

**MEETING OF THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**December 7, 2017**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>By Phone</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Timothy M. McGonigle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Scott Boyd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Matthew B. McConnell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Pledge of Allegiance:** was held

**Others Present:** Tom Amundsen, Nicki Biles, Ray Bogaty, Jeff Greenburg, Jennifer Hamilton, Miles Karson, John Logan, Bill Madden, Ann Morrison, Nicolette Read, Tracy Romesburg, Pete Morin, Molly Moser

**General Discussion Items:**

Human Resources commented on the offer from Highmark for a retention payment of \$120,000 to be paid in December during the next three years. We are scheduled to maintain coverage with a 0% increase for 2018 and will receive the incentive payment as of 12-2018. Future payments are available for 12-2019 and 12-2020 respectively if we maintain our coverage with Highmark.

Commissioner Boyd thanked all the school choirs for performing their concerts at the courthouse during December.

Commissioner McGonigle asked for an update on the Streetscape project. Fiscal reported that the hardscape is fully funded by PennDot. The landscaping, lighting, and watering system will cost Mercer Borough \$40,000. Mercer Borough agreed to pay ½ the cost so as to defray the costs to property owners. The next borough meeting is 12-12-17. Fiscal will attend. Commissioner McGonigle said the amount due from the county was approximated 60%. Commissioner McConnell said the amount as stated by the Mercer Borough Solicitor for the county’s portion is \$8,377 or a little above 40%. Fiscal will recommend that Mercer County pays its portion immediately when billed so as to assist the borough in underwriting the cash flow needs for the project.

Fiscal presented comments on final budget. See attached.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

<b>Motion to approve November 30, 2017</b>	T.M.	Moved	Yes
Commissioners’ Meeting minutes.	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

**PROCLAMATION**

Motion to approve a Proclamation to declare December 11, 2017 as the celebration of the Volant Lions Club 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and recognition of the Lions Clubs International Foundation 100 year birthday. There are 1.4 million members worldwide.

T.M.	Moved	Yes
S.B.	2nd	Yes
M.M.		Yes

**EXONERATIONS**

**Motion to approve the following exoneration(s) being granted as listed:**

Meeting Date: 12-7-2017

TAX COLLECTOR	TAXING DISTRICT	COUNTY PER CAPITA - EXONS	COUNTY PER CAPITA - TBC	TAX YEAR	CANCELLED
Michael Anthony Meeting 11-30-17	West Salem Twp	\$ 120.00	\$	2017	X
		\$	\$		
Mary Kathleen Weber Meeting 11-30-17	Wolf Creek Twp	\$ 140.00	\$	2017	X
		\$	\$		
Michael Anthony	West Salem Twp	\$ 115.00	\$	2017	
Mary Kathleen Weber	Wolf Creek Twp	\$ 125.00	\$	2017	
		\$ 240.00	\$		

T.M.	Moved	Yes
S.B.	2nd	Yes
M.M.		Yes

**REFUNDS**

**Motion to approve the following refund(s) as listed:**

Meeting Date: 12-7-2017

NAME/ADDRESS	DISTRICT	PER CAPITA	R. E.	REFUND	REASON
Springfield Hospitality Group, LP C/O Horizon Properties 375 Southpointe Blvd Suite 410 Canonsburg PA 15317	Springfield Twp		X	\$6,290.68	Overpayment Due to Assessment Change
Hickory Plaza Shopping Center/GetGo 2385 E State St Hermitage PA 16148	Hermitage B		X	\$1,716.64	Overpayment Due to Assessment Change



the 2017 County Budget(s), to accounts that are overdrawn, pursuant to Section 1784 of the County Code.	M.M.		Yes
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Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-13, fixing the real estate tax rate for the year 2018, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purpose of the County Government during the fiscal year, and levying a per capita tax on all persons subject to taxation for County purposes for the fiscal year 2018 at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) to be deposited in the General Fund of Mercer County. The real estate tax rate for general County purposes is fixed at Twenty-Two and One-Quarter (22.25) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation or the sum of \$2.225 on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real property subject to taxation by the County, to be deposited in the General Fund of Mercer County, and at One and Forty-Hundredths (1.40) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation or the sum of \$0.140 on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation, to be deposited into the Capital Bond Sinking Fund of Mercer County.	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

Motion to adopt the 2018 Mercer County Budget, as attached.	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

Motion to adopt Resolution 2017-14, certifying that the County is in compliance with Act 106 of 2011 as to “Bonding Requirements for Elected Officials and identified employees” for 2017 and 2018 as evidenced by insurance provided through the Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP).	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

**MOTION (Appropriations)**

Motion to appropriate \$10,000 to City of Hermitage from the Mercer County Unconventional Gas Well Fund for renovation of the existing public restrooms in the Performing Arts Center of Buhl Park to make them handicapped accessible by removing architectural barriers. The project falls under the “community parks” sub-category of Sec. 2315.a.1 of Act 13. The balance of funds will come from CDBG funds of the City of Hermitage and other Buhl Farm Park resources. The total project cost with signage is estimated at \$161,000. Project Leader is Tom Roskos at Buhl Farm Park; Project Sponsor contact is Gary Hinkson, City Manager of the City of Hermitage.	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

**MOTION (Service Agreements)**

Motion to enter into a Community Service Agreement with the New Hope Baptist Church, 909 Lee Avenue, Farrell, PA 16121 to provide the basis under which the Mercer County Intermediate Punishment Community Service Program and the New Hope Baptist Church may carry out mutually agreeable activities which ultimately provides for offenders to perform community service as directed by the Courts. Offenders are to provide uncompensated labor for non-profit, governmental and charitable agencies at no expense to the County. This agreement shall continue for one year beginning November 1, 2017 and may automatically renew for one additional year periods unless either party gives thirty days written notice to terminate this agreement to the other party.

T.M. Moved Yes  
S.B. 2nd Yes  
M.M. Yes

Motion to enter into a Community Service Agreement with The Chapel of Mercer, 300 South Pitt Street, Mercer, PA 16137 to provide the basis under which the Mercer County Intermediate Punishment Community Service Program and The Chapel of Mercer may carry out mutually agreeable activities which ultimately provides for offenders to perform community service as directed by the Courts. Offenders are to provide uncompensated labor for non-profit, governmental and charitable agencies at no expense to the County. This agreement shall continue for one year beginning November 1, 2017 and may automatically renew for one additional year periods unless either party gives thirty days written notice to terminate this agreement to the other party.

T.M. Moved Yes  
S.B. 2nd Yes  
M.M. Yes

Motion to enter into a Community Service Agreement with the Sandy Lake Township, P.O. Box 205, 3086 Sandy Lake-Grove City Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145 to provide the basis under which the Mercer County Intermediate Punishment Community Service Program and the Sandy Lake Township may carry out mutually agreeable activities which ultimately provides for offenders to perform community service as directed by the Courts. Offenders are to provide uncompensated labor for non-profit, governmental and charitable agencies at no expense to the County. This agreement shall continue for one year beginning November 1,

T.M. Moved Yes  
S.B. 2nd Yes  
M.M. Yes

2017 and may automatically renew for one additional year periods unless either party gives thirty days written notice to terminate this agreement to the other party.

<p>Motion to enter into a Community Service Agreement with the Sharpsville Community Food Pantry, 321 West Ridge Avenue, Sharpsville 16150 to provide the basis under which the Mercer County Intermediate Punishment Community Service Program and the Sharpsville Community Food Pantry may carry out mutually agreeable activities which ultimately provides for offenders to perform community service as directed by the Courts. Offenders are to provide uncompensated labor for non-profit, governmental and charitable agencies at no expense to the County. This agreement shall continue for one year beginning November 1, 2017 and may automatically renew for one additional year periods unless either party gives thirty days written notice to terminate this agreement to the other party.</p>	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

**MOTION (Accept Bid)**

<p>Motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$70,648 from Reinhardt’s Agency, Inc., Hermitage, PA, for coverage underwritten by Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for public fidelity bonds for tax collectors and municipal treasurers/officials. The coverage is at the 30% level, and the amount is to be pre-paid for coverage for 2018-2021. The costs to be shared with each covered municipality. The county portion is approximately \$14,000.</p>	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

<p>Motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$8,579 from Reinhardt’s Agency, Inc., Hermitage, PA, for coverage underwritten by Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for annual bond coverage of the various public/municipal officials enrolled. The costs to be shared with each covered municipality.</p>	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

<p>Motion to accept the bid from Landfried Paving, Inc. P.O. Box 615 Greenville, PA 16125 for snow removal at District Judge Office, 14 N Race St, Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125. Service includes Plowing the lot at \$25.00 per plow, Salting the lot (includes cost of salt) at \$37.00 per time and Cleaning and Salting walks at \$50.00 per occurrence. Services to be provided when there is a 2 inch snowfall and as needed throughout the</p>	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

day.

Motion to accept the bid from Landfried Paving, Inc. P.O. Box 615 Greenville, PA 16125 for snow removal at the Bridge Department, 104 Mortensen Drive, Pennsylvania 16125.	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

Service includes Plowing the lot at \$40.00 per plow, Salting the lot (includes cost of salt) at \$50.00 per time, Shoveling walks at \$25.00 per occurrence and Salting walks at \$10.00 per time. Services to be provided when there is a 2 inch snowfall and as needed throughout the day.

