

Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM AVAILABLE

October 5, 2023

In Attendance: Rick Wilbur, Tom Henry, Ernie King, Commissioners, Amber Franko, Chief Clerk

Press: Warren Howeler, Rocket Courier (via Zoom), Bob Baker, New Age Examiner

Visitors: Lori Bennett

Rick Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:13 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):

None

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Chief Clerk Report-None

Solicitor Report-None

Ernie King made a motion to approve the bills for payment. All three Commissioners have reviewed all invoices for appropriateness. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Lori Bennett asked the Commissioners what their opinions were on the recent activities of the Tunkhannock Area School Board regarding the implementation of solar power at the schools. The Commissioners agreed they have to do more research on this topic before forming any opinions. They noted there is a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 regarding solar power.

Warren Howeler asked if there is an update on the two pending Union contracts. Commissioner Wilbur explained the County has gone through arbitration for one unit and is awaiting the award. The other unit is still pending but no further comment could be made on the subject.

Commissioner Wilbur informed the group that a decision whether the Thursday meetings will be held will be communicated to the public by 9:00am the morning of the meeting. He explained there are times when the Thursday meetings will need to be canceled but the public will be made aware.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Tom Henry made the Motion to adjourn. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

W. S. King
Ernie A. King
Tom Henry

Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM AVAILABLE

October 10, 2023

In Attendance: Rick Wilbur, Tom Henry, Ernie King, Commissioners, Amber Franko, Chief Clerk, Atty. Paul Litwin, Solicitor

Press: Warren Howeler, Rocket Courier, Kevin McConlogue, New Age Examiner

Visitors: John Alunni, Children & Youth Director, Dennis Phelps, Trehab, Joanne Farrar, Cathy Franko, HANDS, Alisha Myers, HANDS, Shianna Wiernusz, HANDS, Erica Rogler, BPW, Mary Tempest, BPW, Holly Arnold (via Zoom)

Rick Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):

None

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Ernie King made the motion to approve the September 26, 2023 and October 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Chief Clerk Report-None

Solicitor Report-Requested an Executive Session regarding a legal matter.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to add to the agenda the art show at the Courthouse on Friday, October 13, 2023 and a Proclamation for National Parents as Teachers Day. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur also made a motion to add to the agenda sign-on and retention bonuses for the 911 employees. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilbur discussed the need to open a new bank account for the stormwater project at the Jail to keep grant funds separate from the General Fund. Commissioner Wilbur made a motion to approve the new account. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilbur made a motion to issue the first payment from ARP funds of \$300,000.00 for the purchaser of Tyler Hospital. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made the motion to accept the resignations of Eric Janiszewski from the Jail effective October 14, 2023, the resignation of Matthew Schwartz from 911 effective October, 6, 2023 and also the resignation of Sandy Boyle from the Wyoming County Planning Commission effective December 31, 2023. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

The Commissioners declared October 19, 2023 as Purple Thursday to bring awareness to Domestic Violence. This is sponsored by the Victims Resource Center.

Commissioner King made a motion to approve resolutions amending the 2019 and 2020 CDBG unspent funds to move them to the current year. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry read a Proclamation naming Wyoming County Heart and Soul statement of values for what matters most to residents. Commissioner Henry made a motion to accept the Proclamation. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

Ernie King read a Proclamation naming October 16-20, 2023 as National Business Women's Week. Commissioner King made a motion to accept the Proclamation. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

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October 10, 2023

Rick Wilbur read a Proclamation naming November 8, 2023 as National Parents as Teachers Day. This was accepted by a number of employees from HANDS. Commissioner Henry made a motion to accept the Proclamation. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made the motion to approve Children & Youth contracts. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made the motion to approve \$2,000 sign on and retention bonuses for 911 employees. This will be paid in two installments. The first payment after 6 months and the second payment after a year. This is only for full time employees. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to award the bids for tree and brush removal at the AG Building to A Certified Arborist. Bids for both of the projects came in the lowest. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed the need to rebid the project for the gas hookup at the Courthouse due to the lack of bids received. This will be advertised in additional publications in a more widespread area.

The Commissioner reminded the two Tuesday meetings in November are moved to the following day, Wednesday. Both have been advertised as such.

Commissioners called for an Executive session at 10:21 a.m. No action taken following the Executive Session which concluded at 10:24 a.m.

Public Comment:

Warren Howeler inquired as to what the CDBG projects for unused funds were. The Commissioners explained one is being used in Exter Township for a water pump system at the Senior Center and elderly housing. The other project is in Nicholson for a water pump station and new meters.

Mr. Howeler also asked for clarification as to what the \$300,000.00 from ARP to the purchaser of Tyler Hospital will be used for. This money was earmarked for overhead costs and will be run through the Tyler Health Foundation.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Tom Henry made the Motion to adjourn. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Ernie King
Thomas Henry

Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM AVAILABLE

October 19, 2023

In Attendance: Rick Wilbur, Tom Henry, Ernie King, Commissioners, Amber Franko, Chief Clerk, Atty. Paul Litwin, Solicitor

Press: Warren Howeler, Rocket Courier (via Zoom), Bob Baker, New Age Examiner

Visitors: Lori Bennett

Rick Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):

Tom Henry made the motion to add the following items to the agenda which were brought to the attention of the Commissioners after the agenda had been posted.

