

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

A MEETING OF THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 AT 10:00 AM.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON OR JOIN TODAY’S MEETING VIA ZOOM.

ATTENDING: COMMISSIONER LARRY PADORA; COMMISSIONER BARRON L. HETHERINGTON; COMMISSIONER GARY J. HESS; COUNTY SOLICITOR PAUL DATTE; CONTROLLER SHARYN YACKENCHICK; FIRST DEPUTY CONTROLLER SANDRA PACENTA; TREASURER LINDA YEICH; PROTHONOTARY BRIDGET MILLER; RECORDER OF DEEDS ANN DUDISH; SHERIFF JOSEPH GROODY; DEPUTY SHERIFF SHAWN BUTLER; COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BENDER; FINANCE DIRECTOR PAUL BUBER; HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN; AND CHIEF CLERK LINDA DEATRICH.

THE SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER PADORA
AND OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

IN RE: REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD

THE CHIEF CLERK REPORTED THERE WERE NO EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MELINDA DEIBERT, NORTH MANHEIM TOWNSHIP, COMMENTED ON CONSENT DECREE SIGNED BY COMMISSIONERS HESS AND HETHERINGTON.

GEORGE STENCOVAGE, PALO ALTO, COMMENTED ON SENIOR CITIZENS NEEDING HELP.

GREG WOLL, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, COMMENTED ON BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD.

LINDA YEICH, COUNTY TREASURER, COMMENTED ON THE INCREASED REVENUE THAT WAS COLLECTED FOR HOTEL TAX.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF DECEMBER 27, 2023.

VOTE:

PADORA—ABSTAIN

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 2, 2024.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2024.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IN RE: GRANT WRITER'S — CHANGE ORDER

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR \$1,500.00 TO THE CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST INDUSTRIAL SERVICES FOR A DEMOLITION PROJECT IN TAMAQUA. THIS CHANGE ORDER WILL INCREASE THE CONTRACT FROM \$63,327.00 TO \$64,827.00 AND IS DUE TO CHIMNEY REMOVAL & REFRAMING, REROUTING THE NEIGHBORING WATER MAIN, AND WALL FRAME OUT FOR NEIGHBORING ATTIC CRAWLSPACE.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – 2023 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

HUMAN SERVICES

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR COURIER.

911 COMMUNICATIONS

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO REIMBURSE GENERAL FUND FOR 2ND HALF OF 2023 RETIREMENT EXPENSE.

DISTRICT JUSTICES—COURTS

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$166.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY COPIER LEASE INVOICES FOR MDJ KILKER’S OFFICE & MDJ TARANTELLI’S OFFICE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,204.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY LEASE INVOICES FOR COPIERS FOR MDJ REILEY’S; MDJ PLACHKO’S; MDJ BAYER’S; MDJ ROSSI’S; MDJ SERINA’S OFFICES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023 (FOR BOTH GREAT AMERICA & FIRST CITIZEN’S BANK).

COURTS

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$740.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY ADDITIONAL INVOICES FOR INTERPRETER SERVICES NEEDED BY THE COURTS.

CORONER

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$390.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY INVOICE FOR A PATHOLOGY SERVICE.

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$960.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY REMAINING 2023 UNCLAIMED CREMATION INVOICES (3) @ \$320.00 PER CREMATION.

PLANNING

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$995.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY AN INVOICE FOR AMAZON WEB SERVICE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,004.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY DUI TESTING FEES FOR DECEMBER 2023.

ADMINISTRATION

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,490.00 TO COVER EXPENSES.

DRUG & ALCOHOL

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,268.00 TO COVER SHORTFALL AND TO PAY 2ND HALF 2023 RETIREMENT COST, H.S. REIMBURSEMENT OCT-DEC 2023. MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2023, AND “OTHER” TO COVER SCHUYLKILL TECHNOLOGY CENTER INVOICE FOR NOVEMBER.

THREE (3) SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

IN RE: TREASURER’S OFFICE

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION #2023-21 FOR \$171,200. THE COUNTY TREASURER COLLECTED ADDITIONAL HOTEL RENTAL TAX FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IN RE: SENIOR SERVICES

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION #2024-01 FOR \$30,000. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL NEED FOR SERVICES SO AFTER RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FUNDS, THE NEED WILL BE MET.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED

IN RE: FARMLAND PRESERVATION

APPROVAL REQUESTED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION #2024-02 FOR \$200,000. ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS NEEDED TO PURCHASE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS. IT IS INTENDED FOR REVIEW AT TODAY'S MEETING AND VOTING IS TO OCCUR AT THE JANUARY 17, 2024 WORK SESSION. **(APPROVAL REQUESTED FOR 1-17-24 WS.)**

GARY BENDER – NEW BUSINESS

IN RE: ON BEHALF OF PLANNING AND ZONING

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO REAPPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE INDIVIDUALS TO THE TO A 3-YEAR TERM TO THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WITH TERMS STARTING ON JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2027: NICHOLAS BOYLE, WALKER TOWNSHIP; JESSE FEY, BARRY TOWNSHIP; AND ROBERT LETTICH, HUBLEY TOWNSHIP.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IN RE: ON BEHALF OF ENGINEERING

