

Lewistown, PA

June 1, 2017

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Stephen Dunkle, Kevin P. Kodish and Robert Postal, Jr.; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig; Solicitor James McClure and Confidential Clerk George Welsh.

Kiernan Schalk of The Sentinel/County Observer was the only representative present from the news media.

Guests present were Treasurer Debra Civitts; Correctional Facility Warden Michael Book; Auditor Helen Kirk; Megan Buchy, Ashley Baxter, Hilliary Benny, Kristin Matula, Mackenzie Veet, Katie Mumper, Erika Rowland, Nicole Kitzmiller, Cerissa Herman, Daris Ciecierski, David Smith, Nicole Patkalitsky, Children and Youth; Planning Director William Gomes; Director of Elections Zane Swanger; Probation Officer Adam Boreman; MIS Director Nate Smitchko and Roger Herto from MCTV.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Kodish.

**I. Invocation:** The Invocation was given by Commissioner Postal.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2017. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**IV. Approval of Bills:**

1. General Fund, Accounts Payable:

Cks. #114352 to 114683 and EFTs #22973 to 22989 in the amount of \$482,706.90

2. Payroll Account:

Cks. #77701 to 77727 and Direct Deposit Advices #13311 to 13538 in the amount of \$396,302.11

3. 911 Account:

Cks. # 51351 to 51355 and EFTs # 20345 to 20350 in the amount of \$19,832.26

4. Liquid Fuels Account:

Cks. #1639 in the amount of \$10,193.46

5. Liquid Fuels Act 89 Account:

EFT # 8055 in the amount of \$76.73

6. CDBG Account:

Ck. # 1347 in the amount of \$9,050.00

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

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Corrected 05/03/2017 to 05/16/2017

Ending Balance – Previous Minutes

\$ 7,171,012.87

<i>Credit – Transfer to Capital Reserve</i>		\$ 5,106,000.00
<i>Updated Balance</i>		\$ 2,065,012.87
<i>05/17/2017 to 05/30/2017</i>		
<u><i>General Account Starting Balance</i></u>		<u>\$ 2,065,012.87</u>
<i>Deposits – Receipts #86931-87036</i>		311,109.98
<i>Total Debits</i>		\$ 311,109.98
<i>Bills Paid – Cks. #114352-114683</i>		
<i>EFTs #22973-22989</i>		\$ 482,706.90
<i>Transfer to Payroll – Cks. #77701-77727</i>		
<i>DD #13311-13538</i>		396,302.11
<i>NSF CKS</i>		3,603.32
<i>Total Credits</i>		\$ 882,612.33
<i>Ending Balance – Interest @ 1.060%</i>		\$ 1,493,510.52
<i>Liquid Fuels</i>	<i>1.060% @ JVB</i>	429,488.41
<i>Liquid Fuels – Act 89</i>	<i>1.060% @ JVB</i>	227,537.79
<i>LEPC</i>	<i>1.060% @ JVB</i>	29,099.93
<i>911 Telephone Account</i>	<i>1.060% @ JVB</i>	2,185,185.39
<i>Capital Reserve Account</i>	<i>1.080% @ JVB</i>	
	<i>General Account Funds</i>	
	<i>Total Capital Reserve</i>	\$ 11,861,623.48

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to accept the Treasurer’s Report as received, subject to audit. Commissioner Dunkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**VI. Meetings and Events:**

*Chairman Kodish:*

*Election Computation and Certification  
Regional Services Corporation Property Committee  
Economic Development – Resources and Risks Sub-Committee  
SEDA-COG Board  
Internet Study  
Phone System Meeting with MIS  
Planning Commission*

*Commissioner Dunkle:*

*Election Computation  
Department Head Meetings  
Judiciary Meetings  
Prison Meetings  
Tax Claim Meetings  
GIS Meetings*

*Commissioner Postal:*

*Housing Authority Meeting  
Planning Commission  
SEDA-COG Natural Gas Co-Op Meeting in Bellefonte: Perry County had been recognized as a member. Mifflin County, Centre County and Clinton County were the founding members for the Natural Gas Co-Op. We will be getting an amendment to the Agreement to let Perry County be a member. That is a Milestone for the Co-Op.*

**VII. Public Comment:**

*Mr. Gomes: We are working on an internet survey for residents of Mifflin County. We have been working on the business side as well as the public side. We are going to do a mailing in about a week to 2,000 households selected from each municipality. We hope we get a good response. Our track record on mailings has been pretty good.*

*Commissioner Dunkle: What would you consider a good response?*

*Mr. Gomes: The last time we did one we got 32%. Twenty years ago, we did one and got 42% because they just did reassessment.*

