

Commissioner Ruddock said he has chaired the Transportation Committee for the last four years and the committee is trying to make sure that implementation of the plan is done in a sound and sensible manner in working with the state transportation team.

Mr. Ruddock said that number 6 and 7 are becoming cost factors in how we support the follow up programs that try to get individuals back into the mainstream and preventive support is key.

He said that tax fairness is something this board has been talking about since he took office. Tax fairness is to find a better way in which we find methods in looking at our revenue base across Pennsylvania because as things start to stagnate on the economic side in all counties, how do you continue to draw the revenue stream that necessary to maintain a level of safe and secure environment for people we serve. Some of the legislative leaders, especially Dave Reed, have taken initiatives to make that an issue to find ways to look at other ways of drawing revenue besides depending upon property owners. The counties across the state have the responsibility in funding court issues. Significant court cases have risen in recent years and it is the responsibility of the counties to pay for them.

Mr. Ruddock commented on Human Services Reform and said that counties are stretched in their human services support plan. There was a reduction two years ago and the county has never recovered from the loss. We want to resurrect that funding stream back into the county coffers to make sure was can support the issues facing mental illness, substance abuse, transportation for those who can't get to work.

Mr. Ruddock made comments regarding the Maintenance of the Shale Gas Impact Fee. It has made a significant difference in the lives of various consumers in various counties because of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania. Indiana County is no exception and we want to see that we continue to receive that kind of support based upon what the product offers in Indiana County. We are starting to see some slippage because the value of gas has come down. The townships and boroughs highly depend upon those dollars.

The number one item is 911 Services System Reform. Commissioner Ruddock said we are very fortunate that we have an outstanding leadership team in place for 911 services. The reimbursement formula that was put in place on how counties receive state support is truly antiquated. It is based on upon landline-service cost and landline telephones in homes are decreasing rapidly. Indiana County has lost about \$1 million in recent years. The only way to make that money up is to find another revenue stream.

RESOLUTION...911 FUNDING AND SYSTEM REFORM

Tom Stutzman, Director of the Emergency Management Agency, was present and said that the current legislation is 25 years old. It was done based on a landline system and as new technology came along such as cell phones and Voice of IP services the legislation was amended to add fees for those services. The difference that came in the county funding spectrum was the original funding on the wireline side came directly to the county. The customer paid their phone company then their phone company paid the county. The phone company kept a small percentage for their administration costs. Under the new technology amendments, the funding began going to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth then developed a formula for dispersing of those funds. The first impact to hit the county was that our fee was \$1.50 per land line customer. The Voice of IP (VoIP) and wireless customers were only paying a \$1.00. We

receive the VOIP dollar on a monthly basis at 95% per dollar. However, on the wireless side, such as cellphone, tablets and smart devices, consumers are only paying a \$1.00 per month for each device. The county only gets a percentage based on the number of wireless calls that the 911 center gets on an annual basis. Indiana County is currently getting 43 cents on the dollar for each dollar that gets paid into that fund. The current Commonwealth Fund is stagnate. In 1992 Indiana County was receiving \$65,000 for administration of 911 from local customer on wireline. The funding has been flipped. In 1995 the funding was 40% tax based and 60% funded by 911 funds. Today the county is funding 60% in operating 911 and only 40% is covered by VoIP, wireline and wireless. We are in desperate need of a new and fairer funding mechanism because of the change in technology.

Commissioner Ruddock said that each of the legislators visited 911 and know what the issues are. However there was almost daily discussion in Harrisburg until there was a change in leadership in the Governors Office of where we need to be. The County Commissioners rallied at the last cause to get a resolution in place that would fund through the end of 2014. The resolution was approved at the old funding method but new proposals have been made to update the funding of 911. He is happy to hear that progress is being made to get us to where we need to be.

Commissioner Evanko explained how the priorities are chosen by CCAP. There are committees and each committee at the fall conference picks three to ten issues that are important to them. There is then a CCAP committee that picks the top ten priorities. She said that 911 Reform has been the top priority for the last two years because the funding has been decreasing and the counties can't afford to this to keep happening. CCAP wants everyone to know that the system is not broke and the citizens are not in danger of losing their 911 systems because the counties are taking care of that. We want the government to take a share of the cost because the burden is falling on the counties to perform the service.

After Commissioner Evanko read the 911 Funding and System Reform Resolution, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Baker and unanimously carried approve the Resolution.

Commissioner Baker said the fact that this is at the top of the list again indicates how important this is not only to Indiana County but to every county across the Commonwealth. He has always said that we all depend on 911 everyday even if we don't pick up the phone and call it that day or not. Public Safety is number one for him and for this Board of Commissioners and we are very hopeful that this legislation moves forward.

INDIAN HAVEN VEHICLE BID...020915

At the request of Kim Cobaugh, Indian Haven, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the low bid received by Rohrer Enterprises, Duncannon, PA in the amount of \$43,941.00 for a 2015 Ford Transit Conversion Van with three (3) wheelchairs. This vehicle will replace a 2000 Ford E250 Van which will not pass inspection. It is noted that one other bid was received by Tri-Star Motors, Blairsville, PA in the amount of \$44,699.02.

AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

Commissioner Ruddock explained that a letter was sent to White Township asking them that the County be released as a sewage customer for the County Jail. The release would be effective as

soon as the new connection to the Indiana County Municipal Services Agency. He explained that when the new jail was built, at the request of White Township, a large sewage holding tank was installed so that if there was any overflow it would mitigate rapid flow into their system. The problem with the system is that the tank is very difficult to maintain. Because of the nature of the tank it has never worked up to the capacity we hoped it would and servicing the jail properly. It has also caused a lot of sewage odors in the area. Gibson Thomas has recommended that the County get rid of the tank and move the sewage into a system that is operated by Indiana County Municipal Services Agency. This will require that a small sewage treatment facility be built that will be less expense than the cost that was burdened by taking care of the tank. A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to terminate the Sanitary Sewer Service for the Indiana County Jail property.

RACP APPLICATION SUBMISSION...DIXONVILLE COMMONS BUILDING RENOVATIONS PROJECT

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to authorize the submission of a Business Plan (Pre-application) to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Budget, Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), requesting grant assistance in the amount of \$1,150,000.00 for the Dixonville Commons Building Renovations Project. The motion also includes authorization for Commissioner Ruddock and/or any appropriate officials, as necessary, to be granted authorization to execute any such documents or take such actions required to execute the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant application.

The Green Township facility has been underutilized since the closing of the former Polyvision Plant in August 2009. If invited to make a full application, the Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC) will assist in implementing the grant and marketing the site to prospective businesses. The grant will be utilized to upgrade the facility to accommodate future tenants. The property has been designated as a Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone (KOEZ) through December 31, 2023. Commissioner Ruddock said this is a commonsense movement to receive dollars to try to spur business in the northern sector of the county for economic development. Commissioner Evanko said this is a great move and the Board is always trying to reach out to the rural sectors of the County.

SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT...T-460 AULTMAN BRIDGE #3

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement No. 104728-A for final design, right-of-way, and construction funds for T-460 Aultman Bridge #3. The bridge is owned by Blacklick Township but the project is being administered by Indiana County. Indiana County is also helping with the cost of the 5% local share of the project. The total cost for the agreement is Federal \$1,244,000.00; State \$233,250.00; Local \$77,750.00.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...FEBRUARY 25, 2015 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. There also will be a special meeting on February 18, 2015 to discuss Phase III of the 2015 Financing Program.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Ruddock adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman