

SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**February 11, 2020**

The meeting of the Sullivan County Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the above date by Chair Brian Hoffman. Attending were Commissioner Donna Iannone, Commissioner Darlene Fenton, Chief Clerk Francine Doyle, Solicitor Kenneth Levitzky, Treasurer Katrina Wilkins, Sheriff Bob Montgomery, and Mike Hokkanen from the Sullivan Review.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 Commissioner meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Preparedness Grant application for 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant application for 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve the application phase for a USDA Rural Business Development grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of a business incubator. The Commissioners will be responsible for executing all grant documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the application phase for the Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve disbursements to AYSO Soccer in the amount of \$6,250.00 and Sullivan County Little League in the amount of \$6,500.00 from Act 13 funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve the agreement between the Bradford/Sullivan Drug & Alcohol, Single County Authority, 220 Main St. Unit 1, Towanda, PA 18848, and The Main Link, Casa-Trinity, Finding New Hope Counseling, Inc., and shall be in force and effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve the amended agreements between the Bradford/Sullivan Drug & Alcohol, Single County Authority, 220 Main St. Unit 1, Towanda, PA 18848, and Eagleview Hospital, Firetree LTD., Gaudenzia, White Deer Run, LLC., Valley Forge Medical Center and shall be in force and effect from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the unit of service funding contract between the Bradford and Sullivan County Joinder, 220 Main St. Unit 1, Towanda, PA 18848, hereinafter referred to as “County” on behalf of the Bradford County Human Services Agency, operator of Bradford/Sullivan County Mental Health/ Intellectual Disability Programs (MH/ID), located at 220 Main St., Unit 1, Towanda, PA 18848 and Emergent First Care LLC, DBA: Emergent First Care, 630 Freedom Business Center Dr., Fl 3, Suite 17, King of Prussia, PA 1406 hereinafter known as Provider, and shall be in force and effect from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the amended payment schedule and services sheet, Appendix A, between the Bradford and Sullivan County Joinder, 220 Main St. Unit 1, Towanda, PA 18848, hereinafter referred to as “County” on behalf of the Bradford County Human Services Agency, operator of Bradford/Sullivan County Mental Health/ Intellectual Disability Programs (MH/ID), located at 220 Main St., Unit 1, Towanda, PA 18848 and Allied Services, 100 Abington Executive Park, Clarks Summit, PA 18411, to cover CRR services, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve a new copier lease agreement between Marco and Sullivan County, 60- month lease at \$255.75/month which includes all service and supplies to replace copier in the Commissioners’ Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve the 3-year maintenance agreement between Sullivan County and Cummins Sales and Service for the Sullivan County Medical Center in the amount of \$3,282.72. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the use of the Laporte Park by the Laporte Enhancement Committee on May 23, 2020 with a rain date of May 24, 2020 for a public yard sale/vendor fair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

An item added to the agenda – Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to appoint Steve Tomlinson to the Bradford/Sullivan Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission effective February 4, 2020 for a 3- year term ending February 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve Children and Youth Director Lisa Wilcox’s attendance at the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Association Board meeting and Quarterly Conference in State College, PA in March, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$766.90. The motion seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve Veterans Affairs Director Mark Roinick’s attendance at the eastern district meeting in Indiantown Gap in March, 2020 at a cost of \$120.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to acknowledge County Commissioners Donna Iannone, Darlene Fenton and Brian Hoffman’s attendance at the County Commissioners

Association conference in Harrisburg, PA in March, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$1,569.06. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve Fiscal Director Lois Ruhl's attendance at the annual Government Finance Officers Association of Pennsylvania statewide conference in State College, PA in April, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$869.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve Chief Assessor Susan McCarty's attendance at the Assessors Association of Pennsylvania meeting in Bloomsburg in March, 2020 at a cost of \$160.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to accept the resignation of Frank Brown, Caseworker at Children and Youth, effective November 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to accept the resignation of Jane Hottenstein, Administrative Clerk at Children and Youth, effective June 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

The Commissioners thank Frank and Jane for the many years of service to Sullivan County.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to pay current bills in the amount of \$ 94,593.01. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

**The January, 2020 Treasurer report was presented by Treasurer Katrina Wilkins.
The January, 2020 Prothonotary report was available for review.
The January, 2020 Sheriff report was presented by Sheriff Bob Montgomery.**

UNDER INFORMATION:

Commissioner Fenton announced that the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania along with PA Cable Network will film a segment on Historical County Courthouses featuring the Sullivan County Courthouse. Filming will take place in the spring and will be aired in the fall of 2020.

Commissioner Hoffman acknowledged that the Commissioners were notified this morning that the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Mary Handzus, former Sullivan County Sheriff's deputy, was charged on February 10, 2020 with theft. The criminal information alleges that between 2012 and 2019, Handzus stole \$198,566.00 from the Sullivan County Sheriff's office. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pennsylvania State Police. The Commissioners then read the following public statement:

FORMER SULLIVAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY CHARGED WITH THEFT

On January 4th, 2019 the County was informed by C&N Bank that there was a banking discrepancy in one of the Sheriff's accounts. Action was taken immediately to examine this discrepancy and freeze the account. Following a preliminary internal review, the County notified the Laporte Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) on January 7th. Mary Handzus, former Sullivan County Deputy Sheriff, was placed on administrative leave the same day. Ms. Handzus was fired by the Sheriff's Office on February 5th, 2019 after an independent forensic audit concluded that embezzlement of funds occurred.

Since the January 2019 referral, PSP and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have conducted an extensive investigation. Their joint efforts resulted in charges being filed with the US District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The investigation discovered that Miss Handzus used the Sheriff Sales checking account to write checks for her personal use from 2012 to 2019, embezzling nearly \$200,000. These funds were separate from and not connected to the County's general fund and were not taxpayer monies. These funds came from Sheriff Sales that Ms. Handzus had the fiduciary responsibility of safeguarding. In County government each elected office is responsible for its own bank accounts.

Within weeks of the initial discovery the county began a countywide accounting and audit study to make sure such activity cannot be replicated. Measures were put in place so that no single employee will have access to funds without checks and balances. Individuals that engage in embezzlement victimize their fellow citizens and erode public trust.

The Sheriff's office, along with the Treasurer, Prothonotary and Commissioners all worked in cooperation with the police investigators and are confident justice will be served.

Please contact the state police or FBI for more information regarding this case.

There being no additional business to discuss, Commissioner Fenton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Sullivan County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brian Hoffman, Chair

Francine Doyle, Chief Clerk

Donna Iannone, Vice Chair

Darlene Fenton, Commissioner