

# Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM Available

October 8, 2024

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

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

**Visitors:** Deanna HABIL, Children & Youth Director, Jeff Porter, 911 Communications Director, Matt Jones, Planning Director, DA Joe Peters, Paul Rowker, Connie Kitner, Erica Rogler, Elaine Walker, Michelle Shotwell, Mary Fox, Tunkhannock Business and Professional Woman

Commissioner Henry opened the Meeting at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):**

Commissioner Henry noted a misprint in the agenda: Zetron Max Dispatch upgrade is \$189,670 and Tassta IP radio is \$99,989.19.

Commissioner King made a motion to approve the agenda with the corrections from above. Commissioner Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Ernie King made a motion to approve the September 24, 2024 and September 26, 2024 meeting minutes. Tom Henry second the Motion. Rick Wilbur abstained as he was not able to review the meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

*Chief Clerk Report*-Congratulated David Smith, Correctional Sergeant, on his retirement from Corrections after 38 years of service.

*Solicitor Report*- None

Rick Wilbur made a motion to promote Devin Hurlburt from Telecommunicator Trainee to Telecommunicator 1. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve time off for a CO at the Jail due to surgery. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the following terminations/resignations:

- A CO at the Jail due to scheduling differences
- Lindsay Butler from 911 Communications due to obligations with the United States Army

Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve hiring Kirby Ziesmer as a full-time deputy sheriff. His start date will be October 7, 2024. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to hire Kayli Grow as a Deputy Chief Clerk. Her start date will be October 21, 2024. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to reappoint David Wilson to the Mental Health/Developmental Services Program Advisory Board for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the use of Act 13 funding for the following projects at the 911 Center:

- Zetron Max Dispatch upgrade. Total upgrade is \$189,670
- Upgrade net clocking timing devices. Total upgrade is \$33,414.58
- Tassta IP radio app for emergency services. Total project is \$99,989.19

Tom Henry second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

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Ernie King made a motion to approve the use of Act 13 funds for the County's annual ESRI subscription. Total amount is \$39,700. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the use of ARP funds for an underground viewing area under the creek at Patriots Cove. This will be used for educational purposes as well as recreation. Total amount to be allocated is \$25,000. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ernie King made a motion to approve the use of ARP funds for a project with the Nicholson Boro Authority. This project is to re-bolt water lines at the processing center. Total amount allocated is \$3,000. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the PHARE Fund 2024 Grant Agreement. This is to be used in Wyoming County for rent and utility assistance for those in recovery programs. Total program budget is \$120,000. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the 2024 HAVA Grant Agreement. This is to be used for activities to improve administration of elections for federal office including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements. Total grant is \$3,000. Tom Henry second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ernie King made a motion to adopt a resolution providing TEFRA approval for WoodBridge Healthcare who is acquiring the CHS facilities in the area. This permits WoodBridge Healthcare to avail itself of a tax-exempt borrowing to finance the project. There was a public hearing on October 2, 2024 at the Wilkes Barre City Council Chambers. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ernie King made a motion to approve the renewal of Children & Youth purchase service contracts. Tom Henry second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the payment of invoices after thorough review by the Commissioners. Ernie King second the Motion. Rick Wilbur abstained because he is not able to review. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to proclaim October 20-26, 2024 as National Business Women's Week. Commissioner Henry read and presented the Proclamation to a group from the Tunkhannock Business and Professional Women. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Tom Henry made the Motion to adjourn. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Henry adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Tom Henry' and the signature on the right is 'Rick Wilbur'.

## Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM Available

October 17, 2024

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

**Press:** Warren Howeler (via Zoom), Rocket Courier

**Visitors:** Barb Sick, Jackie Martin, Hallie Brown, Megan Rickaby, Maddy Bevan, Madison Walker, Tunkhannock Area Girls Golf Team, Carol Gaylord, Bill Gaylord, Connie Kitner

Commissioner Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:04 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):**

Commissioner King made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

*Chief Clerk Report*-None

*Solicitor Report*- None

Ernie King made a motion to approve the payment of invoices after thorough review by the Commissioners. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ernie King made a motion to approve a contract with Summit Fire and Security to provide services to the Robinson Building at a cost of \$964.81 for equipment and setup and \$75/monthly going forward. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ernie King made a motion to approve to change the scope of the DCNR grant to planting trees instead of a garden. The \$1,500 grant will then be reapplied for. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Ernie King made a motion to proclaim October 21, 2024 as Hallie Brown and Jackie Martin Day in Wyoming County. Both girls will represent Tunkhannock at Penn State in the PIAA Class 2A girls golf individual championship.

Commissioner King also included in his motion to proclaim October 23, 2024 as Tunkhannock Girls Golf Day in Wyoming County. The team will represent Tunkhannock at Penn State in the PIAA Class 2A girls golf team championship after an undefeated season. Rick Wilbur second the Motion and presented the coach and players with the Proclamations. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Ernie King made the Motion to adjourn. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Ernie King' and the second is 'Rick Wilbur'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

ZOOM Available

October 22, 2024

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

**Press:** Warren Howeler, Rocket Courier, Jessica Harker (via Zoom), New Age Examiner

**Visitors:** Deanna Habib, Children & Youth Director, Matt Jones, Planning Director, Kayli Grow, Deputy Chief Clerk, Ken Repsher (via Zoom), Warden, Cathy Franko, Alysha Meyers, HANDS

Commissioner Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:02 a.m.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):**

Commissioner Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the October 8, 2024 and October 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

*Chief Clerk Report-None*

*Solicitor Report- None*

The Commissioners announced that the CDBG application resolutions will be reviewed and considered during the October 31, 2024 meeting.

