

September 7, 2010

McKean County Commissioners in special session assembled on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 6:00 PM at the 911 Center, 17175 Route 6, Smethport, Pa. Present were Commissioners Joseph DeMott, Al Pingie, and Judy Church, Chief Clerk, Audrey Irons, Solicitor, Dan Hartle. Also present were Judge John Pavlock, Gary Seefeldt, Leo Church, Tom Ball, and Marcie Schellhammer.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. DeMott, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Mrs. Church – Mentioned that CYS lost one of their workers last week and she was a very dedicated employee and will be sadly missed by their department.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2010 meeting.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Mr. DeMott – Opened the meeting for public comment.

No public comment.

Judge John Pavlock – Was present at the meeting to give the Commissioners a report and a proposal on his recommendation that they explore the issue of building a new building for the Domestic Relations Department. The report explains why we are in a good position in McKean County through the hard work of our Domestic Relations Office. Our local Domestic Relations (DRO) Office is administered locally, but overseen by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Child Support Enforcement.

Twenty some years ago the state started an incentive account that if you did things well, funds got put into this incentive account and if you did things well, there were less restrictions, although, there are still substantial restrictions as to what the money can be used for. If you don't do things well, then you have to use that money to fix those problems. If you are not collecting enough money and there is a mathematical formula and if you fall below 80 %, then you have to use that money to hire someone to increase your collections staff, go to training, etc. so that incentive money is there to fix the problems. Where we benefit is that our staff doesn't have problems. They have always been above 80 % so that money has built up because year after year through the hard work of our staff they are always meeting their performance requirements and that doesn't happen in all counties. So we have these funds in this restricted account that can only be used for certain things – we are not mandated on fixing problems and one of the things that the money can be used for is office space so before I move on to my proposal I would like to thank our DRO staff for working so hard over the years – they are very

efficient and productive and thank God they have worked so hard and because of their hard work it has benefited our county greatly and we now have this fund available.

There has always been an issue with the current location of the DRO office and we have explored the option of renovating one of the old county home buildings for them, but the architect determined that there would not be enough available space to accommodate all of DRO's staff and it would be cost prohibitive to renovate the building and we have contacted the owners of several local buildings to see if they would be willing to either sell their buildings or renovate them for office space and rent them to the County. We discovered that the owners had no interest in selling or leasing to the County. If you look across the state, you will see that a huge majority of the DRO offices are located outside of the courthouse.

We now have this incentive account that has sufficient substantial funds that could really benefit McKean County and the taxpayers by paying for office space at little or no cost to the taxpayers. The question will be what will it cost the taxpayers? I have no idea as I don't know what it would cost to build a new building, but there is a substantial amount in the account that very well may cover the whole cost. I am here today to ask you to explore what a new building would cost. The county would be paying for the building no matter what, but would they be reimbursed in full from this incentive account – that is certainly a good possibility and if you are not reimbursed in full what amount would the county be responsible for?

The benefit of moving the DRO Office out of the courthouse would be that you could move the Adult Probation Office back into the courthouse as they need to have direct contact with the court. The Probation Supervision Fund currently pays for the rental of office space for the Adult Probation Office that is located outside of the courthouse. Those funds could then be used for other purposes such as the Intermediate Punishment Program to try to keep more individuals out of jail. If anyone has any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Mr. DeMott – I don't have any questions - we have worked closely with the Judge and Gary Seefeldt over the last few weeks on this project. Asked if anyone else had any questions about the Judge's request.

Mr. Hartle – Mentioned that the Commissioners will reserve the right to reject any or all bids

Marcia Schellhammer – Do you have a location in mind?

Mr. DeMott – Yes, this will be beyond the Jail on Route 6.

Mrs. Church – Asked if there are any time restraints?

Judge Pavlock – The incentive account was established by regulations through the state – could it be there for 10 years – maybe – could it be changed or lost – it could – so

there are restrictions on the certain requirements – as a matter of fact at the end of this month there is a reimbursement provision that is due to expire – it could be extended or it might not be – that doesn't mean all the money is gone so will the program change – if we don't act now it may or may not be there in the future.

Mrs. Church – So we want to do this bid as quickly as possible?

Judge Pavlock – I would think so.

Mrs. Church – How many employees are in the DRO Office?

Judge Pavlock – There are 9 employees.

Gary Seefeldt – There would be 13 employees including the Family Law Office.

Moved by Mrs. Church, seconded by Mr. Pingie, to advertise for bids to construct a shell building to house the McKean County Domestic Relations Department on ground owned by the county adjacent to the McKean County Jail.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve payment of the following invoices:

1. Area Transportation Authority - \$13,172.25 – representing a portion of their budget allotment for the period ending September 30, 2010.
2. YWCA - \$7,448.00 – representing the July and August payments for the Homeless Assistance Program they administer for the county – Grants Public Welfare Fund.
3. Foster Township - \$11,169.00 – representing payment for their 2010 Liquid Fuel Project - Liquid Fuel Fund.
4. Norwich Township - \$2,891.00 – representing payment for their 2010 Liquid Fuel Project – Liquid Fuel Fund.
5. Wetmore Township - \$6,107.00 – representing payment for their 2010 Liquid Fuel Project – Liquid Fuel Fund.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to approve a county aid application for Bradford City in the amount of \$16,834.00 for the year 2010.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to issue a real estate tax refund to Jay & Patricia Smith in the amount of \$218.70 as their property was granted Veteran's Exemption effective for the 2010 tax year.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into a maintenance agreement with Karpinski's Office Systems (KOS) for a copy machine for the Juvenile Probation Department. The cost is \$336.00 a year.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into a license agreement with Positive Solutions Associates for the Juvenile Probation Department.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into a grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the Emergency Shelter Grant Program that is administered by the YWCA. The grant amount is \$59,927.00.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to adopt the following resolution to approve the 9-1-1 Telephone Access Plan and contribution rate for the residents of the County of McKean.

RESOLUTION 14 OF 2010

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF

McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

APPROVING THE 9-1-1 TELEPHONE

ACCESS PLAN

**AND CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY OF
McKEAN**

WHEREAS, the McKean County Commissioners are implementing a County wide

centralized Communications Center to dispatch all County emergency services, and

WHEREAS, the county-wide Centralized Communication Center shall serve as the 9-1-1 Public Safety Access Point, and

WHEREAS, the McKean County have appointed Larry Norton, as the McKean County 9-1-1 Coordinator, and

WHEREAS, the McKean County Commissioners have developed a plan for implementation of enhanced 9-1-1 telephone service for the County of McKean, and

WHEREAS, the McKean County Commissioners have set the monthly contribution rate at \$1.50 per month and the rate will be included on all monthly telephone bills; collected by the telephone company and forwarded to the McKean County Commissioners for the exclusive use in the payment of authorized charges for the implementation and provision of 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Services in and to McKean County, and

WHEREAS, the said rate shall remain in effect by law for a period of not less than 3 years, and

WHEREAS, this plan conforms with the Guidelines for Administration of the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act (Act 78 of 1990, PL. 340, No.78 as Amended)

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the McKean County Commissioners as follows:

- 1. That said 9-1-1 Telephone access plan is approved by the McKean County Commissioners.**
- 2. That Larry Norton, McKean County's 9-1-1 Coordinator is authorized to file and update said plan and transmit all required documents and information to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for distribution to such other agents as required.**

Ms. Schellhammer – Is this a new fee or the same one we have always had?

Mr. Hartle – Same one and same amount.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to enter into an agreement with Jefferson County for housing McKean County inmates.

Mr. Pingie – I don't think we have had an agreement with Jefferson County before – we have them with other counties, but this will provide us with another source for housing inmates if we need it.

Mrs. Church – Hopefully, when we are done with the new building we won't have to do this.

Mr. DeMott – I believe we currently have 33 inmates housed outside the county.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to adopt the following resolution.

RESOLUTION 15 OF 2010

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE YEARS 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, AND 2017

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through 16 P.S. §11011-10.1, has provided that the county commissioners have the power to fix the salary of all county officers by the act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with 16 P.S. §11011-10.1, has published notice of its intention to fix salaries at a public meeting to be held at the McKean County 911 Center on September 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., which is between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. as is required by the statute; and

WHEREAS, salary increases are required to be on a percentage basis and applied equally to all county officials, with certain exceptions, which were enacted to raise lower salaried county officials to equality with other county officials.

NOW THEREFORE, this 7th day of September, 2010, it is hereby **RESOLVED** and enacted as follows:

1. That the salaries for all of the Elected Officials of McKean County shall be increased each year by a percentage to be determined by the annual national consumer price index – all urban consumers, as established on September 30th of each year prior to the year in which the salary increase shall take place. Notwithstanding the forgoing, in no event shall the salary increase for elected officials be less than 1% nor more than 5%.
2. The Coroner, whose salary is considerably below the salaries of the other elected officials of the county, shall receive a five per cent (5%) increase per annum during the term of this salary schedule for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 in addition to the general costs of living increase provided above

for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Mr. Pingie – Pointed out that the only change is under the Coroner salary – he will receive a five per cent (5%) increase each year in his salary for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 as for some time his salary has been lower than some of the other row officers so this should bring his salary closer to theirs and in addition he will still receive the cost of living increase as the other elected officials for the years 2012 through 2017.

Mr. DeMott – Pointed out that the increases for the elected officials will continue to be based on the consumer price index with a minimum increase of 1% and a maximum increase of 5%.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Mr. DeMott – Opened the meeting for public comment.

No public comment.

Moved by Mr. Pingie, seconded by Mrs. Church, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote on the above resolution, DeMott – yes. Pingie – yes. Church – yes. Three – yeas. No – nays. Carried.

Chief Clerk