

**November 21, 2024**  
**Office of the County of Elk Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Elk County, Ridgway, PA**

The County of Elk Commissioners met on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM, County of Elk Courthouse Annex, Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Commissioners M. Fritz Lecker, Matthew G. Quesenberry and Gregory J. Gebauer. Also present were Rick Brown, Solicitor; Patrick Straub, Chief Clerk; Emily Anders, Office Administrator; Calvin Moore, IT Director; Nancy Baker, CYS Director; Mike McAllister, EMA Director; Matt Frey, Treasurer; Karin Pfingstler, Penn Highlands Healthcare; Elizabeth Erich and Leslie Bauer, Elk County Humane Society; Zack Pontious, Dwight Hoare, Gary Anderson, Tom Kosco, Dr. Kate Fernan, and Doug Cunningham, Elk County Healthcare Coalition; and Marilyn Secco, Press.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**– November 6, 2024 Commissioners Meeting

**Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS –**

1. Leslie Bauer with an update on the Elk County Humane Society. **Elizabeth Erich, Elk County Humane Society Shelter manager, spoke of funding for the Shelter and the projects they are undertaking included a spay/neuter clinic. She stated that thanks to donors, they have raised the money to purchase a van for the Elk County Humane Society.**

**RESOLUTIONS –**

1. Resolution 2024-26 - Amended Resolution for the Elk County Healthcare Authority. **M. Fritz Lecker explained the resolution would expand the Board members from seven to nine members on the board. The Commissioners studied other boards and have found these to be more effective. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS - N/A**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request by Elk County Conservation Board, reappoint Russ Braun to the Elk County Conservation Board of Directors for a 4 year term to expire December 31, 2028. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**

2. Appoint Elk County Healthcare Authority Board Members and set terms. **M. Fritz Lecker presented the following members to serve on the board followed by their terms:**

- a. **Gary Anderson – 5 year term**
- b. **Dwight Hoare – 4 year term**
- c. **Peter Straub – 4 year term**
- d. **Dr. Kate Fernan – 3 year term**
- e. **Doug Cunningham – 3 year term**
- f. **Zack Pontious – 2 year term**
- g. **Nathan Higgins – 2 year term**
- h. **Dr. David Johe – 1 year term**
- i. **Crystal Ginther – 1 year term**

**Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**

3. Request by Spring Creek Township, application for an allocation of County Liquid Fuel Tax Funds in the amount of \$6,000.00 for township road maintenance. **Motion by M. Fritz Lecker, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
4. Request by Veteran Affairs, approval of benefits for 5 Widow burials. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
5. New contract with Centre Communications to construct new 180ft. Emergency Communication tower. **M. Fritz Lecker explained the tower was for 911 access in remote areas including Jones Township. The tower would be paid with ARPA funds. These funds need to be allocated by December 31, 2024. Real estate was in the process of being purchased for the tower. This item is just for information today as the contract was not ready to be presented yet. Matthew G. Quesenberry made a motion to table until the December 5, 2024 meeting, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously. Rick Brown asked the Commissioner to vote so that M. Fritz Lecker could sign all paperwork related to the real estate transactions. Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
6. Request by CYS, renewal contract with Taylor Diversion Program, Inc. for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with a 29.7% increase. **Nancy Baker explained she was shocked by the large increase. Because CYS contracts run from July to June, there were some placements in this fiscal year at Taylor Diversion Program. The placements were no longer there, but they would need to pay for the previous placements at the higher rate. Nancy stated they would probably not use this program in future. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**
7. Request by CYS, Addendum adding two more certificates of compliance for shelter placements. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – (The following correspondence, if any, is available in the Commissioner’s office for further review.)**

1. The EADS Group (received November 1st) regarding Jay Twp Authority’s intent to submit a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal application



to the PA DEP. Project Location: STP and outfall located in Jay Twp. Project Name: Discharge to Bennett Branch Sinnemahoning Creek. This notice is required by PA Act 14, which amended the Comm of PA Administrative Code and Acts 67, 68 and 127 of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). A 30 day public comment period is required.

#### **GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- All Elk County municipalities have approved their resolutions for America250PA. **M. Fritz Lecker stated that there would be more information being presented as the County works on plans for America250PA celebration.**
- Announcement of Aidan Bobik as America250PA Coordinator
- Please continue to pray for our military personnel, our families and our children, their teachers, all elected officials and peace in the world.
- **Matthew G. Quesenberry spoke of the recount required for the election. He thanked all election workers for their hard work and dedication.**

#### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS – N/A**

#### **QUESTIONS FROM TAXPAYERS -N/A**

#### **ADJOURN MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM on a motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**10:00 A.M. Thursday, December 5, 2024**

**Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room, Courthouse Annex**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

