

November 6, 2024
Office of the County of Elk Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

Elk County, Ridgway, PA

The County of Elk Commissioners met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM, County of Elk Courthouse Annex, Conference Room 1. 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; Becki Taylor, CDGB Coordinator; Mark Head, Area Transportation Authority of Northwestern PA; Cortney Pahel, Dickinson Center; Karin Pfingstler, Penn Highlands Healthcare; William Seely, guest; and Marilyn Secco, Press.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PRESENTATIONS –

1. Cortney Pahel, Program Director at Dickinson Center for recognition of National Parents as Teachers Day. **Cortney Pahel spoke of the Parents as Teachers Program and the positive effects from the program. She was presented with a Proclamation declaring November 8, 2024 as National Parents as Teachers Day.**
2. Mark Head, CEO of Area Transportation Authority of Northwestern PA-operations update and review of Act 44 local match requirements. **Mark Head spoke of the funding for ATA including Act 44. ATA employees 53 people in Elk County. Services offered by ATA have been changing to keep up with the needs of Elk County.**

RESOLUTIONS –

1. Resolution 2024-27-Request by Planning Department, Revision to the FY 2022 CDBG Application. **Becki Taylor stated the Johnsonburg Hotel Cleanup Project was completed. This resolution would allow the remaining funds from the project (\$2,963.00) to be reallocated for the Millstone Township Accessible Entrance Project (\$630.00) and the Harrison Ave Storm Sewer Project (\$2,333.00). Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Reappointment of William Laird to the St. Marys Municipal Airport Authority Board for a term to expire December 31, 2029. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

2. Request by Planning Department, reappointment of John Schatz to the Elk County Planning Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2028. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
3. Request by Horton Township, application for an allocation of County Liquid Fuel Tax Funds in the amount of \$6,000.00 for oil and chipping. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
4. Courthouse lawn use request by Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce, for Light Up Night on November 29, 2024. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
5. Courthouse lawn use request by Ridgway Downtown Holiday Decorating Committee, for decoration for the Christmas season from November 4, 2024 through January 11, 2025. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
6. PAGO for Elk County Tourism Marketing Grant request from the Ridgway Fire Department, \$2,000.00 for the Rock Valley Revival taking place August 15-16, 2025. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously**
7. Renewal agreement between Elk County and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture designating Northern Tier Community Action Corp, as Lead Agency for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for FY October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
8. Renewal of Health Insurance Contract between Elk County and Delaware Valley Health Trust (DVHT) for County's employee health plan for calendar year 2025. Net cost is \$1,630,758.00. The increase for 2025 was 6.40%, prior to applying earned credits. **Patrick Straub stated healthcare was the second biggest cost for payroll. These rates had been shopped last year and are done every 3 years. Patrick Straub asked for ratification of this renewal. Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
9. Request by Veteran Affairs, approval of benefits for 2 Veteran burials, 1 Widow burial and 2 Veteran headstones. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

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

1. Stiffler McGraw (received September 23rd) regarding Ridgway Twp Municipal Authority's intent to submit a minor amendment to the existing Water Supply Permit. This notice is provided in accordance with PA Acts 14, 67, 68 and 127 of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) which requires a 30 day public comment period.
2. The EADS Group (received October 18th) regarding Highland Twp. Municipal Authority STP'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 Highland Twp. Project Name: Unnamed tributary of Wolf Run. This notice is provided in accordance with PA Acts 14, 67, 68 and 127 of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) which requires a 30 day public comment period.

3. Keller Engineers (received October 21st) regarding Brockway Borough Municipal Authority's intent to submit a Chapter 102 Land Development Permit application for the replacement of existing water lines along Keystone Rd and Coder Rd. in Brockport, PA. This notice is provided in accordance with Section 1905-A of the PA Administrative Code as amended by Act 14 and PA Acts 67, 68 and 127 of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) which requires a 30 day public comment period.
4. Speer Carbon Company, LLC (received October 23rd) regarding intent to submit plan approval to install a Car Bottom Furnace and Thermal Oxidizer. This notice is provided in accordance with 25 PA Code Section 127.413 for plan approvals which requires a 30 day public comment period.

GOOD OF THE COUNTY

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- **M. Fritz Lecker gave an update on the election process from the night before, and read the press release about the bomb threat. Press release is attached to these minutes.**
- Please continue to pray for our military personnel, our families and our children, their teachers, all elected officials and peace in the world.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

1. Marilyn Secco asked for a copy of the press release concerning the bomb threat.

QUESTIONS FROM TAXPAYERS

1. William Seely requested another census be performed, per capita tax be discontinued and a reassessment of all properties in Elk County.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM on a motion by M. Fritz Lecker.

Next Meeting:

10:00 A.M. Thursday, November 21, 2024

Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room, Courthouse Annex

Attest: _____



Press Release November 6, 2024

Contact Person: Fritz Lecker, Commissioner Chair

The Elk County Elections Office received a bomb threat last evening about 7:30 via email, with Ridgway Borough police responding immediately and coordinating with the Sheriff's Department, who already had a Sheriff's deputy onsite. After consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Pennsylvania State Police, the FBI and others, it was determined to proceed with the election processing. As a precaution, the Annex Building was evacuated of all but essential personnel. Poll workers returning election ballots were met outside the building by members of the Election Board, and deliveries were not impacted. After security sweeps were completed by local police officers as well as a bomb-sniffing canine from McKean County, it was determined there was no credible threat. It has since been learned that this same threat was received by at least 22 counties in the Commonwealth.

While Elk County saw record voter turnout at levels exceeding the presidential election in 2020, Ms. Kimberly Frey, Director of Elections remained composed and focused, and due to her competent leadership, Elk County was again the first county in the Commonwealth to file their election returns with the Pennsylvania Department of State.

The Board of Commissioners would like to extend their gratitude to Ms. Frey, Elk County Maintenance staff and other county personnel as well as the Ridgway Borough Police for their efforts in working cooperatively to handle this emergency with professionalism.