

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Robert Postal; Kevin Kodish; Noah Wise: Chief Clerk Cathy Romig; Solicitor Steven Snook; and Fiscal Assistant Charity Larson.

Guests present were, Treasurer Diane Griffith, MCCF Warden Jason Kormanic, Deputy Warden Eric Gates, Public Safety Director Phil Lucas, Brian Fleegal, Planning Director James Lettiere, Grants Liaison Michael Fonti, Matt Harper of EADS Group, Kathy Whalen of Juniata Valley Behavioral & Developmental Services, EMS personnel Elwood Barger, Tim Nilson, Michelle Shaffer, and Joy Byler, Motorcycle Safety Representatives Phil Myers, Ryan Myers, and Rose Parson, Helen Kirk, and Addie Parson and Arika Henry from MCTV.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Postal.

- I. **Invocation:** The Invocation was given by Commissioner Kodish.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to accept the minutes of the Regular Meetings of April 18, 2024. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. **Approval of Bills:**

- 1. **General Fund, Accounts Payable**  
 Ck. #'s 145790-146135 EFT #'s 601676-601692 in the amount of \$1,346,754.25
- 2. **Payroll Account**  
 Ck. #'s 79827-79836 and Direct Deposit Advice #'s 55562-55791 in the amount of \$430,373.06
- 3. **911 Account**  
 Ck. #'s 52791-52794 and EFT #'s 80060-80064 in the amount of \$6,705.75
- 4. **Liquid Fuels Act 89 Account**  
 EFT # 8140 in the amount of \$54.76

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve payment of bills as listed above. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. **Treasurer's Report:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**4/17/2024-4/30/2024**

<b>General Account Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$1,600,870.40</b>
<b>DEBITS</b>	
Deposits Receipts #120483-120687	946,127.04
Transfer from	
Transfer from 911	0.00
Voided Checks	548.33
Transfer from LEPC	0.00
Interest	147.57
American Rescue	147.57
<b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>	<b>\$946,822.94</b>
<b>CREDITS</b>	
Bills Paid CK #'S145790-146135 EFT #'S 601676-601692	1,346,754.25
Transfer to Payroll CK 79827-79836 DD 55562-55791	430,373.06
Adjustment	0.00
NSF Check	4,187.56
Transfer to Coroner	0.00
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>\$1,781,314.87</b>
<b>Ending Balance (Interest @ 4.550% as of 4/30/2024)</b>	<b>\$766,378.47</b>
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<b>Capital Reserve Account</b>	<b>\$12,406,073.20</b>
Invested at JV Bank @ 4.550% as of 4/30/2024	
Report Subject to Audit	

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Treasurer's Report as received, subject to audit. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**VI. Meetings and Events:**

*Chairman Postal:*

*Board of Elections  
Workshop Meetings  
CareerLink Employee Kids Courthouse Tour  
Lewistown Borough Delinquent Taxes Discussion  
Probation Chief Meeting  
Opioid Trust Conference  
Opioid Trust Executive Meeting*

*Commissioner Kodish:*

*Board of Elections  
Regional Services Property Committee  
Workshop Meetings  
Lewistown Borough Delinquent Taxes Discussion  
SEDA-COG Local Development Corporation  
SEDA-COG Board  
Juniata River Valley Visitors Bureau Board  
Veterans Dinner  
Probation Chief Meeting  
Prison Board*

*Commissioner Wise:*

*Board of Elections  
Salary Board  
Workshop Meetings  
Election Day Polling Locations Visits  
EFSP Meeting  
Staff Exit Interview  
Veterans Dinner  
CTC After Prom at JYVYMCA  
Mifflin Juniata Opioid Committee  
Probation Chief Meeting  
Prison Board*

**VII. Public Comment:**

*None*

**VIII. New Business:**

A. Proclamation – May is Mental Health Awareness Month

## Proclamation

### “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

**May 2024**

**WHEREAS**, Mental Health is an essential part of overall well-being, impacting individuals, families, and communities across Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata counties;

**WHEREAS**, Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services strives to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in the lives of Pennsylvanians and to celebrate recovery from mental illness;

