

December 5, 2024

**Office of the County of Elk Commissioners
Meeting Minutes**

Elk County, Ridgway, PA

The County of Elk Commissioners met on Thursday, December 5, 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; Becki Taylor, CDBG Coordinator; Dan Rimer, IT Technician; and Marilyn Secco, Press.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by M. Fritz Lecker, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES– November 21, 2024 Commissioners Meeting

Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 2024-28 – Request by CDBG, modification to the FY 2022 CDBG application. **Becki Taylor explained this was to remove the CAPSEA project for \$10,920.00 and transfer funds instead to the Harrison Ave. Storm project. CAPSEA would not have the project finished in time and the funding would be lost. Becki is working with them to find other funding. She also stated that the Harrison Ave. Storm project is now complete. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. New contract with Centre Communications to construct new 180ft. Emergency Communication tower. The cost for the tower and site preparations is \$467,405.00. The cost for the generator and UHF antenna system is \$56,192.00. **M. Fritz Lecker explained this tower would be located in Jones Township and funding will be paid with ARPA funds. Matthew G. Quesenberry explained the County of Elk would now own the land and the tower. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase 1 acre lot in Jones Township from Aaron Bleggi and Justine Olson for the amount of \$21,346.18; and survey expense of \$5,494.20 from Jess Kronenwetter Surveying. This is for the Emergency Communications Tower project. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
2. Request by CDBG, readopt/renew the County of Elk and On Behalf of (OBO) Ridgway Borough Section 3 action plan. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

3. Approval of 2025 meeting and holiday calendar. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**
4. 911 Statewide Interconnectivity Grant agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Elk County Emergency Services (Subgrantee) in the amount of \$803,667.44. This agreement will commence when fully executed and remain in effect until January 31, 2026. **Patrick Straub explained that the County has the fiduciary for 911 Centers for 9 counties in our area. Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
5. Request by the 59th Judicial District for the Elk County Law Library, renewal contract with West Publishing Corporation. Contract will be for 65 months, the first 5 months at \$1,437.75, followed by 12 months at \$1,883.00, with a 3% increase every year following. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
6. Request by Elk County Housing Authority, reappointment of Cheryl Ruffner to the ECHA Board of Commissioners for a 5 year term to expire December 31, 2029. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**
7. Request by Veterans Affairs, approval of benefits for 2 Veteran burials and 2 headstone approvals. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**

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

GOOD OF THE COUNTY

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- PAGO, for Elk County Tourism Marketing Grant for TriCounty Rails to Trails Association for \$3,387.00 for printing updated maps and brochures.
- Please continue to pray for our military personnel, our families and our children, their teachers, all elected officials and peace in the world.
- **M. Fritz Lecker stated that non 24 hour County of Elk offices will close on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 2:00 PM.**

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

1. Re Old Business #1, Marilyn Secco stated she had received a letter from property owners in Jones Township regarding litigation with the County. Marilyn asked if the old tower needed to be removed. The Commissioners and Chief Clerk explained that the Wilcox VFD had maintained a tower on that landowner's property for many years, and the County had added emergency communication equipment to that tower. However, the County was instructed by the landowner to remove our equipment from the original tower, and did so in summer of 2023. The County then erected a temporary tower on a neighboring property which will also be removed in the future as the County has purchased property at a different location within Jones Township on which to place a new, permanent emergency communications tower and has recently entered into a contract for the purchase and installation of that new tower.

QUESTIONS FROM TAXPAYERS -N/A

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM on a motion by Gregory J. Gebauer.

**Next Meeting:
10:00 A.M. Thursday, December 19, 2024
Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room, Courthouse Annex**

Attest: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MSA", written over a horizontal line.