The Commissioners will discuss and vote to approve the resolution for the Mobility Study in and around the Borough of Tunkhannock at the special Commissioners/Planning meeting October 24, 2024 which will be held at the Wyoming County EMA/911 building.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the retirement of Dave Smith from the jail after 38 years of service. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the SWCT annual contract. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve an invoice of \$7,500 to Corrections Development for software for the Public Defender's office. This will be paid through the Indigent Defense Grant Program. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the hiring of Collin Bose, Ryan Zackus and Adam Sekely as full time Correctional Officers. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the resignations of Savannah Stockert and Hannah Hughes from Judicial Court. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the renewal of a Children & Youth service contract with Chester County. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to proclaim November 8, 2024 as Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers Day in Wyoming County. Cathy Franko and Alysha Meyers from HANDS were present to accept the Proclamation. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Tom Henry made the Motion to adjourn. Rick Wilbur second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Amber Franko  
Rick Wilbur

Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting / Planning Commission

Mobility Study Joint Meeting

October 23, 2024

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In Attendance:

Commissioners: Rick Wilbur, Tom Henry, Ernie King

Solicitor: Atty. Paul Litwin

Planning Commission Members: Randy Ehrenzeller, Stacy Huber, Roger Hadsall, Dale Brown, Jeremy Leaidicker

Planning Office: Matthew C. Jones, Caitlyn Allaoui

Hunt Engineering: Lynnelle Farber, Luke Grasmeyer

Press: Jessica Harker, Wyoming County Examiner

Northern Tier: Brian Baker, Steve Fisher, Emma Pugh

Visitors: Mary Gene Eagen, Jean Ruhf,

Rick Wilbur opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to authorize Caitlyn Allaoui to take minutes for this meeting, seconded by Ernie King, and the vote carried unanimously.

Randy Ehrenzeller, Chairman, established a quorum for the Planning Commission. Rick Wilbur established a quorum for the Commissioners.

Matt Jones introduced Lynnelle Farber and asked her to give a brief overview of the Tunkhannock Mobility Study.

Lynnelle Farber began that this study is full of ideas, and in order to complete these projects, they would need an individual or organization to champion these ideas.

Ms. Farber pointed out the high priority projects on which this study elaborated. There are gaps in connection of the sidewalks from Curry to the plaza, and on Route 92 at the Bypass to Baumgarter Field.

Medium priority projects would be to change directions of roadways around and near the Courthouse. Also, adding a right-in/right-out road to access the Tunkhannock High School.

Long term goals could bring a pedestrian bridge over the Bypass to reconnect the town to the Susquehanna River.

Matt Jones requested that there be a grant funding reference to Northern Tier and PennDOT, and to add Wyoming County to the cover prior to publishing.

## Wyoming County Commissioners Meeting

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October 31, 2024

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

**Press:** Warren Howeler (via Zoom), Rocket Courier, Jessica Harker, New Age Examiner

**Visitors:** Jeff Porter, 911 Communications Director, Ben Norris, 911 Communications Deputy Director, Matt Jones, Planning Director, Connie Kitner

Commissioner Wilbur opened the Meeting at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):**

Commissioner Wilbur made a motion to add the following to the agenda:

- Discuss and add to the agenda to amend the anti-discrimination policy to replace John Alunni with Deanna Habib as Compliance Officer/Title VI Coordinator
- Discuss and add to the agenda to authorize Ernie King to sign documents needed to submit to EPA Commissioner King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Clerk Franko asked for the following to also be added to the agenda:

- Discuss and add to the agenda to approve the resignations of Mike Munoz and Jamilyn Sickler from the 911 Center.

Commissioner Wilbur made the motion to add the resignations to the agenda. Commissioner Henry second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

*Chief Clerk Report-None*

*Solicitor Report- None*

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the bills for payment after thorough review by the Commissioners. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Tom Henry made a motion to approve the annual amendment resolutions for Trehab. These are required for various grants. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the promotion of Kaitlyn Brewer from trainee to Telecommunicator 1 at the 911 Center. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the following as a group since they are all related in nature:

- Adopt the PennVest Minority Owned Business Goals and Objectives which are required to be included with the federal grant for the storm water project at the Correctional Facility.
- Amend the anti-discrimination policy to replace John Alunni with Deanna Habib as Compliance Officer/Title VI Coordinator.
- Authorize Ernie King to sign documents needed to be submitted to EPA.

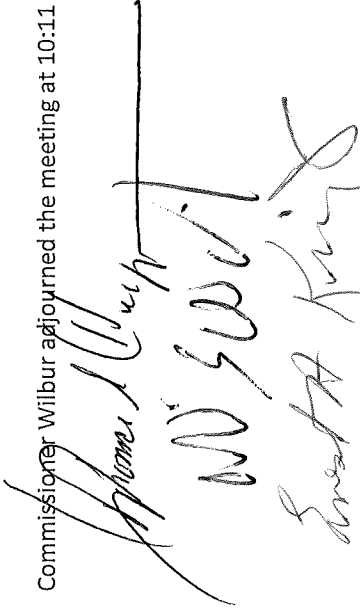
Tom Henry second the Motion. Ernie King abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Rick Wilbur made a motion to approve the resignations of Mike Munoz and Jamilyn Sickler from the 911 Center. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time. Rick Wilbur made the Motion to adjourn. Ernie King second the Motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wilbur adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.



Amber Franko  
Rick Wilbur  
Ernie King