**VIII. New Business:**

*A. Proclamation designating June 1, 2017 as Child Welfare Caseworker Appreciation Day*

***Proclamation Designating June 1, 2017, as "Child Welfare Caseworker Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania***

WHEREAS, Every day in this Commonwealth thousands of children are at risk of child abuse and neglect or have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Mifflin County recognizes the need to intervene to protect Pennsylvania's children; and

WHEREAS, Mifflin County child welfare caseworkers are responsible for the difficult tasks of investigating child abuse, providing services to families, assessing safety, initiating steps to protect children and providing services to ensure that children are provided with healthy and nurturing care and support as they transition into adulthood and needed services in an effort to reunify families; and

WHEREAS, The work of caseworkers requires them to enter into situations in which their personal safety may be put at risk; and

WHEREAS, Child welfare caseworkers work in severely trying and emotional situations with children who have been victimized by physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and other forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, To be successful, child welfare caseworkers must develop great skill in working with families who are in crisis situations, struggling with mental health challenges, suffering from drug and alcohol conditions, poverty and other difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, Child welfare caseworkers selflessly undertake the endeavor of protecting the children of this Commonwealth, often with low pay, long hours, tremendous demands, little appreciation and great criticism, all of which has a dramatic impact on their personal lives; and

WHEREAS, Every year caseworkers are injured or killed in their pursuit to protect children across the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, caseworkers in Pennsylvania investigated 40,590 reports of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, Innumerable injuries and deaths of children have been averted due to the efforts of child welfare caseworkers;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mifflin County Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 1, 2017, as "Child Welfare Caseworker Appreciation Day" in Mifflin County

Proclaimed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2017

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the June 1, 2017 as Child Welfare Caseworker Appreciation Day. Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*Ms. Patkalitsky: I would like to echo what the Proclamation says. We are trying to do the best we can for the children of Mifflin County with much cynicism, but we do a good job for the children of the County.*

- B. *Request from Miffco Tax Service, Inc., Lewistown, PA for exoneration of the county portion of per capita taxes for the years 1983 through 2016 totaling \$2,287.50*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the exoneration of the county portion of per capita taxes from Miffco Tax Service, Inc. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*Commissioner Postal: It goes back to 1983?*

*Chairman Kodish: They go after people for a long time.*

- C. *Correct exonerations from the April 6, 2017 meeting on Parcel No. 18,08-231 – Correct amount to exonerate is \$121.13 for the 2015 and 2016 Supplemental*

*Chairman Kodish: What happened there is we approved the County and Municipal amount but we only need to approve the County amount.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the correct exonerations on Parcel No. 18,08-231. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- D. *Resolution No. 7 of 2017 authorizing the Chairman to sign the Highway Safety Patrol Grant for sobriety checkpoints and expanded DUI/underage drinking enforcement*

**RESOLUTION No. 7 of 2017**

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Commissioners of Mifflin

County and it is hereby resolved by authority of same, that the

Chairman of the Mifflin County Commissioners be authorized and

directed to sign the attached grant on its behalf.

held the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2017

*Mr. Boreman: It pays overtime to local police for mobile DUI patrols.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve Resolution No. 7 of 2017. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- E. *Request for exoneration of 2017 county portion per capita taxes*

- *Bret Treaster, Derry Township Tax Collector – 158*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the exoneration of 2017 county portion of per capita taxes. Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- F. *Purchase of Service Agreement for use, if needed, by Children and Youth:*

- *Bethany Christian Services of Central Pennsylvania, Lancaster, PA*

*Ms. Patkalitsky: Described the Agreement. Incorrect date is on document.*

*Chairman Kodish: We will fix that date.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*G. Sub-recipient agreement for Habitat for Humanity between Derry Township, Mifflin County and Habitat for Humanity for use of CDBG funds to purchase land*

*Mr. Lettiere: Purchase of a vacant piece of land for an affordable housing unit for a family that has gone through the program. Our Solicitor is OK with the contents of the Agreement. Pennsylvania Game Commission is examining the eastern small footed bat issue. Hopefully, we will have a response by June 7<sup>th</sup>. There may be a potential habitat issue with these bats. Habitat needs to build a structure before the end of the year.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Sub-recipient agreement for Habitat for Humanity. Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*H. Resolution No. 8 of 2017 decrying proposed FY 2017-2018 state funding cuts*

**RESOLUTION NO. 8 of 2017**

A resolution of the county of Mifflin, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, decrying proposed FY 2017-2018 state funding cuts for key human services and criminal justice programs in House Bill 218.

**WHEREAS**, counties provide crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable individuals, such as child welfare and protective services, mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, homeless assistance, meal programs, lottery funded transportation, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, counties continually seek innovative approaches in the delivery of those services which affords the opportunity to tailor available dollars to specific local needs with better outcomes for both client and taxpayer; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania leads the nation in the adoption and implementation of criminal justice system reforms and best practices, such as diversion, behavioral health services, and the Justice Reinvestment I and II initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget proposal amended into House Bill 218, Printer's Number 1236 contains sweeping cuts in funding for criminal justice, human services, and administrative programs that counties perform on the Commonwealth's behalf, amounting to millions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, under House Bill 218, these cuts would be significant and devastating to counties, including the following dollar amounts to Mifflin County:

- Juvenile probation - \$32,328 (100%)
- Adult probation – \$21,580 (100%)
- Intermediate punishment programs – \$88,566 (100%)
- County trial reimbursement – N/A
- Senior judge reimbursement – \$5,237 (100%)
- Court interpreter county grants - \$1,321 (100%)
- County court reimbursement – \$13,828 (15%)
- Jurors cost reimbursement –N/A
- Human Services Development Fund – \$7,500 (15%)
- Homeless Assistance – \$4,124 (15%)

**WHEREAS**, these cuts will affect Mifflin County's ability to help fund Big Brothers Big Sisters (mentoring programs), LUMINA Center (afterschool tutoring/mentoring program), The Abuse Network (domestic violence programming), Clear Concepts Counseling (drug/alcohol intervention), Service Coordination (grant writing and other coordinating efforts) Homeless Prevention programs (such as Shelter Services),

and the continuation of Evidence Based Probation Services proven to lower recidivism, resulting in lower jail populations along with less juvenile placements; and

**WHEREAS**, these cuts will cause inmate populations to swell, decrease public safety, and result in a lack of uniformity in the provision of justice across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal argues that savings are to be had in reinventing government, but the cuts in House Bill 218 run exactly opposite to that objective, wholly dismantling successful initiatives already in place, reversing the significant and documented gains made by the commonwealth and counties, and thwarting investment in any new innovations as counties focus just on meeting minimum service delivery thresholds; and

**WHEREAS**, the eliminated funds and funding reductions do not come with relief for any mandates, nor do they reduce caseloads, which will ultimately mean increases in county property taxes while programs remain regulated and controlled by state policy; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Mifflin County remains committed to the important role we play in delivery of services to and safety of our communities; and

**RESOLVED**, that Mifflin County stands ready to work in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania in support of counties' top priority for 2017, human services funding and system reform; and

**RESOLVED**, that Mifflin County calls upon the General Assembly and the Administration to meet their full responsibility to counties as their service delivery partners, and ultimately to their citizens most in need, in the FY 2017-2018 state budget; and

**RESOLVED**, that Mifflin County calls upon the General Assembly to recognize that any vote for the lack of adequate funding in House Bill 218 as passed by the House is not a vote for a "no tax increase budget," but a vote for county property tax increases; and

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mifflin County legislative delegation, to Governor Wolf, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Mifflin, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2017

*Commissioner Postal: I did a quick calculation and that is over \$175,000.00 in cuts.*

*Chairman Kodish: That is just for Mifflin County.*

*Commissioner Dunkle: There is a very serious issue that has been developing over several years and that issue simply stated is this that the State, the General Assembly, in their effort not to increase taxes at the State level have been having services that the State here before had picked-up go to the County. The State has 101 different ways of raising revenue, we are very limited as to the revenue sources that we can use to pick-up the slack that the State has created. Basically it falls on property taxes. It is really, really unfair that the State is doing this through local government across the Commonwealth. The State needs to step up to the plate and realize that they have an obligation to provide these services and come up with the appropriate funding.*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve Resolution No. 8 of 2017.  
Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- I. Transfer of Erica Rowland from Caseworker to Eligibility Clerk in the children and Youth Department effective June 5, 2017*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Transfer of Erica Rowland.  
Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- J. Hiring of part-time Correction Officers Karen Laub and Kyle Marker effective June 5, 2017*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Postal to approve the Hiring of part-time*

*Corrections Officers Karen Laub and Kyle Marker. Seconded by Commissioner Dunkle. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- K. Resignation of Mindy Musser from Healthy Communities Coordinator from the Human Services Office effective July 7, 2017*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Resignation of Mindy Musser. Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

- L. Appointment of Heather Marker Shotzberger for an unpaid intern in the Sheriff's Office effective June 12, 2017*

*Motion was made by Commissioner Dunkle to approve the Appointment of Heather Marker Shotzberger. Seconded by Commissioner Postal. The motion was unanimously approved.*

***IX. Adjournment:***

*With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Kodish adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.*

---

*Secretary*

*ATTEST:*

---

*Chief Clerk*