclamation designating the week of March 17 to 23 as Pennsylvania 4-H Week in Montour County. Ms. Brown accepted on behalf of 4-H.

Mrs. Dressler recognized Brian Stoudt on achieving Eagle Scout status.

Denise Baney and Steve Bevans of Danville Child Development Center accepted a resolution honoring DCDC on its 50th anniversary. Mr. Bevans said it was important to acknowledge the County's role in contributing to DCDC's success.

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Mr. Finn congratulated Ms. Matthews on her upcoming retirement from SEDA-COG and thanked her for her service to the County. He also noted that Press Enterprise reporter Geri Gibbons was leaving the area for new employment and thanked her for being a valued asset to the people of Montour County.

Mr. Lynn moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$515,095.93; Children & Youth, \$100,973.09; Liquid Fuels, \$475.05; Human and Community, \$1,980.70; Operating Reserve, \$311.20; Uniform 911, \$96,884.84; Other, \$57,159.53. Mrs. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

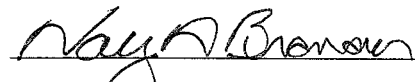
The Board opened the floor to Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project representatives. Mr. Baylor said investing in the community college would reap a 600 percent return over 10 years. He said there are 8,500 unfilled trades jobs in an eight-county area and that workforce development doesn't fill that gap. The college would focus on such trades, with the majority of students likely working adults, giving them the ability to step up in the workforce. Mr. Baylor said the investment sought by the SVCEP from the County amounts to a \$15.00 tax per household.

Mr. Ackley spoke as a lifelong resident of the County, saying it's a great place to raise a family and he wants people to stay here. The college, he said, would help both younger students and those returning to the workforce.

Mr. Kuziak remarked that he houses people from five continents who come here to work the kind of jobs the community college would offer classes for. He said the community college would be one of the best things to happen to Montour County since Geisinger.

Saying all of Columbia County's covered bridges are wheelchair accessible, Mr. Fenstermacher asked the County to make the Sam Wagner covered bridge accessible. Mr. Finn said the bridge, which Montour shares with Northumberland County, is currently closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. He asked Mr. Fenstermacher to bear with the counties while they work on the bridge repair project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk