

August 25, 2009

The Juniata County Commissioners met on the above date with Commissioners Jeff Zimmerman, Dale Shelley and Teresa O'Neal present. Also attending were Emergency Services Director Allen Weaver, representing the Census Bureau Cheryl Smith and Rick Buck, SEDA-COG representative Megan Epler, Accounting Consultant Lonnie Snyder, 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. After correction of a typographical area in a bullet point item that should have shown Commissioner O'Neal voted "against" a recommendation to purchase a Sheetfed Scanner for the Treasurer's Office, the Minutes had shown "..... O'Neal voted again," on motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the August 18th meeting were approved.

Buck gave an update on the Census. In March, a short form will be delivered by mail to all homes except those using post office box addresses. Those homes will receive their forms directly from a census bureau representative. Buck asked the commissioners to consider creating a Census 2010 Complete Count Committee Program. He stressed the importance of every resident being counted since the census data is used to determine federal funding and also to determine House seats. Smith is working with the Hispanic community to determine contacts which would enable a complete count of both documented and undocumented individuals. Administrative offices serving Juniata County will be located in Altoona.

Epler gave an update on the LED Traffic Conversion Project. The County used Liquid Fuels funds to cover the equipment cost and installation. The county has received a 62% reimbursement of the equipment costs through a grant procured by SEDA-COG. The four municipalities benefiting from the Program are Fayette, Fermanagh, Walker and the Mifflintown Borough. As a result of the installation of this equipment, those municipalities have experienced a reduction in signal light electric usage of between 60 and 70%. The LED lights are guaranteed for 5 years but many municipalities are seeing 10-12 year usage and the lights are still operating. Epler also mentioned ACT 129 Legislation that has been passed mandating a reduction in base load consumption. The target dates for these mandates will be in 2011 and 2013. Utility companies will offer incentives for energy conservation and as a results of these incentives, utility companies will be permitted to recoup the cost of the programs.

Weaver was present to request the commissioners create a new Operations and Training Officer position. This individual would also act as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. The 50% federally funded position has been approved for 2010 and will be funded through the Emergency Management Performance Grant. O'Neal suggested the issue be addressed at a Salary Board to be called at the end of the regular Commissioners' Board meeting.

As of this date, there has been no movement on the State budget. As a result, the County has been notified that the West Nile Virus Program will end August 31, 2009. Also, Tara Snyder, the County's grant funded Victim Witness Coordinator, contacted the commissioners regarding her position. She has cut hours and expenses to keep her office operating. The cases that require her services are continuing to increase.

O'Neal noted the County is continuing to pay bills but has not received a financial report since May 31 due to the implementation of the new Unifund accounting system. Lonnie Snyder indicated that hopefully by the end of next week, Unifund will be able to enter the 2009 budget information which will enable him to provide current financial information.

As an update to the CCAP Conference, Shelley noted he had attended a meeting on Prisons and found that most counties are being conservative with imprisonments. Those counties are using alternatives such as ankle bracelets, home confinement, etc. as an alternative to confinement.

O'Neal stated she had attended a number of meetings including the Courts and Corrections Committee meeting, a solicitor's session and a VA session during the CCAP conference. Among topics discussed at the various meetings were- the reform of constable laws, video taping of public meetings, the Clifton vs Allegheny County suit dealing with assessment and programs that are available for veterans.

The Commissioners took the following actions:

- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved submission of a letter to support and participate in EDA activities of SEDA-COG.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved transferring \$2,835.33 of 2007/2008 Housing Rehab administrative money to projects.
- On motion of O'Neal/Shelley and unanimously carried, approved the PCCD, CJAB Jail Enhance grant extension from September 30, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

O'Neal stated the county has received an invoice from Richard Mills in the amount of \$440 for project estimates and evaluation for the PA Conservation Works grant projects. The county will pay the invoice from the general fund and if the grant is approved, that amount will be reimbursed to the county.

Salary Board

Creation of an Operations and Training Officer position will be discussed.

Retirement Board

No business was brought before the Board.

On motion of O'Neal/Shelley, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Jeffrey M. Zimmerman, Chairman

Dale S. Shelley, Vice Chairman

Teresa J. O'Neal, Secretary

Submitted for approval

Sherlyn Mosebey