

September 19, 2024

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

Elk County, Ridgway, PA

The County of Elk Commissioners met on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM, County of Elk Courthouse, 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; Matthew Frey, Treasurer; Tyler Daniels, Chief Assessor; Nancy Baker, CYS Director; Kimberly Frey, Elections Director; Jen Dippold, Jim Ryan, and Barb Glatt, United Way; Hope Weichman, Salvation Army Director; Marsha Dippold, Dickinson Center; Gloria Molella and Harriet Stahl, Helping Hands Food Pantry; 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. Present County appropriation to United Way representatives Jim Ryan, Jennifer Dippold and Barb Glatt. **Jim Ryan talked about the organizations they have helped and the area this includes. The Commissioners presented Jim Ryan with the check for the United Way.**
2. Dickinson Center, Marsha Dippold – Proclamation recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month **Marsha Dippold spoke of the advantages of hiring people with disabilities. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**
3. Salvation Army, Hope Weichman update on The Salvation Army **Hope Weichman spoke of the kettle fund, food banks, and their funding goals.**
4. **Helping Hands Food Pantry (not on agenda). Gloria Molella and Harriet Stahl spoke of food handling and the different sources of local providers, especially Elk County Foods.**

RESOLUTIONS –

1. Resolution 2024-23 to adopt amendment to the Area Transportation Authority (ATA) articles of incorporation to add a provision to increase its existence to a date not exceeding 50 years from the date of amendment approval. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

9. Request by Veteran Affairs, approval of benefits for 2 Veteran burials, 1 Widow burial, and 2 Veteran headstones. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**
10. Contract with Sammartino, Stout & Lo Presti for commercial appraisal engagement required for assessment appeal case. Cost will be \$5,500, plus \$300/hr. in the event court attendance is required. **Patrick Straub explained this was due to a disagreement over the assessed value of a property. If the assessed value was lowered to the value stated by the owner, a loss would be to the County, St. Marys, and the St. Marys Area School District. Part of the cost would be shared with the City of St. Marys and the St. Marys Area School District. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
11. Fall 2024 Act 13 Grant Award Announcement. **Recipient are listed on the last page of the minutes. 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.)

1. Penn State Dubois (dated September 4th) regarding solicitation of comment and input from Elk Commissioners regarding the School’s intent to offer a non-credit Practical Nursing Program. High demand and conversation with local healthcare employers has indicated a growing need for additional Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN’s) in a seven-County region. Penn State Dubois believes this offering will help close the gap on the current and future needs of our community.
2. PA DEP, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (received August 30th) regarding intent to file a PA DEP General NPDES Permit Application. The scope of work will include the discharge of storm water into the waters of the commonwealth during construction of a ~23 acre strip mine reclamation project. Site location is in Fox Township, within the Moshannon State Forest on the Northern side of Route 255 and approximately 1.5 miles North where 5 Points Rd. and Route 255 intersect. This notice is provided in accordance with PA Act 14 which requires a 30 day public comment period.

GOOD OF THE COUNTY

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- Elections updates by Kimberly Frey, Director of Elections/Registration. **Kimberly Frey updated on cut off dates for registering and mail in ballots. She also stated there was a multitude of scams going around about the election. She urges the public to gain information at a reputable site to avoid misinformation.**
- Public Hearing, October 11, 2024 concerning Elk County Healthcare Authority Proposal.
- 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

QUESTIONS FROM TAXPAYERS – N/A

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM on a motion by Gregory J. Gebauer.

Next Meeting:

10:00 A.M. Thursday, October 3, 2024

Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room, Courthouse Annex

Attest: _____

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

FALL 2024 MINI GRANT AWARDS					9/16/2024		\$75K to Grant		AUGUST 2024	
MEDIA RELEASE					Cost of project		Amount Requested		AWARD	
ACT 13	Applicant	Project	Description							
	Wilcox Presbyterian Church	AED & Outdoor Save Station	Outdoor AED/Station		8,717.15		6,717.15		1,500.00	
	Jay Twp Supervisors for Road Dept	2006 Int'l Truck	Overhaul Kit/labor/shop supplies		17,001.12		10,000.00		5,000.00	
	Jay Twp VFD	Tanker Corrosion Repairs	Body/Lighting repairs to '02 Tanker Truck		40,000.00		10,000.00		10,000.00	
	NCPA Dive Recovery & K9 Search Team	Purchase Drysuits	New hazmat approved drysuits@\$4500/suit		31,500.00		10,000.00		7,500.00	
	Fox Twp Fire Dept	Purchase Gas Detector Meters	Purchase 4 new Gas (detector) Meters		6,780.00		6,780.00		6,780.00	
	Crystal Fire Department	Air Bottles Project	Buy 4 45-minute air bottles @ \$2319/bottle		9,276.00		9,000.00		5,000.00	
	St. Marys Ambulance Service	Video Laryngoscope	Purchase 5 video laryngoscopes(1@ea vehicle)		9,975.00		9,000.00		9,000.00	
	Spring Creek Township	Tires for twp plow trucks	12 Tires for 3 ea Ford F550 trucks		3,982.80		3,882.80		3,882.80	
	Horton Twp VFD	Hose Replacement	Replace 250' failing 2.5" hose		3,000.00		2,500.00		2,500.00	
	Fox Twp for Fox Senior Center	Emergency Prep Supplies	Emergency supplies to house 50 seniors @ Center		4,800.00		4,800.00		3,237.20	
	Jay Twp Sewage Auth	Muffin Monster Grinder Pump	New Sewage Grinder Pump		14,088.00		10,000.00		5,000.00	
	Bucksgahuda & Western Railroad	Replace Iron wheels on Engine	New iron wheels for 1939 Henschel steam engine		15,600.00		10,000.00		5,000.00	
	Ridgway Cemetery Assoc	Tree Removal	Remove (5) dead spruce trees		4,400.00		2,900.00		2,900.00	
	Ridgway Animal Haven	Infrastructure/Parking	SitePrep/44TGravel/Catch Basins/Pipe/Excavation		6,500.00		2,500.00		1,500.00	
	St Marys Heritage Preservation Group	Lighting the Bell Tower	Upgrade electrical service to light the bell		2,325.00		1,500.00		1,500.00	
	SMASD - Dutch Manufacturing	Elk County 988 Suicide Project	Awareness project for Elk Co youth grades 7-12		4,300.00		2,200.00		2,200.00	
	Johnsonburg Community Trust	Electrical Work Unit #3	design, tooling/finishing 10,000 coins		8,015.00		5,343.32		2,500.00	
			Provide power to Unit 3 & 2 upstairs units							
			TOTALS		190,260.07		107,123.27		\$75,000.00	
			TOTAL REQUESTS-\$145,860.00							