

May 18, 2010

The Juniata County Commissioners met on the above date with Commissioners Jeff Zimmerman, Dale Shelley and Teresa O'Neal present. Also attending were members of the public Clair Bair, Jr., Robert Reynolds and Ernie Sweitzer; Chief Assessor Jeff Haines; Program Manager of Tech Bridge Program Lisa Bruschi; Vocational Instructor/Site Supervisor with Workforce Investment Program Jared Dressler; Juniata Sentinel reporter Maria Yohn; Times Reporter Paulette Forry and Lewistown Sentinel Reporter Micaiah Bilger .

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Zimmerman. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the May 11th meeting were approved as submitted.

Bair questioned whether the township supervisors were withholding building permits. Commissioner Zimmerman stated that he felt it was more a matter of timeliness rather than withholding permits. Haines stated that it is the responsibility of the owner and or builder to assure a building permit has been issued. Bair also asked if a recent case that was heard before the State Supreme Court of PA stating that a COD above 20 was unconstitutional. Since Juniata County was at 53-54% at one time, would there have been potential for a liability law suit. Zimmerman stated the legislature is working on a codification that would be uniform across the state.

Bair also broached the subject of reassessment. Zimmerman stated it has been discussed. Bair questioned whether there shouldn't be a public hearing so the taxpayers would have a chance to voice their opinions. O'Neal stated she would like to see a committee formed composed of representatives from agriculture, business, and others to have them research and make recommendations for reassessment. Shelley stated that it's important to have adequate Assessment staff. He stated with reassessment you can pick up additions as well as other structures. He feels reassessment would bring in enough additional money to pay for adequate field personnel in the Assessment Office.

Sweitzer stated he is definitely against reassessment. If there were additional money added to the county's coffers, it but would be spent. At this time home prices have dropped and there is a possibility that in the end there could be less money coming in to the county.

Because of the uncertainty of the stock market, Sweitzer questioned if the retirement funds that are invested with King Financial would cause an increase in the amount taxpayers would have to pay to fund the account. The commissioners stated the retirement account is fully funded at the end of each year. Shelley stated the year-end funding has stayed relatively level since investing with King Financial.

Reynolds stated he had been to the Fermanagh polling site to vote and was concerned that there were only 2 people working at the polls when there were 10 to 12 people standing in line. He requested the Commissioners do something to "man" the polls.

Bruschi and Dressler spoke about programs they sponsor and also distribute literature. The program receives money through the WIB.

The commissioners took the following actions:

- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved an audit services contract with Thomas G. Clark, CPA, submitted by Children & Youth for \$2,750.00
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved CDBG check #1004, payable to Castle Valley Consultants in the amount of \$181.41.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved tax exonerations for Walker, Fermanagh and Delaware Townships.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved the fourth amendment for the L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Inc. Professional Services Contract in the amount of \$12,000 for assessment parcel updates.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved HazMat check #1061, payable to Casner's Service Center in the amount of \$88.10

Commissioner O'Neal asked that Jeff Haines be added to next week's agenda to discuss a proposal from INFOCO for additional data.

On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Salary Board

- No action was taken.

Retirement Board

- No action was taken.

Jeffrey M. Zimmerman, Chairman

Dale S. Shelley, Vice Chairman

Teresa J. O'Neal, Secretary

Submitted for Approval
Sherlyn Mosebey