

October 17, 2024

Office of the County of Elk Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes

Elk County, Ridgway, PA

The County of Elk Commissioners met on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM, County of Elk Courthouse, Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Commissioners M. Fritz Lecker, Matthew G. Quesenberry and Gregory J. Gebauer. Also present were Rick Brown, Solicitor; Patrick Straub, Chief Clerk; Emily Anders, Office Administrator; Dan Rimer, IT; Matthew Frey, Treasurer; Tracy Gerber, Planning Director; Kathy McClelland, Housing Specialist; Aidan Bobik, ACC AmeriCorp; Kurt Mennitti, North Central PA Regional Planning; Georgia Wagner and John Nicklas, Christian Food Bank; Dwight Hoare, Pete Straub, Zack Pontious, and Nate Higgins, Elk County Healthcare Coalition; Julia Peer, Cheryl Ruffner, and Karin Pfingstler, Penn Highlands Healthcare; and Marilyn Secco, Press.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by M. Fritz Lecker, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS –**

1. Kurt Mennitti, Community & Economic Development Coordinator for North Central PA Regional Planning and Development Commission. Aidan Bobik, ACC AmeriCorps Member will speak about his project for the upcoming year at NCPRPDC. **Aidan Bobik stated that ACC Americorp mission is to get things done to solve major issues in areas such as education, poverty and housing. He is working on a housing action plan and a safety action plan at NCPRPDC. His term runs for 1 year, expiring in August, 2025.**
2. Georgia Wagner and John Nicklas present updates on the Christian Food Bank. **John Nicklas stated that people must qualify for the food bank. They are currently boxing food for 1,500 people per month. The food is coming from different areas, government, local providers and other nonprofits. Georgia Wagner spoke of the creation of a drive-thru for pickups. She also said they have made arrangements with a church in the Valley to provide a pickup place closer for some residents. Georgia Wagner also thanked the Commissioners for their support.**

**RESOLUTIONS –**

1. Resolution 2024-25- Request by Planning Department, PHARE/Act 13 of 2012 Impact Fee Act. **Kathy McClelland stated this was a yearly grant she used for updates in homes of residents, age 62 and up. These updates, such as stairlifts and handicap bathrooms are to allow people to remain in their homes as they age. Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
2. Resolution 2024-26 – Request by the Elk County Healthcare Coalition, creation of Elk County Healthcare Authority. **M. Fritz Lecker explained this was requested as all**

other previous steps to create the Elk County Healthcare Authority have been completed. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Bid Opening for Courthouse blinds project.
  - a. Miller Home Furniture and Mattress \$63,600.00
  - b. O Interiors \$39,500.00

**Tracy Gerber stated that both bids were reviewed and she recommends that the Commissioners accept the bid by O Interiors. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Request by Planning Department, ratification of PHARE grant money for Northern Tier - Ramps of Hope (\$20,000), CAPSEA (\$100,000) and Housing Rehabilitation, Slum and Blight (\$100,000). **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by M. Fritz Lecker and carried unanimously.**
2. Request by Elections Department, approval of 2024 HAVA Security Grant agreement. **M. Fritz Lecker stated this was a \$3,000.00 grant that would be used for rolling cabinets. Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
3. Request by Johnsonburg Borough, application for an allocation of County Liquid Fuel Tax Funds in the amount of \$6,000.00 to purchase an equipment trailer. **Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
4. Request by Veteran Affairs, approval of benefits for 1 Veteran burial, 1 widow burial and 1 veteran headstone. **Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer are carried unanimously.**
5. Request by CYS, renewal of the following grants with County match from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:
  - a. Family Group Decision Making with a 5% County match. Grant total is \$70,000, a \$20,000 increase from last year.
  - b. Family Redevelopment with a 5% County match. Grant total is \$25,000, a \$20,000 decrease from last year.

**M. Fritz Lecker stated the grants were not always completely used and explained the County was only responsible for the match of used funds. Motion by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

### CORRESPONDENCE – (The following correspondence, if any, is available in the Commissioner’s office for further review.)

1. BCMJ Controls, Inc. (received October 3<sup>rd</sup>) regarding intent to of KC Midstream LLC to submit a General Air Permit (AQ5/GP5) application to the PA DEP. Project name is KC Midstream Overbeck Compressor Station – New GP-5 Permit Authorization – New Natural Gas Fired Engine Compressor and includes (1) Caterpillar G3516B and (1) Caterpillar G3406 engine. Site location is Millstone Twp. Section 127.413 of the

Commonwealth Administrative Code and the GP-5 Permit requires written notice and a 30 day public comment period.

**GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- Jay Township Volunteer Fire Department celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.
- Elk County Veteran Advocate Network meeting on Monday, October 28 from 1:00PM to 3:00PM.
- Please continue to pray for our military personnel, our families and our children, their teachers, all elected officials and peace in the world.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS**

1. Marilyn Secco asked Aidan Bobik for a flyer for her article. She also requested that someone from Elk County Healthcare Coalition and Penn Highlands stay after for a brief statement.

**QUESTIONS FROM TAXPAYERS**

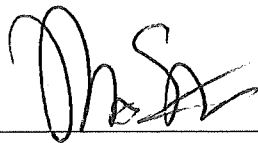
1. Cheryl Ruffner and Karen Pffingstler asked about the time frame for the creation of the Elk County Healthcare Authority. Rick Brown stated there would be a request for letters of interest for appointment to the Board. These members would be approved at a future meeting. A public notice would be published and they would need to file the articles of incorporation. Penn Highlands asked if Keystone Rural Health and Penn Highlands would be awarded a seat on the Board. Rick Brown stated this would be a conflict of interest.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM on a motion by M. Fritz Lecker.

**Next Meeting:  
10:00 A.M. Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
Conference Room #1, Courthouse Annex**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MSA', written over a horizontal line.