

August 8, 2024

Office of the County of Elk Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Elk County, Ridgway, PA

The County of Elk Commissioners met on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM, at the Elk County Fairgrounds, 316 Dietz Rd, Kersey. 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; Mike McAllister, Director of Emergency Services; Ernie Mattiuz, President Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; Jeremy Dorsey, Elk County Fair Board President; Dennis Friedl, Citizen; and Marilyn Secco, Press.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PRESENTATIONS –

1. M. Fritz Lecker thanked the Elk County Fairgrounds for hosting the Commissioners meeting. Jeremy Dorsey, Elk County Fairground Board President, stated this was the 50th anniversary of the Elk County Fair.
2. M. Fritz Lecker commended Mike McAllister and RoseAnn Ehrensberger for their successful completion of the 911 Emergency Communications Act certification. Mike McAllister stated this is a required recertification for all 911 Centers. They are evaluated on quality, training, and paperwork. All areas met or exceeded the minimum requirements. Matthew G. Quesenberry congratulated Mike McAllister, RoseAnn Ehrensberger, and the staff for running the Center with high standards making the process run smoothly and effectively.

RESOLUTIONS –N/A

OLD BUSINESS –N/A

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request by The Creative Cup, for lawn use on August 18, 2024 for fundraiser to update gate and rinse station at the Sandy Beach Dog Park. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer, and carried unanimously.**
2. Approval of Delegation Agreement with Elk County Solid Waste Authority for 50 years until 2075. **Matthew G. Quesenberry explained the amount of money being received was decreasing from \$0.50 to \$0.30 per ton in accordance with the proposed re-negotiated landfill host fee agreement with Greentree Landfill, LLC from July 31, 2024 through January 31, 2029. Under terms of the new agreement, the amounts due to the Elk County Recycling Center will remain constant, however, the County of Elk**

would experience a loss of revenue as a result. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

3. Request by Veteran Affairs, approval of benefits for 6 Veteran burials, 2 Widow burials, and 6 Veteran headstones. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
 4. Request by CYS, new contract with Three Rivers Adoption Council from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
 5. Request by CYS, renewal contract with Pathways Adolescent Center from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with a 10% rate increase. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
 6. Request by CYS, renewal contract with Families United Network from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with a 3% increase. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
 7. Request by CYS, renewal contract with Project Point of Light from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 with an increase. Project Point of Light provides numerous services. Most services increased from \$5/\$10 for counseling/therapy services and up to \$150 more for evaluations. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
 8. Request by CYS, renewal contract with Dickinson Center, Inc. from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 for services listed below:
 - a. Parents As Teachers (PAT) – the County is responsible for a 5% match of the total grant funds used; so could be approximately \$1,100.00 increase, if all grant funds are utilized.
 - b. Positive Parenting Program (PPP) – again, the County is responsible for a 5% match of total grant funds used; increase potential of approximately \$245.00, if all funds utilized.
 - c. Family Resource Network (no increase)
 - d. Forensic Mental Health Evaluations (no increase)
 - e. Comprehensive Psychosocial Evaluations with Recommendations (no increase)
- All contracts for Dickinson Center, Inc. were voted on together. 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. SGL Group (received July 24th) regarding notification that the headwall for Outfalls 001 and 002 under NPDES Permit PAR118334 will both be removed and then replaced as part of a PennDOT project involving bridge replacement on Theresia St., St. Marys. This notice is provided in accordance with Chapter 105 Water and Encroachment General Permit Registration PA Act 14 which requires a 30 day public comment period.
2. Mersen USA GS Group (received July 24th) regarding intent to apply to PA DEP, Bureau of Air Quality, for approval to install 6 heated paddle mixers and a weigh station with dust collector to replace two existing weigh stations. This notice is provided in accordance with 25 PA Code Section 127.43a for plan approvals and by Section 1905-A of the PA Administrative Code as amended by Act 14.

3. USDA (received July 25th) regarding notification of initiation of an environmental analysis for the Bear Creek Aquatic Barrier Removal Project located in Warrant 3776, Highland Twp. on the Marienville Ranger District of the ANF. The project would entail removing an old bridge on an unnamed tributary to Bear Creek associated with an abandoned section of State Highway 948 and restore the site to natural condition. This 30-day notification has been provided to solicit any input, concerns, or suggestions from the Elk County Commissioners regarding activities occurring in the Allegheny National Forest.

GOOD OF THE COUNTY

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- Recognition of PEMA recertification for Mike McAllister and Roseann Ehrensberger.
- 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 if the Elk County Recycling Center was taking a loss with the new Delegation Agreement. Matthew G. Quesenberry explained that the Elk County Recycling Center would still receive the same funding. The County of Elk would have the loss of revenue.
2. Marilyn Secco asked if the grants discussed under Dickinson Center Inc. were state or federal grants. M. Fritz Lecker stated these are state grants.

QUESTIONS FROM TAXPAYERS

1. Dennis Friedl asked for some changes to the property tax waiver for disabled veterans. Currently, 100% war-time, disabled veterans are exempt from paying property taxes. Mr. Friedl stated that all 100% disabled veterans "signed the same blank check" and he feels all should be exempt from paying property taxes. Ernie Mattiuz, PA Farm Bureau stated that the Farm Bureau was also working towards making this change. M. Fritz Lecker stated that they would need to research this issue before any changes could be considered, but she thanked Dennis Friedl for his input and his service.
2. Ernie Mattiuz, spoke briefly on the effects of the recent rain on the local crops.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM on a motion by Gregory J, Gebauer.

Next Meeting:

10:00 A.M. Thursday, August 22, 2024

Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room, Courthouse Annex

Attest: _____

