

Thursday, February 23, 2006 10:00 am

A meeting of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, at the Public Service Building, Uniontown, PA.

Present: Commissioner Angela M. Zimmerlink, Chairwoman
Commissioner Joseph A. Hardy, III, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Vincent A. Vicites, Secretary
Judy M. Bodkin, Chief Clerk
Warren Hughes, County Manager
John Cupp, County Solicitor

- Meeting called to Order
- Silent Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comment on Agenda Items

Beverly Braverman spoke on behalf of the PA abandoned mine campaign and provided additional documents. Commissioner Zimmerlink confirmed that the solicitor has reviewed the information with no questions.

Robert Groh spoke as a member of the Regional Trail Corporation. He commended the Commissioners for moving ahead on the Sheepskin Trail.

- Proclamation

Moved by Commissioner Zimmerlink and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to proclaim March as Mental Retardation Awareness Month.

Motion Passed Unanimously

The Proclamation was presented by the Commissioners and accepted by James Scruggs.

- Fay-Penn Economic Development Council

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve Fay-Penn, which is the EZ administering agency for Fayette County, to submit an Enterprise Zone Basic Grant Application for \$50,000 to be used to cover their administrative costs to support of the Enterprise Zone Program.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- Redevelopment Authority

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve a Resolution allocating Act 137 Affordable Housing Trust Funds to the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority for various affordable housing initiatives, as attached.

On question of Motion, Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that last month this item was Tabled noting possible litigation issue as stated by Solicitor Ferens and she asked Solicitor Cupp if he was aware of this. He was not. Commissioner Vicites stated that he and his assistant had reviewed this and to his understanding it was resolved.

Commissioner Zimmerlink – abstain
Commissioner Hardy – aye
Commissioner Vicites - aye

Motion passed with 2-0 (1 abstain)

- Controller

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the following investments:

January 26, 2006 - \$8,450,000 for 14 days @ 4.40% interest with First National Bank \$14,260.82 and February 9, 2006 - \$8,600,000 for 14 days at 4.55% interest with First National Bank \$15,008.76

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve Short Term Investment Procedure setting an internal county procedure to work in conjunction with local financial institutions(s) and the new on-line wire transfers.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Controller Mark Roberts provided a report on the Financial Condition of the County. For period ending February 23, 2006 he reported a total cash on general ledger of \$3,188,387.24 with a net position of (\$2,399,376.45).

Controller Roberts confirmed that the General Fund would close on schedule by month end.

Commissioner Zimmerlink asked both Controller Roberts and County Manager for the reports by the 10th of the following month so that she could continue with her department meetings.

Further Commissioner Zimmerlink wanted to make certain that 2005 bills are paid from 2005 line and not into the 2006 budget line items to avoid similar problems from last year. Also, she wanted assurance that the matters are taken care of or to have a meeting with the Weiss representative.

- Tax Assessment

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the following individual(s) for a Real Estate Tax Exemption as approved by the Pa. Veterans Office as being 100% disabled.

Richard L Frisco 706 High St Redstone Twp 30-34-0057

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve James A. Hercik to attend the CCAP Spring Conference in Harrisburg, March 27th for Mr. Hercik to be a speaker at a seminar on "Special Assessment Issues." All costs will be incurred by the Assessors Association of PA.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve a contract with Tyler Technologies, Cole Layer Trumble Division, for assessment program update services on a time & materials basis with a not to exceed amount of \$285,000 over a three (3) year period funded through the County's bond fund.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Comment following the vote: Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that the new property values would take effect in 2009. Further that this is a portion of the total cost that is estimated between \$550,000 - \$700,000 depending on what services could be performed in house. Commissioner Vicites commented on how it is important to keep these up to dates.

- Children & Youth Services

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to authorize the CYS administrator to attend the March quarterly meeting of the Pennsylvania Children & Youth Administrators Association, in State College, Pa.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify a budget adjustment for the 2005 CYS County Budget as follows. (This adjustment was necessary due to State & Federal revenue for services provided during the final months of 2005 will not be received until calendar year 2006). The specifics are as follows:

<u>Org. Code / #</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
353310 / 41800	Federal Funding	(\$420,500)
353320 / 42800	State Funding	(\$120,000)
354420 / 52560	Indirect Costs	+\$ 12,000
354420 / 52700	Counseling/Intervention	+\$ 46,000
354420 / 52701	Day Treatment	+\$ 4,300
354420 / 53200	Telephone	+\$ 2,000
354420 / 53250	Postage	+\$ 2,000
354420 / 53740	Equipment Maintenance	+\$ 1,200
354421 / 52720	Clothing (foster children)	+\$ 3,000
354421 / 52722	Foster Homes	+\$325,000
354422 / 52726	Institutions	+\$ 35,000
354422 / 52727	Group Homes	+\$120,000

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the Purchase of Service Agreements between the County of Fayette, through Fayette County Children & Youth Services/Juvenile Probation and the service providers listed below during FY2005-06: CONTRACTS 7-1-2005 to 6-30-2006 Per Diem:

ARIN Intermediate Unit, Indiana, PA 15701-9769

Family Focus Program

Supervisor	\$12.88 per family per 1/2 hr. per week
Staff	\$30.60 per family per hour
Travel	\$15.30 per hour

Cambria Co. Juvenile Detention/Emergency Shelter Care Facility, Ebensburg PA

Initial Clothing \$250.00

A. Detention Center	\$165.00 per day
B. Emergency Shelter	\$159.00 per day

Fayette County Drug & Alcohol Uniontown PA

A. Drug Testing	\$35.00 per screen
B. Individual Therapy	\$75.00 per hour
C. Group Therapy	\$20.00 per one hour session
D. Comprehensive Medical Examination	\$100.00 per half hour
E. Family Therapy	\$75.00 per one hour session
F. Assessments	\$70.00 per one hour session
G. Medication Management	\$25.00 per session

Tracey B. Wrona, MSW, LSW Connellsville PA

A. Counseling & Consultation	\$55.00 per hour
------------------------------	------------------

Motion Passed Unanimously

- MH/MR Program

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve contracts/modifications between the County of Fayette through the Fayette County MH/MR Program as listed:

<u>Modification Agreements #1 2005-2006</u>	<u>Contract Value</u>	<u>Period</u>
Laurel House, Inc.	\$ 1,254,332	7/01/05-6/30/06
Twin Trees, Inc.	\$ 1,530,632	12/22/05-6/30/06

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve a Third Amendment to the Agreement between Fayette County and Value Behavioral Health of PA.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- Planning, Zoning & Community Development

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the approval of rezoning petition RZ06-01 filed by Robert Martin on behalf of owner, Gary Tedesco to change the zoning from A-1 to R-1 to allow for a residential development in Dunbar Township.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to advertise a Request for Qualifications for legal counsel to perform title searches on properties needed for construction of the Sheepskin Trail.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Comment following the vote: Commissioner Zimmerlink stated a title search might not be necessary depending on information forthcoming. Commissioner Vicites stated there is \$10,000 in grant funding for the title search.

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to advertise for a Request for Qualification or Request for Proposal for a survey of properties owned by CSX and under consideration for purchase by the County of Fayette for the construction of the Sheepskin Trail.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to amend a portion of the Fee Schedule of the Uniform Construction Code for Fayette County from a \$300.00 fee for a Non Residential Plan Review to the following effective March 1, 2006:

Non Residential Plan Review	
New Building and Additions	\$300.00
Alterations, Renovations to an existing building	\$150.00
Occupancy Permit Only	No Charge

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to award RFP05-20: Services of a firm/company to provide the necessary technical assistance services to undertake the completion of a Fayette County Overlay Zoning Map (along the Mon-Fayette corridor and at each interchange) to Environmental Planning & Design, LLC in the amount of \$29,985.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve a modification of the contract between the County of Fayette and Widmer Engineering from the Yough River Trail to Brushwood Road in North Union Township which is the Sheepskin Trail for a redesign fee of \$12,500 needed as a result to accommodate conflicts with the railroad owned by Fay Penn.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Comment after the vote: Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that if a conflict with respect to the live rail and insurance is resolved then the re-design may not be needed. Commissioner Vicites stated an active railroad is at issue with the insurance company.

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to authorize the re-advertising for bids for tennis court renovations at German/Masontown Park to include court resurfacing, net resetting/fence repair and replacement.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- Human Resource Department
Children and Youth Services

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the hiring of John W. Fritts as a substitute full-time Caseworker 1 at \$12.05 per hour (\$23,500.00 annually) effective March 13, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

MH/MR

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the hiring of Jamie L. Legarsky as County Fiscal Officer at \$16.42 per hour (\$32,019.00 annually) effective February 27, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Office of Human and Community Services

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to:

- (a) accept the resignation of William Trisoline, Part time Van Driver, effective January 31, 2006.
- (b) approve the hiring of Cecil Burton, Part time Van driver, at \$7.79 per hour (\$15,190.50 annually) effective February 27, 2006.
- (c) approve the hiring of Ray Simmons as the Class D Maintenance Technician at \$7.54 per hour, effective March 1, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Tax Assessment

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to Consider approving the hiring of Kendall Scott Phillips as the Assessor 2 at \$10.54 per hour (\$20,553.00 annually) effective March 7, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Tax Claim Bureau

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the termination of the employment of Gloria Elza as Account Clerk I effective February 3, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Veterans Affairs

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the hiring of Donald Seroka, Director of Veterans Affairs, effective February 13, 2006, at \$14.16 per hour (\$27,612.50 annually).

Upon discussion of Motion, Commissioner Zimmerlink received confirmation from Jim Moore, HR Director of Felice Associates that more than 20 resumes were received and seven people were interviewed. Mr. Moore confirmed that the VA Liaison Committee consisting of Jim Smith, Dale Coughenour and Don Burd joined in the interview and selection process and that it was a unanimous decision by the VA Liaison Committee to recommend Donald Seroka that he agreed 100%.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Human Resources

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the agreement with West Virginia Career College for intern, Jennifer Wiles, to perform secretarial duties for 7.5 hours per week for a maximum of 12 weeks, at no cost.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- Human & Community Services

The next item was to approve the Final Report of the Organizational Fiscal Plan prepared for the Fayette County Office of Human & Community Services by Jenkins & Quinn Transportation Specialists.

Jim Moore, HR Director/Felice Associates requested that the Commissioners Table the item pending some union negotiations and a Salary Board Meeting.

Director Michelle Grant Shumar added that there is a timeline to move forward with the remaining portions of the Plan.

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to Table the request to approve the Final Report of the Organizational Fiscal Plan prepared for the Fayette County Office of Human & Community Services by Jenkins & Quinn Transportation Specialists.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve a revised Fiscal Year 2005-06 Human Services Development Fund (HSDF) Plan consisting of agreements between the Fayette County Office of Human & Community Services and the following:

Fayette County Human Services Council for the Fayette County Community Builders Program in the amount of \$14,125

Fayette County Human Service Council for the Implementation of the Social Conditions Study Recommendations in the amount of \$8,155

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the participation of the one FCOHCS staff member in the PPTA PA Public Transit Association 31st Annual Spring Conference & Expo on April 5, 6, & 7, 2006 in Hershey, PA.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the participation of two FCOHCS staff members in the CCAP Academy for Excellence in County Government two day workshop series featuring programs on Financial Management & County Functions March 16 & 17, 2006 in Harrisburg, PA.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the participation of the FCOHCS Director in the PACHSA Spring Quarterly conference March 28-30, 2006 in State College, PA.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the appointment of Donald Seroka, VA Director, to serve on the Fayette County Transportation Executive Committee to fill the unexpired term of the former Director for a term ending December 31, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

