

BOCC Wrap-Up

June 7, 2021

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Shad Hail, Judge Toynbee, Steve Wohld, Josh Metcalf, Susie Palmateer, Chris Panush, Alison Puckett, Andy Caldwell, JP Anderson, Katie Conradi, Lara McRea, Lee Napier, Matt Patana, Tammy Martin, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Tailor Albright, Heidi Palmer, JP Anderson

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Nic Scott, Susan DeLaire, Edna J. Fund

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Late add

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to add to the June 8 Business Meeting a proclamation recognizing June 2021 as Pride Month.

Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Motion passed 2-0-1, with Commissioner Swope abstaining.

Juvenile request

Shad Hail requested clarification and permission to fill the Probation Officer 2 and Detention Officer 2 positions as created in the recently adopted salary study.

Steve Wohld clarified that the move would not create additional positions but would rather transform three existing positions into three higher-level positions.

The commissioners approved Shad's request to implement the changes outlined in the salary study.

Superior Court Accounting position

Susie Palmateer said Superior Court is requesting the addition of a Superior Court Accounting position. She cited state requirements as one of the reasons for the need, noting that financial and administrative duties are stretched existing staff.

Judge Toynbee noted that Superior Court is handling a lot of extra work in response to the Blake decision, COVID-19 (which has led to the use of two off-site jury selection locations), court backlogs, new grants, etc.

The group discussed the potential to use relief funds to help offset the costs.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to add a Superior Court accounting position.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Fair staffing

Commissioner Pollock and Steve Wohld discussed a proposal to revamp the fairgrounds, including creating new positions.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to add a Fair and Events Manager Position under the Parks and Rec Director in Internal Services.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Vacation rentals

Commissioner Stamper said he has been fielding a lot of complaints about Airbnb / vacation rentals in the Packwood area. He said neighbors have concerns about noise and garbage.

Commissioner Pollock noted that having higher numbers of vacation rentals can make it more difficult for distressed areas to obtain outside funding. Commissioner Swope noted that vacation rentals may cause unwanted competition for established businesses and also may not have to meet the same standards hotels and the like must meet.

The commissioners said they'd like to discuss their options with the PA's Office. Erik Martin said he has discussed the topic with Lee Napier and Dianne Dorey regarding safety, taxing, etc.

Building permits

Erik said he is reaching out to Community Development about plans to address permit backlogs.

Water banks

Commissioner Pollock said Aspect Consulting has provided a proposal regarding work on water banks.

3rd Congressional District redistricting

Rieva Lester noted that the state committee working on the congressional redistricting map will hold a public forum June 14. The commissioners said they may listen but that Commissioner Pollock would be the only one to speak.

Legislative update

Becky Butler reminded the group about a June 8 legislative update with the electeds.

Activity reports

Commissioner Swope discussed the completion of the train station / electric bus project. He said he, Meja Handlen and JP Anderson have selected a firm to help with the housing study. Commissioner Swope said he has a meeting later in the week to discuss creative solutions to drug addiction.

Commissioner Pollock said she toured the Skookumchuck Dam the previous week.

Announcements

Commissioner Swope noted that the United Learning Center groundbreaking ceremony is planned for June 8.

Commissioner Pollock discussed changes associated with HB 1152 regarding local health districts. She noted that the county already has an advisory board and therefore the impacts of 1152 will be less dramatic.

Meeting ended at 10 a.m.