

JULY 28, 2016 MINUTES
Formally approved August 9, 2016 meeting

FULL BOARD PRESENT; Also present: State Sen. John Gordner, State Rep. Kurt Masser; Harold Hurst, Rep. Masser District Office Manager; Jesse Kline, Treasurer; Susan Kauwell, Prothonotary; Greg Molter, Human Services Director; Bob Stoudt, MARC; Jess Runkle, DRIVE; Ben, Brian and Lauren Stoudt, Public; Karen Blackledge, The Danville News; Jen Wakeman, WKOK.

Mr. Holdren asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Rev. Molter. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

Mr. Finn moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

General Account Disbursements	\$265,400.66
General Account Receipts	\$204,653.50
General Account Checking .40%	\$3,231,058.29
Capital Reserve Fund .22%	\$29,678.68
Operating Reserve .27%	\$77,969.08
General MMA	\$0.00
Total Checking, MMAs	\$3,338,706.05
Act 13 Highway-Bridge 27%	\$152,587.26
Act 44 .40%	\$22,701.24
Children and Youth Checking .40%	\$327,368.22
Flood Mitigation .40%	\$1,845.12
Hazardous Material Account Checking .40%	\$15,998.98
Human & Community Services Checking .40%	\$39,004.02
Improvement Fund Checking .40%	\$14,337.06
Liquid Fuels Checking .40%	\$282,887.45
Medical Assistance Transportation .40%	\$103,382.03
Offender Supervision Account Checking .40%	\$50,546.79
Storm Water Ordinance Escrow	\$30,611.05
Transit Fund Account Checking .40%	\$32,460.97
Uniform 911 Surcharge .01%	\$352,243.41

Mr. Holdren called for public comment. Mr. Molter reported Human Services recently acquired a refrigerator, allowing his office to now distribute perishable items during monthly food giveaways.

Mr. Stoudt reported that contractor work on the 6.42-mile North Branch Canal Trail is finished with the official opening still on track for early October.

Mr. Hartman gave an update on a question raised by a constituent at a previous meeting regarding the state purchasing millions of acres of land, taking that land off the tax rolls and leasing it for gas-well drilling. Mr. Hartman said there is no such activity in the County. He did note that the county does receive an annual stipend of \$273.00 from the Commonwealth for state game lands, based on a reimbursement rate of \$1.20 per acre. Under the newly enacted state budget, the rate has been raised to \$2.00 per acre.

Under old business, Mr. Holdren reported on results of an audit of telephone and data costs conducted by SpyGlass Group. The company reported Montour's was one of the cleanest audits it has ever conducted, finding only that the County has been paying federal excise taxes. Removal of the excise tax should result in an annual savings of \$1,000.00.

Under new business, Mr. Holdren introduced Sen. Gordner and Rep. Masser, who announced a \$200,000.00 state commitment to the Montour Preserve. The legislators said that they were impressed by the work of the Montour Area Recreation Commission - and, in particular, Director Bob Stoudt - and County Commissioners for their commitment to keep the preserve operating.

In meetings with MARC and the County, Sen. Gordner said he and Rep. Masser made a commitment that if the local community responded and funds were raised, they would commit to securing state support. "Everyone stepped up and in a short time raised the money necessary to sign the first contract," said Sen. Gordner.

Rep. Masser recalled numerous talks about "what a gem" the preserve would be to lose. "That would have been devastating, not just to Montour County but the entire region. We are so grateful we could get this done," he said of the two-year commitment, \$100,000.00 from the 2015-16 budget and \$100,000.00 from the 2016-17 spending plan.

With donated monies on hand, the state funds and volunteer workforce which keeps operating expenses down, Mr. Holdren said, "We're in great shape to build an endowment fund" to help keep the preserve operating into the future.

Mr. Finn moved to approve the 2016 State Homeland Security Grant from PEMA. The \$964,357.00 grant, which runs from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2019, will be awarded to the seven-county East Central Pennsylvania Counter Terrorism Task Force, of which Montour is a member. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve the issuance by the Treasurer's Office of a request for proposals to refinance a loan for courthouse repairs in the amount of approximately \$139,450.00 and to be repaid over eight years. Mr. Hartman seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the following purchase of service agreements on behalf of Children & Youth Services: Columbia County Family Center, Justice Works, Adelphoi Village, EIHAB Human Services, Montour County Juvenile Probation. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Holdren noted that Montour County was ranked second in the Commonwealth in a survey by SmartAsset of counties receiving the greatest amount of investment in their local economics. The survey was based on business growth, gross domestic product growth, new building permits and municipal bonds. While Montour was ranked second overall, it was first in the business growth category at 8.7%.

Mr. Holdren said correspondence was received from PennDOT that its Rapid Bridge Replacement Project will get underway on a state-owned bridge in Limestone Township on August 1, and is expected to be completed in early November. During construction, a temporary roadway will be in effect.

Mr. Hartman moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$281,465.34; Children & Youth, \$66,525.24; Transit, \$20,559.53; Liquid Fuels, \$359.81; Uniform 911, \$16,905.89; Human and Community Service, \$1,983.89. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk