

April 21, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners was held via video conference on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

BOARD MEMBERS: Commissioner Preston Boop, Chairman, Jeff Reber, Vice-Chairman and Stacy Richards, Secretary

GUESTS: Becky Perez, Matt Ferrand, Eric Scicchitano, Carolyn Conner, Billy Allred, Jeff McClintock, Finance Director.

STAFF: Susan Greene, Chief Clerk, Sheryl Vrabel, Executive Administrative Assistant.

ACTION MINUTES

A. MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Richards, second by Commissioner Reber, to approve the minutes of April 7, 2020. Motion carried and all members voted yes.

B. OPEN FORUM

From Matt Ferrand: Concerning the county's arrangement to put corrections officers at Bucknell, how did it come about, etc. Is it done under some provision of an emergency declaration or did the university make itself available voluntarily? Were they officers from the facility in storm damaged South Carolina or were they Lewisburg officers returning from COVID-19 spots in the federal system?

Commissioner Richards – Yes, Bucknell is housing the guards, when our EMA was planning for contingency housing, we reached out to Bucknell and they agreed and sent us an agreement to sign, we also reached out to a local hotel who also agreed. The guards are employed at Lewisburg and Allenwood and are not from South Carolina, we are expecting more guards to return and they are all Lewisburg or Allenwood staff.

From Eric Scicchitano : Can you give us some incite into the budget for the County? Has it been impacted by this situation?

Commissioner Reber – No, we have not had an impact, fortunately Union county has always been fiscally conservative.

From Eric Scicchitano : Have you had any more staff layoffs?

Commissioner Reber – As the work load decreases we may have more, we are monitoring the situation

Sue Greene – We currently have 8 employee layoffs

From Billy Allred : Can you describe the North Central Task Force?

Commissioner Boop – this is an EMA Coordinators group formed by a group of counties that use grant money to purchase equipment and then will share with all counties.

From Billy Allred : Thanks very much!

From Eric Scicchitano is the task force new?

Commissioner Boop – No, it has been around longer than I have been Commissioner

From Eric Scicchitano : Does the NDA have to do with COVID death reporting?

Commissioner Richards – Yes. Also, the state report of positive cases, so our EMA Coordinator can share with first responders to keep them safe. The information is general, no naming names and it is not shared with the Commissioners.

From Billy Allred : The more rural zip codes were redacted from the State's report by zip yesterday, they said "Redacted 1-4 Cases) Any idea why?

Commissioner Boop – No, this is the first I am hearing about this.

From Eric Scicchitano : I'd venture to guess it has to do with protecting people's IDs. I've seen that a lot, especially with ODs, where if there's a few cases, they don't give specific figures

From Becky Perez : Not specific to the topic of data and reporting.....Given Union County's relatively good relative position w/r/t COVID positives, and close physical proximity to counties which are not so lucky, do the Union County Commissioners have a stance on reopening nonessential businesses in the Central Susquehanna Valley??

Commissioner Boop – I'm not sure how this should happen and I don't think the people making the decisions are totally aligned yet, I think our local businesses are capable of making their employees safe and it should be their responsibility to do so. This should be a local decision.

Commissioner Richards – We don't know how it will happen, there are so many variables, but we have the luxury of not quite being there yet. Our County has done a great job of social distancing and we are pleased with that, but we need testing, we are chasing this and we need testing and contact tracing to do this safely.

Commissioner Reber – I'd like to see everyone that can get back to work go back to work, the local grocery stores are working safely and I think that others can do that as well.

Commissioner Boop – I remember when we had the outbreak of the Avian Flu, someone tracked the virus in with their shoes to a public feed store and it went from there, when I look back at that incident, it would have helped to have contact tracing. We are not getting that information with Covid, it seems to be more about individual rights.

From Becky Perez : thank you; I know this is a very difficult set of decisions. was just curious since our residents move easily across county lines. thanks for all you are doing.

C. NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Reber, second by Commissioner Richards, to approve payables ending the week of April 17, 2020 in an amount of \$257,061.93. Motion carried and all members voted yes.

Motion by Commissioner Richards, second by Commissioner Reber, to approve the FY 2020-2021 CAPS (Child Accounting and Profile System) Service Provider Agreement with Avanco for Union County Children and Youth Agency at a cost of \$26,408.72. This is funded through the Children and Youth IT Grant. Motion carried and all members voted yes.

Motion by Commissioner Reber, second by Commissioner Richards, to approve Memorandum of Agreement between Bradford County, Clinton County, Columbia County, Lycoming County, Montour County, Northumberland County, Potter County, Sullivan County, Tioga County, Union County collectively, on behalf of the North Central Task Force (NCTF) and Private Industry Council of Centre County Inc. (PICCC, Inc.) as presented. Motion carried and all members voted yes.

Motion by Commissioner Richards, second by Commissioner Reber, to approve Mutual Aid and Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the North Central Task Force (NCTF) as presented. Motion carried and all members voted yes.

Motion by Commissioner Reber, second by Commissioner Richards, to approve Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement (“NDA”) with the Pennsylvania Department of Health via the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency’s (“PEMA’s”) eGrants system appointing Susan Greene as single signatory authority on behalf of Union County. Motion carried and all members voted yes.

Commissioner Boop declared meeting adjourned.

Union County Commissioners

Susan Greene
Chief Clerk

Sheryl Vrabel
Executive Administrative Assistant