- Discuss and vote to authorize Paul Litwin to represent both Exeter Twp and Wyoming County on a CDBG project concerning Exeter Twp Senior center water system and prepare documentation.
- Discuss and vote to hire Emily Podminick, BSN, RN as a full time Nurse Family Partnership Nurse.
- Discuss and vote to authorize Shawn Henninger for indefinite time unpaid medical leave.

Ernie King second the Motion to add these items to the agenda. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the agenda. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Bob Baker requested that the bills that will be voted on during the meeting, be made available for public review prior to the meeting. Chairman Wilbur informed Mr. Barker that copies are available for public review 24 hours in advance of a meeting. Copies were also given to both he and Lori Bennett.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Chief Clerk Report-None

Solicitor Report-None

Commissioner Wilbur made the motion to authorize Paul Litwin to represent both Exeter Twp and Wyoming County on a CDBG project. He explained that the Township and the County are working together on this Exeter Twp Senior center water system and would be beneficial to have Atty. Litwin represent both sides. Commissioner King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Henry made a motion to hire Emily Podminick as a full time Nurse Family RN. Commissioner King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilbur made a motion to authorize Shawn Henninger for indefinite unpaid medical leave. Atty. Litwin suggested the Commissioners revisit the extended leave after 6 months. All agreed and Commissioner King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner King made a motion to approve bills for payment. Commissioner Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Warren Howeler inquired about the meeting the Commissioners attended regarding the solar project. The Commissioners explained this was just an informational meeting and more will be discussed in the following weeks.

Lori Bennett asked Commissioner King what the status of the chestnut project is in Wyoming County. Commissioner King explained everything was on schedule with Conservation to begin in the spring of 2024. He stated there is already one row of trees planted and they are working on fencing. Ms. Bennett asked if there were any plans of coordinating with the schools and all three Commissioners have high hopes they will be able to turn this into an educational experience for anyone who is interested.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Tom Henry made the Motion to adjourn. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Ernest A. King

Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM AVAILABLE

October 24, 2023

In Attendance: Rick Wilbur, Tom Henry, Ernie King, Commissioners, Amber Franko, Chief Clerk, Atty. Paul Litwin, Solicitor

Press: Warren Howeler, Rocket Courier (via Zoom), Kevin McConlogue, New Age Examiner

Visitors: John Alunni, Children & Youth Director, Atty. Tim Carroll, Public Defender, Dennis Phelps, Trehab, Cain Chamberlin, EMHR

Rick Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):

Rick Wilbur made the motion to add the following items to the agenda which were brought to the attention of the Commissioners after the agenda had been posted.

- Discuss and vote to accept the termination of Leann Reeves in Corrections effective October 23, 2023. CO Reeves was still on probation at time of termination.
- Discuss and vote to accept the resignation of Christine Aiken in the District Attorney's office effective November 10, 2023.
- Discuss and vote to accept the resignation of Katherine Pindar in Corrections effective November 7, 2023.

Tom Henry second the Motion to add these items to the agenda. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Tom Henry made the motion to approve the October 10, 2023 and October 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Chief Clerk Report-None

Solicitor Report-None

Commissioner Wilbur announced the County received a notice that the \$35,000 PComp safety grant has been approved. The money from this grant is to be used for safety issues at the Courthouse and surrounding county buildings.

Ernie King made the motion to approve the Cooperation Agreement between Exeter Township and Wyoming County on the CDBG funded water project in Exeter Township. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the Nondiscrimination policy for Wyoming County Human Services. This policy is reviewed yearly. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

Ernie King made the motion to approve Children & Youth contracts. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made the motion to approve the agreement between Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties through Trehab for SWCT for elderly transportation. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve non-financial backing to Daughters of the American Revolution to set up an educational display at the Marcy Pioneer Cemetery on Founder's Day 2024. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Henry made a motion to hire Carson Helfrich at a rate of \$95.00 per hour, to update SALDO to include provisions for commercial solar facilities which include decommissioning. Commissioner Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

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October 24, 2023

Rick Wilbur discussed the bidding, done by PennDot, for repairs on Wyoming County Bridge #3 Oak Drive. If a disaster declaration is declared by FEMA, the County will be reimbursed. If not, the funds will come from the County Liquid Fuels account. The following bids were proposed:

A.R. Popple-\$98,450

Latona Trucking-\$139,179

Fabcor, Inc-\$167,871

Linde Corp-\$215,984

Kruger Construction-\$338,780

Commissioner Wilbur made a motion to accept the lowest bid from A.R. Popple to complete the work. Commissioner Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the following for inclusion in CDBG bidding documents: Minority Business Enterprise Plan and Statement of Goals, Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan and Notice of Section 504 Officer and Process for Grievance. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve to submit the application to PA DCED for annual CDBG grant funding. Ernie King second the Motion. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the termination of Leann Reeves in Corrections effective October 23, 2023, the resignation of Christine Aiken in the District Attorney's office effective November 10, 2023 and the resignation of Katherine Pindar in Corrections effective November 7, 2023. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Cain Chamberlin from EMHR, updated the Commissioners on events held within the County this year. Wyoming County is also eligible for 1/3 of their grant money which will be used for things at Keystone College, Nicholson train station, Dietrich Theater, Seneca Park, etc.

Kevin McConlogue asked for more information on the Exeter water project. The Commissioners explained DEP was forcing a change to the current system which include underground pumps.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Ernie King made the Motion to adjourn. Tom Henry second the Motion. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Handwritten signatures of Rick Wilbur, Ernest King, and Thomas Henry.