

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 22, 2019

The Bedford County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting in Room 303 of the Bedford County Government Building, 200 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA on Tuesday, October 8, 2019. Commissioner Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Commissioner Crooks gave the prayer of invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara, Commissioner S. Paul Crooks. Others present: Angie Ferguson, Administrative Assistant; Melissa Cottle, Treasurer; Jennifer Kovacs, Bedford County Conservation District; David Cubbison, Emergency Management Director; Terry Stacey, CDBG Coordinator; members of the public and the press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of October 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

EXPENDITURES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the following expenditures. The motion was approved as presented.

Payroll	\$273,264.94	CK#:183539-183545
General	\$217,160.66	
General	\$265,031.82	
Commissary	\$ 12,504.38	
CDBG	\$ 100.95	
LEPC	\$ 141.00	

Commissioner Crooks reported on the following large expenditures from the General Account: Bedford County Regional Donation \$12,500.00; Bedford County Retirement at \$30,000.00; Bond 16 \$72,534.38; Professional Family – Children & Youth Services \$29,659.84; Children’s Aid Home – Children & Youth Services \$12,945.36; Adelphoi - Children and Youth Services \$84,112.60; Adelphoi – Children & Youth Services \$10,417.14

OLD BUSINESS:

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement between the following and Bedford County Children & Youth Services and the Juvenile Probation Office, effective, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Lisa Cairo, Administrator Bedford County Children and Youth Services. The motion was approved as presented.

1. The Children’s Aid Home Programs of Somerset County, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the appointment of Mr. Dominic Whetstone to the advisory Board Support Committee of Bedford County Children and Youth Services for the 2019-2020 term. This is based upon the recommendation of Stan Howes, Chairperson of the Bedford County Children & Youth Advisory Board. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and Seconded by Commissioner Crooks to amend the Motion of July 30, 2019 to apply for FFY 2019 Community Development Block Grant funds in the amended sums as follows: Hyndman Borough Waterline Replacement Phase V (multi-year) - \$125,432.00; and County-wide Housing Rehabilitation - \$33,698.00. Other allocations stated in the July 30 Motion remain unchanged. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and Seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve Sarah Ann Garcia as a public director for a 4 year term on the Bedford County Conservation District Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023. This is based upon the recommendation of Robin J. Foor, The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and Seconded by Commissioner Crooks to re-appoint James Eshelman as a farmer director for a 4 year term on the Bedford County Conservation District Board for a four year term effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023. This is based upon the recommendation of Robin Foor, Director of the Farm Service Agency. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and Seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the resolution urging the reauthorization of collectin fees to the abandoned mine land reclamation fund. The motion was approved as presented. Commissioner Crooks read the resolution.

RESOLUTION URGING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF COLLECTION OF FEES TO THE ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION FUND

WHEREAS, Substantial coal mining has occurred in Pennsylvania for more than 130 years, and the industry has been a significant employer of our citizens for most of these years; and

WHEREAS, Abandoned mines pose hazards in Pennsylvania of dangerous shafts, mountains of black waste, scarred landscapes, acidic drainages polluting more than 5,500 miles of our streams and other hazards threatening human health and safety and depressing local economies; and

WHEREAS, At least 44 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are affected by abandoned coal mines; and

WHEREAS, At least 1.4 million Pennsylvanians live within one mile of abandoned mine lands; and Pennsylvania's estimated cleanup cost is \$15 billion; and

WHEREAS, Abandoned mines and abandoned mine lands create negative impacts on local economies by destroying recreational opportunities, lowering land values, leaving desolate communities once the mines are exhausted and ruining sites for further residential, forestry, commercial or agricultural uses, and threaten the human health and safety of people living in our coal field communities; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation of abandoned mine sites can add to the economy by creating jobs, increasing community pride, increasing property values, decreasing stress-related costs through stream-based recreation, restoring the health of the environment and providing future sites for commercial or industrial endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Congress established the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to reclaim areas abandoned before 1977 and the modern environmental standards requiring mine operators to reclaim their sites; and

WHEREAS, The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 imposed on coal

operators a fee of 35 cents per ton on surface mined coal, 15 cents per ton on underground mined coal, and 10 cents on lignite to provide a source of revenue for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to help finance the reclamation and remediation of lands mined prior to 1977; and

WHEREAS, The Scope of the abandoned mine problem continues to outpace available resources; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Congress of the United States re-authorized the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to extend fee collection through 2021, increase the “ Set Aside” for acid mine drainage from 10% to 30%, and provide for mandatory distribution of AML funds; and

WHEREAS, The fees collected and deposited into the federal AML Fund are derived from a per ton fee assessed on each ton of coal mined by the active mining industry and can only be used for purposes authorized under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The AML Fund is not derived from a tax and is not funded from the US Treasury.; and

WHEREAS, The collection of fees on mined coal applied to Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is set to expire in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has relied upon the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund as a Primary source of money to clean up toxic mine water in our water supplies, restore land, extinguish mine fires and eliminate other dangerous abandoned mine hazards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Bedford County urges Congress of the United States to reauthorize the collection of fees on mined coal at the restored 1977 levels of 35 cents per surface mined, 15 cents deep mined, and 10 cents on mined lignite; and

FURTHER: That the collection of fees be for at least 15 additional years and through 2036; and

FURTHER: The SMCRA Title IV grants should be exempt from sequestration and all Title IV sequestered funds should be given back to the states, retroactive to FY 2013; and

FURTHER: That the mandatory distribution for minimum program states be raised to \$5 million; and

FURTHER: That a direct line item for emergency projects be established in OSMRE's budget to reflect the need for remediating AML emergencies in all states and tribes.

FURTHER: That mandatory distribution of future allocated reclamation fees continue for the intended purpose of cleaning up abandoned mine problems; and

FURTHER: That the annual distribution of funds continue to be formulated to adequately address the abandoned mine problems of all states and to allow the states with the most problems to correct them much more quickly; and

FURTHER: That the current definitions of Reclamation Priorities be maintained to adequately correct all land and water problems created by abandoned mines including water polluted by acid mine drainage; and

FURTHER: That future allocations from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund be used by the states in ways that promote reclamation, leverage private investment, and encourage

development where appropriate, and to be used to complement or match other funds available for redevelopment of abandoned mine land sites; and

FURTHER: That transfer of interests generated on the Fund be maintained to the Combined Benefit Fund to defray health costs for retired miners and their dependents whose companies have bankrupt or are no longer in business.

FURTHER: That the SMCRA 30% Set-Aside option be maintained.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

Bedford County supports reauthorization of SMCRA Title IV fees by Congress.

DULY ADOPTED at the regular meeting of Bedford County this 22nd day of October, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and Seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve the Bedford County Offices Holiday Schedule for 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of the Bedford County Commissioners. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and Seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve National Business Women's Week October 20, 2019 to October 26, 2019. The motion was approved as presented. Deb Baughman read the proclamation.

Bedford County Board of Commissioners
National Business Women's Week®
2019

WHEREAS, working women constitute 76 million, or almost half, of the nation's workforce and strive to serve their communities, their states and their nation in professional, civic and cultural capacities; and

WHEREAS, women-owned businesses account for 42% percent of all U.S. business, generating \$1.9 trillion in sales and employing 9.4 million people; and

WHEREAS, working women should be applauded for their contributions to the workplace and the financial stability of their families especially during the economic downturn when more women have become their family's breadwinner; and

WHEREAS, the major goal of Business and Professional Women's Foundation is to promote equity for all women and to help create better conditions for working women through the study and advocacy of social, educational and economic issues impacting women in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, since 1928, National Business Women's Week® has honored the contributions of working women and employers who support working women and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Bedford Business and Professional Women's Club wholeheartedly supports the concepts set forth in the celebration of National Business Women's Week; and

THEREFORE, we, the Commissioners of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, by the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2019, to October 26 2019 as National Business Women's Week®.

This event is sponsored by Business and Professional Women's Foundation. We urge all citizens, businesses and community organizations in Bedford County, Pennsylvania to join this salute to working women. Encourage and promote the celebration of the achievements of all working women as they contribute daily to our economic, civic and cultural goals and livelihood.

COMMENTS/APPOINTMENTS: A question was asked regarding the lawsuit filed by Sheriff Charwin Reichelderfer on the issue of hiring a part-time sheriff deputy. An official statement was read by Chairman Commissioner Josh Lang regarding the lawsuit.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Crooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dallara seconded by motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

The next meeting will be held November 12, 2019 in Room 303 unless called sooner by the Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:

Angie Ferguson, Administrative Assistant

S. Paul Crooks, Secretary