FACT Transit Center Complex

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve advertising for Invitation for Bid (IFB) for Bus Wash and Fueling Depot.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- Domestic Relations

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve an agreement between the County of Fayette and Ricardo J. Cicconi and the Court of Common Pleas (DRS) to provide legal services to assist in the establishment and enforcement of support orders effective retroactive date of January 1, 2006 through September 20, 2010 at a cost of \$18,837 per year plus any raises granted by the Salary Board as paid from IV-D funds.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- Commissioners

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the Minutes of the Commissioner Meetings for December 22, 2005, December 29, 2005, January 3, 2006 and January 26, 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to seek a new location for Magisterial District 14-1-01 (MDJ Blair- City of Uniontown) using the RFP process, newspaper advertising or other allowable means under the County Code.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the awarding of Bid No. 06-01: Construction of an addition to the Goodwill Recycling Center to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. for a total amount of \$323,845.54, being the lowest responsible bidder.

Upon question, it was confirmed by County Manager Warren Hughes that this is 100% covered under a grant.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the following change orders (Bid No. 05-18 Roof Repairs) with G&W Roofing:

- Change Order 1 – Repair cracks above the 4th floor windows - \$9,500
- Change Order 2 – Repair and reset stones on facing wall - \$5,400
- Change Order 3 – Replace angle iron on front corner of building - \$4,320

Motion Passed Unanimously

County Manager confirmed that the funds were transferred from the 2005 Capital Reserve to the 2006 to cover the expense.

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to consider approving a contract with Cypher & Cypher, CPA of Canonsburg to reconcile the Jefferson Township Real Estate Tax Collector for county collection of taxes. Staff fee structure ranges from \$35.00 per hour clerical to \$125.00 per hour partner.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to consider contract between the County of Fayette and John Dennis for janitorial services for Magisterial District Office 14-2-02 (MDJ Wendy Dennis) in the amount of \$100.00 per month effective January 2006.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to consider adopting Resolution to support reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Act.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to consider ratifying the following transfers to the General Fund Budget:

TRANSFER #6 YEAR 2005 BUDGET

Tax Claim

014138 53010	Contract Computer Service	Credit	\$237.18
014138 53400	Advertising	Debit	\$237.18

Planning/Zoning

014171 53130	ZHB Transcripts, etc.	Credit	\$1,111.26
014999 59040	Unappropriated	Debit	\$1,111.26

Adult Probation

014236 53200	Telephone	Credit	\$166.06
014236 53191	Drug Testing	Credit	\$609.02
014236 52000	Material & Supplies	Credit	\$709.60
014999 59040	Unappropriated	Debit	\$1,484.68

District Attorney

014194 53300	Travel	Credit	\$15.50
014194 53100	Contract Professional Services	Credit	\$4,504.07
014194 53250	Postage	Debit	\$3,825.34
014194 51610	FICA	Debit	\$694.23

Prothonotary

014195 52200	Photocopy/Computer Services	Credit	\$959.91
014195 52000	Material & Supplies	Credit	\$177.06
014195 51400	Salary fulltime	Debit	\$529.34
014195 51610	FICA	Debit	\$521.47
014195 53250	Postage	Debit	\$86.16

Public Defender			
014152 52413	Lexis-Nexis	Credit	\$130.00
014152 53100	Professional Services	Debit	\$130.00
Sheriff			
014197 53300	Travel	Credit	\$160.00
014197 53010	Contract Computer Service	Debit	\$160.00
Veteran Affairs			
014294 52200	Photocopy	Credit	\$400.00
014294 53300	Travel	Debit	\$400.00
Tax Collectors			
014137 53250	Postage	Credit	\$1,700.00
014999 59040	Commission	Debit	\$1,700.00
Prison			
014232 53200	Telephone	Credit	\$400.00
014232 53020	Contract Medical Service	Credit	\$107,242.31
014232 52000	Material & Supplies	Credit	\$10,930.85
014232 51300	Salary Professional	Debit	\$61,600.00
014232 53830	Rent	Debit	\$56,973.16

Total Credits		\$129,452.82	
	Total Debits		\$129,452.82

TRANSFER #7 2005 BUDGET

Sheriff			
014197 53300	Travel/fuel	Credit	\$5,170.23
Juvenile Probation			
014237 53300	Travel/fuel	Credit	\$1,632.60
Community and Economic Development/Planning			
014171 53302	Travel/fuel	Credit	\$354.71
014171 53301	Travel/fuel-Solid Waste	Credit	\$4,101.20
014171 53130	ZHB Transcripts	Credit	\$2,200.00
District Attorney			
014194 53300	Travel/fuel	Credit	\$589.63
Adult Probation			
014236 53300	Travel/fuel	Credit	\$344.06
Commissioners			
014111 53300	Travel/fuel	Credit	\$104.50
District Justices			
014186 53200	Telephone	Credit	\$360.00
014186 51400	Salary full time	Debit	\$657.89
Tax Collectors			
014137 53250	Postage	Credit	\$950.00
Legal Advertising			
0141771 53400	Advertising	Credit	\$1,600.00
Unappropriated Balance			
014999 59040	Unappropriated	Debit	\$16,749.04
	Total Credit		\$17,406.93
	Total Debit		\$17,406.93

Motion Passed Unanimously

Next item on the agenda was to consider hiring DRS Architects, Pittsburgh, PA to do the design work for and to handle the bid process for the remodeling of the public restrooms in the courthouse located in the basement and on the 3rd floor.

Commissioner Zimmerlink confirmed with County Manager Warren Hughes that DRS are the architects hired by Joe Hardy personally to do the courthouse renovation study that showed \$14million to \$16 million in costs.

Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that the Commissioners in the General Fund Budget placed \$841,000 in the capital outlay of which \$250,000 is earmarked as a portion for payment for the new voting systems and approximately \$350,000 for the courthouse roof repair and that the remaining sums to finance the restrooms renovation.

Commissioner Zimmerlink asked Solicitor John Cupp whether or not county code allowed this action to be taken without a RFP. Mr. Cupp stated it is not a requirement to do a RFP for architect services.

Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that she believed it would be best to RFP this process because putting it out to bid could result in a lower cost than the approximate \$30,000 being proposed in the Motion and there was additional costs such as printing and mileage.

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to hire DRS Architects, Pittsburgh, PA to do the design work for and to handle the bid process for the remodeling of the public restrooms in the courthouse located in the basement and on the 3rd floor.

Commissioner Zimmerlink - nay
Commissioner Hardy – aye
Commissioner Vicites – aye

Commissioner Zimmerlink explained her nay vote was because she preferred the RFP process to determine if this was the best price.

Motion Passed 2-1

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to bid the remodeling of the public restrooms in the courthouse located in the basement and on the 3rd floor through the capital reserve line item in the General Fund Budget.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Next Agenda item to consider the County's First Right of Refusal to purchase property located at (to be named, if still pending) was unnecessary at this time.

Public Announcement

Commissioner Zimmerlink discussed the approval of Commissioner Hardy and Commissioner Vicites in giving county furniture to the Brownsville Borough Council as requested by Councilman Jack Lawver in a letter written to Commissioner Vicites. Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that she did not think it was a good idea to give furniture or other items to other municipalities and would rather exchange the items within the county offices as she has had several requests by departments for items. Commissioner Vicites stated that he approved giving items within reason. County Manager Warren Hughes stated that the request by Jack Lawver was for a desk only however Commissioner Zimmerlink read the letter pointing out that Councilman Lawver asked for all of the furniture and equipment taken by the County when moving the former office of Herb Mitchell as district justice in Brownsville.

Commissioner Zimmerlink reported that at the last Criminal Justice Board meeting President Judge Capuzzi had an individual from another county speak on video-conferencing in district justices' offices and in some cases in the County Courts. She stated that although it is in the preliminary stage she anticipated that action would soon be taken by the Courts which will help in the prisoner transportation costs.

Commissioner Vicites commented on the purchasing of the new voting machines saying that he believes the County must act soon and move forward or risk losing federal funding. He stated the County could piggyback on another county to obtain a good price and that he has spoken with County Chief Executive Dan Onorato about this.

Public Comment

John Dorsey, Veteran and Don Coleman Veteran, and Steve Krovac, Veteran, spoke in support of increasing the salary of the VA Director.

Springfield Township resident Robert Ream asked whether or not campers were being taxed as it would be in additional income to the township. He also asked about funding to his township and he was directed to see the Commissioners Office after the meeting for information regarding Liquid Fuel Funds.

Lou Bell, President of the Tax Collector Association spoke against a policy that the county uses in reimbursing postage to tax collectors. He said that tax collectors order envelopes and postage usually in January for the March 1st mailing and that the county reimburses the postage in April. County Manager Warren Hughes stated the policy is fair and reasonable.

Mr. Bell also spoke about how he sent a letter in January to the Commissioners asking for a meeting to review and set up the policy and that no Commissioner responded. He asked each Commissioner individually if they would meet with the association. Commissioner Vicites and Commissioner Hardy both said they would and Commissioner Zimmerlink stated she would not meet to discuss the change in the method of compensation and policies and procedures that have already been decided and voted on by the Commissioners.

Marigrace Butela, tax collector of Dunbar Township, Andrea Kovach, tax collector of Luzerne Township, Jim Conway, tax collector of South Union and Sandra Crimbly, Tax Collector of Springhill and Mike Schloer, Saltlick Township tax collector all agreed that tax collectors are not treated fairly, that they go over and beyond what they are required to do and that they should not have to wait until April to receive reimbursement of postage payment, that all issues regarding the payment process for compensation and supplies.

Tax Collectors Lou Bell, Andrea Kovach and others who spoke from the audience commented either that the changes were personal or done against the tax collectors without respect to them as elected officials or that an effort to eliminate the tax collectors would be remembered at the November 2007 election noting that Commissioner Zimmerlink publicly has advocated for this.

Commissioner Zimmerlink agreed that she led the charge to change the method of compensation and actively campaigned to do so along with making other changes to how county government was run because steps needed to be taken to operate more efficiently and cost-efficient and she vowed to continue to do this adding that the tax collectors were not singled out by her and would continue to look for cost reductions including as an example possible consolidation of row offices.

Linda K. Metts, North Union Township resident who has spoken at the last two previous meetings concerning a problem with sewage stated that she just learned today through listening to the meeting that Jim Hercik of our county tax assessment office also serves on the North Union Sewage Authority and that she sees that to be a conflict and that he should not vote on the sewage matters.

Ralph Mazza agreed with the comments of the veterans who spoke today. Mr. Mazza also addressed that Felice Associates is being paid the amount of the bid and the additional amount of what Mr. Hardy is paying personally. He added that the \$95.00 per hour is in addition to the \$96,000 amount. Mr. Mazza stated that Commissioner Vicites disagreed with him at the last meeting. Mr. Mazza said he now has copies of the contracts and that he was correct in what he said last month.

Ralph Mazza also commented again on the bridge inspections stating that his calculations still show that the county may be paying too much. Mr. Mazza reiterated his concern in the way this award was given to Fayette Engineering. Mr. Mazza stated that it does not matter whether the county, state or federal government pays separately because all of the money comes from us the taxpayers.

Geraldine Mazza commented that if the Board of Commissioners would have hired its own HR Director as a county employee instead of contracting with Felice Associates the county could have saved money and put that amount towards the salary of the veteran's director.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved:

Attest:

Judith M. Bodkin, Chief Clerk