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HESS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT WITH LEHIGH ENGINEERING, POTTSVILLE, TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ZONING SERVICES AND APPROVE LEHIGH ENGINEERING'S ED WENGER AS THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ZONING OFFICER, AND RALPH HUMMEL AS AN ASSISTANT SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ZONING OFFICER, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024. SUSAN SMITH, THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING, IS ALSO AN ALTERNATE ZONING OFFICER.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IN RE: ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PADORA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE UPDATE OF THE COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY, WHICH WAS LAST REVISED IN 2008. THE CHANGES WILL REQUIRE THAT EMPLOYEES SUBMIT THE TAX EXEMPTION FORM FOR LODGING AND TIMELY SUBMIT EXPENSE REQUESTS. THE MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES ARE REVISED UPWARDS BY \$5.00 FOR EACH MEAL. IT WILL BE \$15.00 FOR BREAKFAST, \$20.00 FOR LUNCH AND \$35.00 FOR DINNER. THESE IMPROVEMENTS WERE SUGGESTED BY THE CONTROLLER AND REVIEWED BY THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IN RE: ON BEHALF OF THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO REAPPOINT THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) INDIVIDUALS, KEITH MASSER, SACRAMENTO, AND ERIC SEITZINGER, ORWIGSBURG, TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD FOR A 5-YEAR TERM FROM JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2028.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IN RE: ON BEHALF OF OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO REAPPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE (3) INDIVIDUALS TO THE OSS ADVISORY BOARD: PAUL STRAKA, POTTSVILLE, FOR THE TERM OCTOBER 26, 2023, TO DECEMBER 31, 2026; MELISSA BURKE, DMD, POTTSVILLE, FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2026; AND MARIE BEAUCHAMP, ORWIGSBURG, FOR THE TERM SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO AUGUST 31, 2026.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO REAPPOINT THE FOLLOWING THREE (3) INDIVIDUALS TO THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP) ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2026: EILEEN BARLOW, SHENANDOAH; ROSALIND RUX, PORT CARBON; AND BETH TRAVIS, ORWIGSBURG.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) INDIVIDUALS: ERIC ZIEGMONT, POTTSVILLE, AND MICHELLE VASKO, ORWIGSBURG, TO THE RSVP ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE THREE-YEAR TERM JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2026.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED

HUMAN RESOURCES – PERSONNEL ACTION

IN RE : CHILDREN & YOUTH – TRANSFER

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO TRANSFER WENDY SEIGENFUSE, TAMAQUA, PA, FROM DISTRICT JUSTICE ASSISTANT I TO CLERK TYPIST II, PSSU, PAY RANGE 27, AT \$16.4623 PER HOUR. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 22, 2024.

VOTE:

PADORA—AYE

HETHERINGTON—AYE

HESS—AYE

MOTION ADOPTED.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

IN RE: CHILDREN & YOUTH -- RETIREMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, ANTHONY KERN, INFORMED THE BOARD THAT CLERK TYPIST II, MARYANNE CONWAY, HAS RETIRED FROM SAID POSITION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2024.

IN RE: 911/COMMUNICATIONS -- RESIGNATION

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, ANTHONY KERN, INFORMED THE BOARD THAT TELECOMMUNICATOR SENIOR LEVEL 2, TONYA EBLING, NEW PHILADELPHIA, PA, HAS RESIGNED FROM SAID POSITION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5, 2024.

IN RE: CORONER’S OFFICE – ONE (1) RESIGNATION & ONE (1) APPOINTMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, ANTHONY KERN, INFORMED THE BOARD THAT CLERK TYPIST 1, ALEXIS SOUTHAM, PALO ALTO, PA, HAS RESIGNED FROM SAID POSITION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2024.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, ANTHONY KERN, INFORMED THE BOARD THAT CLERK ALEXIS SOUTHAM, PALO ALTO, PA, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE DEPUTY CORONER/INVESTIGATOR POSITION. NO BENEFITS. PER DIEM. EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 5, 2024.

SHERIFF’S OFFICE – ONE (1) RETIREMENT & ONE (1) APPOINTMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, ANTHONY KERN, INFORMED THE BOARD THAT LIEUTENANT, MAUREEN BARNES, WEST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP, PA, HAS RETIRED FROM SAID POSITION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2024.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, ANTHONY KERN, INFORMED THE BOARD THAT ALVIN WILE, POTTSVILLE, PA, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE SECURITY GUARD 1 POSITION. NO BENEFITS. PER DIEM. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 29, 2024.

- *ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE PENDING DRUG TEST AND PHYSICAL.
- *ALL ACTIONS INVOLVING SALARY OR FOR POSITIONS BEING CREATED ARE PENDING SALARY BOARD APPROVAL.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSIONER PADORA ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

ATTEST: _____