

Meeting of the Fulton County Commissioners – Tuesday, October 11, 2022  
8:30 a.m. at the Commissioners' Office

**Present:** Commissioner Ulsh, Commissioner Bunch & Commissioner Shives

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Tax Appeal Hearing: Solicitor Jim Stein, Chief Tax Assessor Michelle Sowers, Property Transaction Clerk Melissa Gordon, Prothonotary/Jury Commissioner Patty Suders-Fix, Attorney Stanley Kerlin and Fulton County Resident James Haines.

Commissioner Ulsh opened the meeting with silent prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Motion by Commissioner Shives to approve the Commissioners' Minutes of the October 4, 2022 meeting. All in favor.**

**Motion by Commissioner Ulsh to approve the Accounts Payable dated October 7, 2022 in the amount of \$80,790.38. All in favor.**

Fund 100	General Fund	65,749.36
	Manual Checks	\$0.00
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$65,749.36</b>
Fund 227	SFC Technology Grant	55.45
Fund 231	SFC Evidence Based Practice	76.16
Fund 235	Law Library	1,833.99
Fund 238	911	12,922.81
Fund 247	CDBG	131.00
Fund 256	Domestic Relations	21.61
	<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$80,790.38</b>

The Commissioners as a part of the Tax Appeal Board including Solicitor Jim Stein and Chief Tax Assessor Michelle Sowers and Property Transaction Clerk Melissa Gordon conducted Tax Appeal Hearings as advertised from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Those minutes are obtained in the Tax Assessment Office. Attendees for the hearings were Prothonotary/Jury Commissioner, Patty Suders-Fix, Attorney Stanley Kerlin and James Haines.

**Motion by Commissioner Ulsh to enter into Executive Session for Legal Matters at 9:40 AM. All in favor.**

Regular meeting resumed at 10:00 AM.

Commissioners met with County Auditors, Penny Kipp and Holly Falkosky for an Annual Audit Review. The auditors presented a report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 noting that they filed the DCED report and published a notice in the Fulton County News. The full report is also on the county website. The auditors shared that they attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Auditors Annual Convention in September, which was very helpful. Chairman Kipp talked with

the Commissioners about increasing work days for the 2023 fiscal year allowing them to go over items that otherwise they wouldn't be able to.

Commissioners met with Rick Strait, Fulton Industrial Development Association. Strait asked for the 2023 County Allocation in the amount of \$10,000, the same as from previous years. A proposed budget and financial statements were provided for Commissioners to review.

**Motion by Commissioner Shives to approve 2023 grant funding allocation allotment in the amount of \$10,000 to Fulton Industrial Development Association. All in favor.**

Commissioners met with Mike Lamb, Wessel and Co., in regards to the Senior Center Parking Lot Paving Projects. Lamb explained that money has been budgeted for the three Senior Centers for the past few years with the idea of paving one parking lot per year. Commissioners decided not to move forward on the projects as of yet.

Amy Smith, Benecon and Richard Brookes, WEBB Insurance presented a PCHIPC Renewal Summary to the Commissioners. Smith noted that the renewal was based on the past 28 month of claims data through June 30, 2022 due to the Covid. Smith presented a 5.8% renewal rate for January 1, 2023 for Fulton County with an overall PCHIPC renewal increase of 7.0% in maximum funding. The summary included comparisons to other counties participating in PCHIPC. Smith also added that there was not a surplus reimbursement to Fulton County for 2021 but one looks to be expected for 2022.

Commissioners met with Sue Cabbage, Director for the Fulton County Food Basket. Cabbage presented some concerns about usage of the Food Basket truck between the three counties; Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon. The truck was purchased using grant funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Grant for all three counties. Commissioners asked Chief Clerk Stacey Golden to compose a letter for the Bedford and Huntingdon Commissioners outlining Cabbages' concerns in hopes of a solution. Cabbage will meet with the Fulton County Commissioners again at the October 18, 2022 meeting for a follow up.

**Motion by Commissioner Ulsh to approve 2023 grant funding allocation allotment in the amount of \$8,598 to SAP&DC, Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission. All in favor.**

Commissioners signed an invoice for the Coroner's Office for a Ferno PowerFlexx+ Cot in the amount of \$5,000. The purchase will be paid for from the Violent Death Report Grant for 2022, the grant totaled \$10,000.