Motion to accept low bid from Lakeland Chrysler Jeep Dodge dealership, 31 Hadley Rd., Greenville, PA 16125 in the amount of \$21,763 plus plate and title fees for the purchase of a new 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan SE for Children and Youth Services.	T.M.	Moved	Yes
	S.B.	2nd	Yes
	M.M.		Yes

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Recess to Salary Board:**

**Public Comment:** None

**Questions of the Media:** Questions were answered.

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Moved:** Mr. Boyd

**Seconded:** Mr. McConnell

**Attest:**

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**Chief Clerk**

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**Mercer County Board of Commissioners**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Matthew B. McConnell, Chairman  
Scott Boyd  
Timothy M. McGonigle



**FINANCE OFFICE**

208 Mercer County Courthouse  
Mercer, PA 16137  
(724) 662-3800 Ext. 2540

**COUNTY OF MERCER**

**BUDGET for 2018**

As Adopted Thursday, December 7, 2017

By John F. Logan, Fiscal Administrator

In this budget, the Commissioners again have wrestled successfully with increasing operating costs, while successfully managing our debt obligations to our bond holders.

General Fund cost increases are limited to normal inflation. Although we have continued exposure to reduced funding from our state and federal governments for shared programs, the recently adopted state budget has protected social service programs. Our citizens will appreciate that.

We have increased pay rates by 2% for non-union employees and are meeting similar obligations with those bargaining units with labor agreements in effect. Elected Officials' salaries rise 1.7%.

Most of our Elected Officials and department heads have limited operating cost increases, and we thank them for their good management. Although we deliver services through functional silos in our numerous programs, their cooperation with cost control and reporting has been excellent. For example, digital imaging of records reduces cost and makes data more available to the public.

Our benefit cost rates have remained stable, such that we do not have significant cost increases in health care or retirement. Workers compensation insurance is up \$89,000 to \$356,000. Our Safety Committee meets regularly to discuss risk reduction opportunities.

We are using "unconventional gas well" impact fees (Act 13) to help improve community parks in several municipalities, and a hiking trail in Greenville. In 2018 another boat launch will be built on the Shenango River, and more community park projects are anticipated.

Capital Projects: Bridge repair and replacement projects are scheduled as usual, but actual work could be limited by insufficient matching funds outside of County resources. In 2017, including state and federal participation, we spent \$3.2 million on our bridges. We have focused on extending the lives of County buildings. This year, installing a new roof (40-year life) on the courthouse and exterior restoration of the 1868 South Annex cost \$1.1 million. In 2018, we estimate using \$875,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for four other roof replacements.

To emphasize the good news in this budget, the Commissioners will reduce real estate tax millage by one-half mill: one-quarter mill in the General Fund and one-quarter mill in the Capital Bond Sinking Fund. One mill of real estate tax represents about \$1,060,000 of revenue, so this reduction is about \$530,000 returned to the citizens through lower tax bills next year. Total County millage falls from 24.15 to 23.65. Barring unusual reductions in state and federal funding, I believe this tax rate is sufficient for the coming years.

County of Mercer  
Budget - 2018  
As Adopted December 7, 2017

Fund #	Fund Name	2017	2017	2018	2018
		Revenue Budget	Expenditure Budget	Revenue Budget	Expenditure Budget
100	General Fund	31,858,638	31,830,319	31,674,488	31,644,944
290	Children & Youth	10,764,317	10,764,317	10,987,006	10,987,006
	Sub-total	42,622,955	42,594,636	42,661,494	42,631,950
	General Fund Beg/End Balance	3,834,208	3,862,527	3,862,527	3,892,071
	<b>Totals (Memo Only)</b>	<b>46,457,163</b>	<b>46,457,163</b>	<b>46,524,021</b>	<b>46,524,021</b>