**WHEREAS**, despite its prevalence, mental health remains shrouded in stigma, preventing many from seeking help;

**WHEREAS**, early intervention and access to quality care are crucial for managing mental health conditions and improving the quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services, along with other agencies and organizations across the tri-county region, is applying unique approaches to sharing the valuable opportunity to celebrate the tremendous strides made in central Pennsylvania promoting mental health awareness and increasing the public's knowledge that effective services and support are available.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata acting as Juniata Valley Behavioral and Developmental Services, in recognition of the importance of raising awareness, fighting stigma, and promoting mental health resources, do hereby proclaim **May 2024 to be “Mental Health Awareness Month”** in Huntingdon County, Mifflin County and Juniata County urging all citizens to challenge stigma, seek help, support organizations and create safe and supportive environments for open conversations about mental health. Together, we can create a community where everyone feels empowered to prioritize their mental well-being and seek help when needed.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

B. Proclamation – May is Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

**PROCLAMATION  
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH  
MAY 2024**

*Whereas, the safety of all Pennsylvania motorists is an issue of the highest consequence and all highway users should unite in the safe sharing of roadways throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and*

*Whereas, motorcycle riding is a popular form of recreation and transportation for thousands of people across the Commonwealth and our nation; and*

*Whereas, the Commonwealth's licensed motorcyclists are required to keep their vehicles inspected and obey current laws relative to operator safety equipment; and*

*Whereas, in efforts to reduce the number of motorcycle crashes and fatalities, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation encourages all motorcyclists to take advantage of free training courses through Pennsylvania's Motorcycle Safety Program and pledge to be one less fatality by visiting [www.LiveFreeRideAlive.com](http://www.LiveFreeRideAlive.com); and*

*Whereas, it is especially important that the citizens of our Commonwealth be aware of motorcycles on the streets and highways and recognize the importance of staying alert, practicing safe driving techniques, and promoting motorcycle safety; and*

*Whereas, during the month of May, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education of Pennsylvania (ABATE), and the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Dealers Association (PMDA) will continue their advocacy of motorcycle safety.*

*Therefore, in recognition of motorcycle safety on our Commonwealth's roads and highways, we, the Commissioners of Mifflin County do hereby proclaim May, 2024 as MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH. We encourage all motorcyclists to continue their efforts to promote safety and motorcycle awareness and all drivers to share the road and respect the unique safety needs of motorcyclists.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

C. Proclamation – May 19-25, 2024 is EMS Week

**EMS Week Proclamation**

*To designate the Week of May 19-25, 2024 as Emergency Medical Services Week*

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services System consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mifflin County Commissioners in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 19-25, 2024, as

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EMS Week theme is **EMS WEEK: Honoring Our Past. Forging Our Future.** We encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

D. Proclamation – May 5-11, 2024 is Corrections Employee Week

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Corrections Employee Week**  
**May 5-11, 2024**

*Whereas, Pennsylvania's correctional system is the oldest in the nation, evolving from the establishment of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Jail in 1773 and the Eastern Penitentiary in 1829; and*

*Whereas, the "Pennsylvania System," as it became known, was the leading influence in the development of penology throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the forerunner of modern corrections; and*

*Whereas, in the face of the current public health crisis, correctional employees throughout our county have risen to the challenge of implementing increased health and safety precautions to ensure the well-being of all those in their care; and*

*Whereas, much is expected from the men and women who supervise offenders in correctional facilities every day, and without whose daily hard work and sacrifices the justice system could not operate; and*

*Whereas, correctional employees are skilled professionals who must act as counselors, communicators, educators and experts at crisis interventions, and must protect our safety while maintaining their professional demeanor, often in a challenging environment; and*

*Whereas, we take this week to celebrate the people performing honorable, and sometimes difficult and dangerous work, and we thank them for their outstanding service to the people of Mifflin County.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners proclaim May 5-11, as **CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK** in Mifflin County.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- E. Request for exoneration of delinquent real estate taxes and relieve Kathy Whitsel, Assistant Director of Tax Services from collecting this tax:

- Parcel No. 04,04-0260--,001 - mobile home was removed

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- F. Request for exoneration of 2024 county real estate tax bill and relieve the Tax Collector from collecting this bill:

- Parcel No. 10,00-0117 located in McVeytown Borough - \$416.33 – Veterans exempt status
- Parcel No. 17,13-0178 located in Granville Township - \$118.28 – Mobile home was removed
- Parcel No. 17,13-0178,001 located in Granville Township - \$79.64 – Mobile home was removed

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- G. Request for exoneration of 2023 county portion per capita taxes:

- Newton Hamilton Borough Tax Collector Melody Kane – 1

*Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- H. Contract with Patrick J. Zirpoli, LLC, Milanville, PA for the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Audit at the Correctional Facility - \$4,000.00

Warden Kormanic explained PREA is a federal law that aims to prevent, investigate, report, and punish for sexual assaults that happen within prisons. An audit is conducted every three years to assure compliance.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- I. Proposal from Computer Information Systems (CIS), Highland Park, IL to provide data conversion and importation of the 911 CAD System - \$550,154.00 to be paid out of county 911 funds

Public Safety Director Phil Lucas stated the current CAD member is going out of business as of the end of this year so a new member had to be identified. They were able to work

with other counties to identify CIS as an appropriate replacement. This new system will actually provide better data service to first responders.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

J. Appointment of William Haughwout as the Chairman of the Agriculture Land Preservation Board

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve. Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

K. 2024 Mifflin County Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funding Round II grant agreement, for the Wayne Township Canal Gatekeepers House fencing and landscaping project in the amount of \$5,194.00

Planning Director James Lettiere said this agreement is to approve improvements including a section of three rail fencing to prevent people from falling of the edge of the yard and for the purchase of three red maple trees for ascetics.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

L. Professional and Technical Services Agreement with SEDA-Council of Governments for the administration of the County's Whole-Home Repairs Program Grant

Grants Liaison Michael Fonti stated the professional agreement for the Whole-Home Program would be a total of \$46,482.94. That will be used to assist with utilizing \$325,000.00 of Whole-Home funding.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

M. Professional and Technical Services Agreement with SEDA-Council of Governments for the administration of the County's Housing Rehabilitation Program (HOME and CDBG)

Grants Liaison Michael Fonti explained the total base of contract would be \$21,000.00. There would then be a per unit prices for costs of needs dependent on what needs renovated. The Whole-Home and Home programs will work in conjunction to provide services to local home owners.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

N. Notice of award to C&R Directional Boring, LLC in the amount of \$1,454,623.00 for the purchase and installation of potable water lines for the Hawstone SR33 water line improvement project in Granville Township

Grants Liaison Michael Fonti stated this is to assist homeowners whose water supplies have been affected by contamination of wells due to close proximity of sewage tanks. This would assist 38 homes.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

O. Notice of award to SE Construction Group, LLC in the amount of \$980,471.00 for the purchase and installation of a potable water tank for the Hawstone SR33 water line improvement project in Granville Township

Grants Liaison Michael Fonti said this is for the water tank needed for the project of installing potable water lines for the Hawstone SR33 area.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

P. Recommendation to begin negotiations with Michael Baker International, for the preparation of the County's ten (10) year Comprehensive Plan Update in the amount of \$142,236.00

Planning Director James Lettiere explained they received four proposals. There was a sub-committee review meeting to discuss each proposal. After consideration of each offer and presentation of implementation by each proposing entity, it was decided Michael Baker International came across as exceptional and it was felt their approach met the needed demands of the Comprehensive Plan. This was the highest proposal however Mr. Lettiere feels there may be room for negotiation. He is seeking approval to move forward with beginning negotiations with Michael Baker International in the hopes of securing an approvable contract.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**Q. Personnel:**

- Rescind the resignation of Briana Estep from Children and Youth Caseworker
- Resignation of Tim Miller from Part-time Corrections Officer effective April 21, 2024
- Transfer of Logan Wincott from Children & Youth Caseworker to Judicial Assistant effective April 22, 2024
- Hiring of Douglas Marks for Court Tipstaff effective May 6, 2024

*Motion was made by Commissioner Wise to approve. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**IX. Adjournment:**

*With no other business on the agenda, Commissioner Postal adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary*

ATTEST:

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*Chief Clerk*