**Motion by Commissioner Ulsh to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 PM. All in favor.**

*Stuart L. Ullsh*

Stuart L. Ullsh, Chair

*Randy H. Bunch*

Randy H. Bunch, Vice-Chair

*Paula J. Shives*

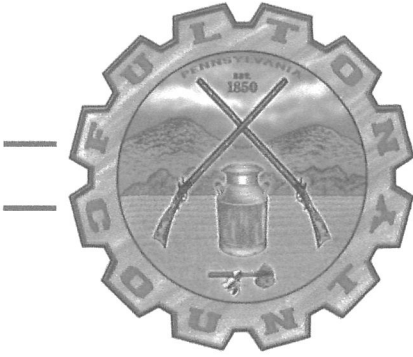
Paula J. Shives

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stacey M. Golden*

Stacey M. Golden  
Chief Clerk





# Fulton County Commissioners

116 West Market Street, Suite 203, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Telephone: (717) 485-3691 Fax: (717) 485-9411 Email: commissioners@co.fulton.pa.us

**Stuart L. Ulsh, Chairman**  
**Randy H. Bunch, Vice-Chairman**  
**Paula J. Shives**

**Stacey M. Golden, Chief Clerk**  
**Jim Stein, Solicitor**

## RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2022

### RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, the residents of Fulton County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

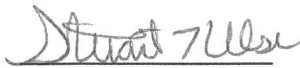
WHEREAS, Fulton County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans Fulton County hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Fulton County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners held on October 18, 2022.

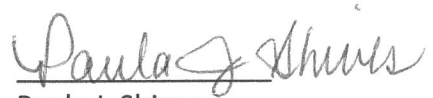
FULTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Stuart L. Ulsh  
Chair



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Vice-Chair



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**Jim Stein, Solicitor**

## RESOLUTION 7 of 2022

A resolution of the county of Fulton Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting the recommendations of the Behavioral Health Commission for Mental Health.

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania counties provide essential community-based mental health services such as crisis intervention, community residential programs, family-based support and outpatient care, which are critical to the well-being of our constituents and our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding for mental health base has lagged far behind needs and caseloads for a decade, counties have continued to advocate for sustainable funding to provide services to its most vulnerable residents adequately; and

**WHEREAS**, Act 54 of 2022 created a new Behavioral Health Commission for Adult Mental Health, tasked with providing recommendations on how to allocate \$100 million in one-time federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for adult mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission made recommendations for investment in mental health, including investments in workforce, criminal justice and public safety and expanded capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission also called for flexibility in the use of mental health funds, since each county has its own unique strengths and challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the flexibility of county mental health base funding, counties have continued to serve Pennsylvanians in the most effective way possible, despite a lack of sustainable funding; and

**WHEREAS**, as recommended by the Commission, counties could use the funding to make crucial investments that would sustain the behavioral health system; and

**WHEREAS**, Fulton County has currently invested in community-based mental health services that coordinate and invest in programs and services that meet the needs and challenges of local communities, including Crisis/Emergency Services,

Child/School Based Mental Health, Family Based, Outpatient, Case management, Mobile Mental Health, Residential and a host of other community mental health supports; and

**WHEREAS**, counties echo the Commission’s concern that while these federal funds have a positive impact, the absence of a year-to-year increase in the county mental health base will not solve long-term issues as the funds are of one-time use; and

**WHEREAS**, counties strongly support the Commission’s recognition that an increase in county base funds in future state budgets remains critical as without guaranteed funds counties will be cautious about adding services that cannot be sustained once the federal dollars have been spent; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that Fulton County urges the General Assembly and Governor to enact the enabling legislation needed to allocate the \$100 million in federal funds so that counties can make a positive difference in the lives of constituents; and

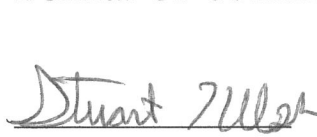
**RESOLVED**, that Fulton County supports flexibility in how counties use these federal funds and urges the General Assembly to include counties in drafting legislation to retain that flexibility; and

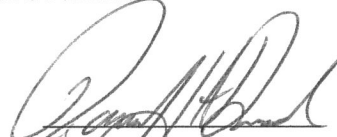
**RESOLVED**, that Fulton County supports the call for an increase in the General Fund to adequately support county base funds which will allow for long-term stability in the system; and

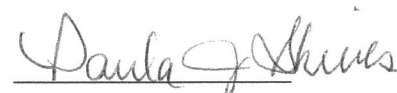
**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Fulton County legislative delegation, to Governor Wolf, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Fulton, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Stuart L. Ulsh  
Chair

  
Randy H. Bunch  
Vice-Chair

  
Paula J. Shives