

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
MCKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 25, 2020



McKean County Commissioners, in a regular meeting, assembled on February 25, 2020, at 10:00 AM, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, McKean County Courthouse.

Summary of Motions Carried, by Agenda Item No.:

- 8C1 Approved KOS Maint. Agreement- Recorder Deeds Canon IR3035 3/1/20-21
- 8C2 Approved KOS Maint. Agreement- Recorder Deeds Canon IR2525 3/1/20-21
- 8C3 Approved CortexFlo Maintenance Agreement – CAC HD Camera 2/18/20-21
- 8C4 Approved FTR Support Agreement – Court Recording Systems 4/15/20-21

Summary of Agenda Items Denied: None

Summary of Agenda Items Tabled: None

Commissioners Present:

Present: Commissioner Thomas F. Kreiner, Commissioner Clifford D. Lane

In Attendance:

Solicitor: Anthony V. Clarke

Staff: Pamela Burlingame, Chief Clerk; Lori Coffman, Finance Director; Lisa Pratt, Elections;

Press/Public: Ted Lutz, Kane Republican; Ruth Bogdan, Bradford Era; Troy Herzog, Business Owner,

1, 2 and 3: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

The Regular Meeting on February 25, 2020 of the McKean County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Kreiner at 10:00 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. He established that there was a quorum to proceed with the county's business as presented and noted that the meeting is recorded.

There were no changes or additions to the Agenda as presented.

4. Comments and Announcements

A. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Kreiner noted that although Commissioner Duffy was not present, he wanted to remind the group of the Census 2020 initiative and the efforts the county has undertaken to make sure everyone is counted. He noted the extensive coverage in the newspaper and good publicity and thanked the press. He also noted the efforts of the mayor of the city of Bradford has stepped up to the forefront and they continue to push Census 2020 and it begins on April 1.

Commissioner Kreiner indicated that he had asked Lisa Pratt from Elections to join the meeting to review the changes in voting from Act 77. Lisa noted a few highlighted changes – there would no longer be straight party ticket, voters can still vote for all one party, but has to make that selection individually instead of with one button. She further added that the timeline to change party or register is now 15 days prior to election day. One of the biggest changes is that mail in ballots have been added, they differ from absentee but serve a similar purpose. For absentee, you had to have a physical disability which prevented you from getting to the polls or be out of the municipality. They have broadened the spectrum of who can receive a mail in ballot. To qualify for mail in, you just need to not qualify for absentee. The deadline to return has also been moved, they can now accept them until 8:00 p.m. on election day, but ballots must be returned to the courthouse and not to the polling place. Another new function is run by the state, votespa.com, you can apply for absentee or mail in online, if you have a valid driver's license or PADOT ID, since it goes through their system. She expects this will change. Another change is allowing the state to apply for \$90 million in grant funding to help reimburse counties for the purchase of new equipment. She said those are the main points. One other thing, once you apply for absentee in primary, you can check a box and you will automatically get a ballot for any election or special election, in the following year, you can choose to be on the permanent absentee list. Commissioner Lane asked about the difference on election day about absentee ballots. Lisa said they would be counted centrally not at the polls and the deadline is until 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Lane asked when they had to have them counted by. Lisa said canvassing had to start within 3 days after the election and they have up until 8 days because the military deadline is later. She did not have the precise dates. She said it would likely take them multiple days to complete canvassing due to the number of uptick in the number of ballots received instead of going to the polls. Commissioner Lane said traditionally the count is on Friday after the election, he wanted to know if that was the plan as was done in the past for the papers. She said they have 8 days. He said if they get flooded, it may take longer than previously and that they were used to, in the past, Friday morning, always being the date of official count, he wanted to clarify that she was saying that could be extended into the following Tuesday. Lisa responded that if they receive the number of ballots projected by the department of state, then it will be extended out. Cliff said it's important for us all to understand with two of the papers there and they are used to getting the results. Lisa said they aren't official on that Friday and they still have the results from election night, so they will still see those. She is still planning having numbers on Friday. Cliff said they had within the law today to go into the next week for the count. Lisa said that technically they are used to seeing the numbers and some counties always take