**Other Funds:**

201	CDBG	140,000	140,000	130,000	130,000
203	DUI School	61,400	44,033	60,000	43,724
204	Liquid Fuels	467,855	509,685	515,715	521,744
220	Domestic Relations	1,928,365	1,928,365	1,841,557	1,841,557
243	E-911 Funding	2,006,000	2,249,000	2,010,000	2,125,000
244	E-911 Operating	2,036,016	2,036,016	2,181,000	2,178,879
250	Hazmat	64,472	120,700	59,275	126,900
260	General Bridge	2,603,000	2,238,000	740,581	2,300,000
261	Bridge Repair & Replcmt Act 44	195,000	1,058,000	200,000	650,000
262	Unconventional Gas Well Act 13	490,330	450,000	415,000	427,000
263	Local Bridge Rep & Repl Act 89	302,500	300,000	334,000	300,000
270	MH/DS	8,830,012	8,830,012	9,099,609	9,099,609
302	Economic Dev Cap Reserve	36,000	250,000	30,800	250,000
322	Capital Reserve	179,500	1,456,500	210,000	1,475,000
404	2001 Capital Bond Sinking Fund	1,895,000	2,455,900	1,335,000	2,485,000
	Sub-total	21,235,450	24,066,211	19,162,537	23,954,413
	Other Funds Beg/End Balance	15,894,807	13,064,046	13,064,046	8,272,170
	<b>Totals (Memo Only)</b>	<b>37,130,257</b>	<b>37,130,257</b>	<b>32,226,583</b>	<b>32,226,583</b>

<b>Combined Budget Activity</b>	<b>63,858,405</b>	<b>66,660,847</b>	<b>61,824,031</b>	<b>66,586,363</b>
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Supplemental Information  
for General Fund - 2018 Adopted Budget

**County of Mercer  
General Fund Revenues**

	<b>2017 BUDGET</b>	<b>2018 BUDGET</b>
Summarized by Source Category:		
Taxes - Real Estate Total	26,490,000	26,480,000
Taxes - Per Capita Total	290,250	294,100
Federal Operating Grants Total	216,662	217,080
Federal PILOTs Total	30,600	30,900
State Operating Grants Total	881,046	865,106
Charges for Services Total	2,654,430	2,680,340
Interest Earned Total	34,050	68,350
Rent & Royalties Total	1,500	3,500
Other Miscellaneous Revenue Total	822,100	443,600
Reimbursed Costs Total	438,000	591,512
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>31,858,638</b>	<b>31,674,488</b>

**County of Mercer  
General Fund Expenditures**

	<b>2017 BUDGET</b>	<b>2018 BUDGET</b>
Summarized by Government Function:		
General Government	6,967,980	6,963,723
Judicial	8,770,664	8,636,136
Public Works	0	15,000
Human Services	2,440,288	2,642,882
Culture & Recreation	21,250	170,250
Public Safety	11,085,329	11,066,324
Conservation & Development	1,253,948	1,440,329
Debt Service	2,000	2,000
Other Financing Uses	1,288,860	708,300
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>31,830,319</b>	<b>31,644,944</b>

County of Mercer  
 2018 Adopted Budget  
 General Fund Costs of Operations - by Department

Dept	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
Commissioners	508,883	521,074
Voter Registration	263,511	280,584
Election	292,439	274,621
Controller	591,928	569,874
Fiscal	371,297	357,475
Tax Assessment	439,977	459,065
Tax Collectors	383,105	384,715
Tax Claim	358,464	399,645
Treasurer	397,380	390,362
Purchasing	34,740	41,116
Solicitor	108,400	93,000
Public Defender	1,147,855	1,135,932
Recorder	455,358	457,246
Human Resources	200,488	202,670
MIS	439,768	427,557
Central Postage	20,542	21,537
Maintenance	815,456	812,938
Mntc - Archives	11,000	11,000
Mntc - 107 N Diamond	0	0
Archieves	64,229	65,569
Central Telephone	39,198	39,496
Central Copy	11,215	2,500
Court Administration	85,534	71,713
CCP	1,580,464	1,557,284
Masters	46,354	38,857
Veteran's Court	0	0
DJ Songer	246,349	244,813
DJ Antos	335,961	321,900
DJ Hinch	224,626	227,311
DJ McEwen	198,396	212,684
DJ Arthur	252,915	253,282
Law Library	252,723	295,159
Clerk of Courts	850,515	866,357
Constables	75,000	108,000
Coroner	178,329	179,817
District Attorney	1,761,928	1,785,295
Prothonotary	438,458	430,477
Sheriff	1,553,014	1,543,187
Jail	8,005,197	8,277,993
JPO	1,248,670	1,268,034
IPP	735,209	732,677
IPP	27,860	28,722
EMA	261,203	283,298

County of Mercer  
2018 Adopted Budget  
General Fund Costs of Operations - by Department

Veteran Affairs	233,488	237,082
Soil Conservation	463,064	513,445
<b>Total of Department Operating Costs</b>	<b>26,010,490</b>	<b>26,425,363</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>4,547,469</b>	<b>4,509,281</b>
<b>Total Financial &amp; Contingencies</b>	<b>1,272,360</b>	<b>710,300</b>
<b>Total Costs and Expenses</b>	<b>31,830,319</b>	<b>31,644,944</b>