

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2015

Commissioner Chairman Rodney D. Ruddock called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:35 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Rodney D. Ruddock, present Commissioner Michael A. Baker, present
Commissioner Patricia A. Evanko, present

Also in attendance were Solicitor Katie Haberl, Chief Clerk Robin Maryai, and others. Members of the news media present were Randy Wells, Greg Reinbold and Josh Widdowson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ruddock led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVE MINUTES...APRIL 8, 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 8, 2015 as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROCLAMATION...HUNGER AWARENESS

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to proclaim the week of April 25 – May 2, 2015 as Hunger Awareness Week in Indiana county and urged residents to support the 21st IUP Community Nutrition Food Drive. Students from the university's community nutrition class in the Department of Food and Nutrition on Saturday, April 25, 2015 will collect nonperishable food items, personal care items and cash donations at the following locations: McDonalds restaurants in Indiana County, Valeski's Fourth Street Bi-Lo, Walmart, Big Lots, Giant Eagle, Mercik's Bi-Lo in Homer City, Tates Supermarket in Clymer and Shop n' Save in Saltsburg. All donations will go to the Indiana County Community Action Program's food pantries. Dr. Melissa Swauger, Kelsey Vilcek and Idamarse Laquantra from the IUP Food & Nutrition Department were present to accept the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Evanko, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Baker and unanimously carried to proclaim May 2 – 10, 2015 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Indiana County, and urged the citizens of Indiana County to join them in this special observance with appropriate events and commemorations. Denise Liggett, Executive Director of the Indiana County Tourist Bureau, was present along with her office staff to accept the proclamation and said that in 2013, \$179 million in tourism-related dollars were spent in Indiana County. The total includes money spent on meals at restaurants, lodging, recreation and at parks. She also said much of that money is spent by visitors to events at IUP.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Baker, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to proclaim May as National Bike month. Bicycling is an environmentally-sound form of transportation, an excellent form of fitness, and quality family recreation that residents of Indiana County enjoy on a daily basis. Initiatives like the Bike to School Challenge encourage youth participation in bicycling and increase awareness of road safety for not only bicyclists, but also for individuals driving motor vehicles and pedestrians. Jeff Raykes, Office of Planning & Development, was present to accept the proclamation and reminded those present that Bike to School Day is May 12, 2015.

2015 WALKWORKS PROGRAM

Jeff Raykes, Office of Planning & Development, announced that Indiana County was one of only four (4) Pennsylvania counties selected to participate in the 2015 *WalkWorks* program. *WalkWorks* is a collaboration between the Planning Office, the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to increase opportunities for physical activity in Indiana County. Through this grant funded program, planners will work with local communities to identify community-based walking routes and form sustainable walking groups that will enhance and expand active transportation with the ultimate goal of improving the health of County residents.

CONTRACT...PA WORKWEAR / HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract for the PA Workwear Assurance Program in the amount of \$11,682.00 for July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Ms. Spencer explained that the Department of Human Services is taking back this contract from InspiriTec, Inc. This program is part of the employment training initiatives for individuals who are on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Referrals are received in the Human Services Office through the County Assistance Office and CareerLink where they are able to utilize these monies as well as donated clothing to help those individuals who are going to job interview or for their first week of work.

CONTRACT...ADVENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Commissioner Baker introduced a contract with Advent Communications that will upgrade the county's telephone communications by connecting the system with the new fiber optic network installed as part of the enhancements to the county's public safety radio system. This system will connect and upgrade the telephone and communications throughout the county by incorporating the Courthouse, Courthouse Annex's Jail, Human Services, Children & Youth Services, the District Justices Offices, Indian Haven, Airport and Parks in one system therefore reducing monthly telephone costs with a projected savings of \$67,000.00 over the next five years. Mr. Baker also explained that because the county is paying upfront the cost of the system rather than leasing for 5-years the county will save an additional \$39,000.00.

Mr. Mike Hochendoner, Advent Communications was present and explained that there will be an enhancement to the data network as well as the voice network and it will put the county on a centralized platform across all of the locations. The number of lines will be reduced which will give the county the savings lowering operating expenses. Mr. Baker said the county is now beginning to understand the benefits from the optic fiber network and it is just a beginning of some of the savings and capabilities that we will have.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Advent Communications in the amount of \$212,800.78.

Mr. Ruddock said the excitement here is that we are improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the communications in the County and that is an offshoot of what we have done with the Public Safety Radio Project by installing fiber as part of the system. With the integrity of that system, we are now able to make use of the fiber by carrying it into the government aspect of improving services. The second part of the plan is to take into the residential areas and carry that fiber to where it is installed and carry it out to the homes that do not have any broadband services. He thanked Mr. Baker and the courthouse team for their work on this project.

CUMMINGS DAM GEOTECHNICAL TESTING

Michele Girolami, Gibson Thomas Engineering, was present and explained that DEP is requiring that a geotechnical evaluation of the Cummings Dam Breast be conducted. Ackenheil Engineering estimated a drilling cost of \$110,800.00 and G-Tech proposed a testing and analysis in the amount of \$72,454.00 for a total project cost of \$183,254.00. Ms. Girolami said after that cost estimate was provided and approved, DEP then requested two additional borings be drilled at each end of the dam breast abutments. Ackenheil then provided a revised drilling cost total of \$131,040.00 and G-Tech revision totals \$77,284.00. The total revised cost of the project is \$208,324.00. She requested on behalf of Gibson Thomas Engineering that the board approve the total project cost and move forward with the geotechnical evaluation as required by the Department of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands.

Commissioner Ruddock said this is a significant step to find out exactly how this dam stands and it is important to move forward with this plan. A motion was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Evanko.

Commissioner Ruddock said they want to make sure there is no requirement to bid the drilling part of the project. If it is a service agreement, there is no requirement to bid the project. He wants to confirm the fact that we agreed to move this forward and would approve it on the motion with the consideration that it does not require a bidding process. A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to amend the motion to approve with the contingency that it does not require bidding.

RIGHT OF WAY...CENTRAL INDIANA COUNTY JOINT SANITARY AUTHORITY / PARKS

On behalf of Ed Patterson, Director of Indiana County Parks, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Right of Way to the Central Indiana County Joint Sanitary Authority as a result of road work by PennDOT at the intersection of Route 119 and Lucerne Road on the Hoodlebug Trail.

RESOLUTION...INDIANA COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY LOCAL MATCH

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Resolution certifying the County's local match for State operating financial assistance to Indigo in the amount of \$62,000.00.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Jill Conrad to the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board representing the private business sector; term to expire September 30, 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Ruddock said the Leadership Awards will be held at the KCAC on April 22, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...MAY 13, 2015 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Ruddock adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman