

concerned with senior population who yet do not clearly understand the effect of their tax notice or their ability to pay.

Indiana County hasn't been through a countywide reassessment in 47 years, so it is no surprise that many owners mistakenly believe it to be an overall tax increase. Many also believe that the process which has been developed should be phased in over time as a consequence of the 47 year gap in reassessment. However, Pennsylvania Law does not permit such an option as we are obligated to follow our present timeline. Pennsylvania law also prohibits the county, municipalities and school districts from receiving increased tax dollars as a result of the reassessment. The goal is fairness as defined by Pennsylvania law and assessment standards.

We have directed the reassessment vendor to review and research areas where there are insufficient valid sales or where new information has become available in our review of property data and parcel documentation. Revised notices will be mailed to affected property within the next several weeks.

We have also tasked our county assessment team to directly coordinate with our vendor where property discrepancies/values are significant and demand our immediate attention.

If you disagree with your new assessed value, make sure your property data is correct (online or at an informal review) and file the appeal form by the August 10, 2015 deadline. Panels of local residents will hear your opinion and evidence of value as well as what makes your property unique compared to others in your area. The goal is accuracy and tax fairness. The county does not benefit by keeping values high since millage rates must be equalized. Properties with atypical characteristics should go through the appeal process to ensure their personalized value considers all factors.

If you have farm land or forest land, please check out the state Clean and Green program using the information on our website. This constitutional amendment spares eligible properties from paying taxes based on market value. The farm land and forest land does NOT have to be open to the public. Please seek the facts from official sources. Don't let misinformation keep you from participating in a program designed for you. The deadline to enroll for next year is October 15, 2015.

Engaging in this process will help to establish the fairest system of property values and tax assessments our County will have experienced in nearly half a century. We strongly support statewide property tax reform. Meanwhile, we remain committed to completing the reassessment, meeting the court mandate and achieving fairness for all Indiana County property owners.

Mr. Tim Barr, Evaluator Services and Technology, was present and made a few comments regarding the Tax Reassessment Process. One of the questions raised was whether or not an attorney is needed for the appeals. Mr. Barr said representation is not needed at the informal or formal appeals and only until you go to the Court of Common Pleas. The informal review is about the data. In the formal appeal you will meet with a 3 member panel and they will act like a judge to hear facts and information and then will make an informed decision. If a person feels they want to bring an appraiser or professional consultant they can. The restriction that has been set on representation is limited to sole representation where if the owner or family can't attend

the appeal, it must be an attorney and that is by law. The primary person presenting the case is either the property owner or somebody who is not for fee making that representation. Mr. Barr said a Certified Pennsylvania Evaluator (CPE) will also be present at each appeal. They do not control the meeting but simply will run the computer by bringing up information, sales, maps, etc. Mr. Ruddock commented that the commissioners did try to find members to serve on the appeal boards that had real estate experience but it is not necessary. He also said that anyone who currently holds an active real estate license cannot serve on the boards. The commissioners did try to find tax payers who feel they want to serve and make a statement in support of those who come in so there is a common sense value given to the decision making process and that common sense will be backed up by a CPE who makes sure we that we are doing it legally correct.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Ruddock announced that Executive Sessions were held on the following dates to discuss legal matters:

July 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
July 14, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.
July 15, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.
July 17, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.
July 21, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

PROCLAMATION...100TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLYMER ENTERPRISES, INC.

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Baker and unanimously carried to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Polymer Enterprises, Inc. as they celebrate this remarkable milestone and offered their personal gratitude and best wishes for their continued success.

ADULT GRANT-IN-AID FY 2015-2016 / PROBATION

At the request of Jan Baun, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the FY 2015-2016 Grant-In-Aid Application with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole which provides improvement for the Adult Probation Services. This also includes an Offender Supervision Fee agreement that pertains to fees that are assessed and collected by Probation in the amount of \$30.00 per month for each offender on active supervision.

PROVIDER AGREEMENT...CHILD ACCOUNTING AND PROFILE SYSTEM APPLICATION SERVICE (CAPS) / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Avanco International, Inc. in the amount of \$28,824.00 for FY 2015-16 to provide access for the Child Account Profile System (CAPS). They provided data security, data backup and recovery and help services.

CONSULTING AGREEMENT AVANCO INTERNATIONAL, INC. / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a consulting agreement with Avanco International, Inc. to provide hourly services on an as needed basis.

CHILD ACCOUNTING AND PROFILE SYSTEM VERSION 10 UPGRADES /C YS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the Child Accounting and Profile System Version 10 Upgrade with Avanco International, Inc. in the amount of \$2,508.73.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with The Care Center of Indiana County, Indiana, PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Dr. John Carosso, Psy.D & Associates, Murrysville, PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Croyle-Serbin Therapeutic Associates, PC, Indiana PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Great Expectations Day Care, Blairsville, PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Justice Works YouthCare, Pittsburgh, PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Carol A. Patterson, M. ED, Punxsutawney, PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Shippenville Project Point of Light, Inc., Shippenville, PA for FY 2014-2015 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM...THOMAS RIVOSECCHI, ESQ. CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Thomas Rivosecchi for Guardian ad Litem services for the subjects of abuse and dependency petitions filed by the Children & Youth Services on an as needed basis at the rate of \$70.00 per hour and \$90.00 per hour as substitute solicitor.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM...SARAH ROSS, ESQ. / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Sarah Ross for Guardian ad Litem services for the subjects of abuse and dependency petitions filed by the Children & Youth Services on an as needed basis at a retainer rate of \$2,916.67 per month. She attends team meetings and visits youth in their placement setting.

SOLICITOR CONTRACT...JENNIFER SZALKOWSKI, ESQ. / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Jennifer Szalkowski. She is assigned as Indiana County Children & Youth Services Solicitor at a rate of \$4,656.58 per month. She represents the agency in dependency hearings, attends meetings for case reviews, prepares for termination proceedings, appeal hearings and agency concerns or issues.

PA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ADMINISTRATION – CHERRYHILL TOWNSHIP / PLANNING

At the request of Nick Rado, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to an agreement between the County and Cherryhill Township to administer the PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC) on their behalf. The Cherryhill Township Supervisors have approved the agreement. This agreement marks the thirtieth (30th) municipality that has selected Indiana County, through the Office of Planning & Development, to administer the UCC on their behalf. This agreement shall be effective on July 22, 2015.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF A MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND APPLICATION / PLANNING

At the request of Jeff Raykes, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Baker seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to authorize the filing of an application for the Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), under the direction of the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). The motion also allows Commissioner Ruddock to sign on behalf of the County for the application. These funds, if awarded, will be used to design and construct a Multimodal Corridor that connects the Hoodlebug Trail to the IUP campus, downtown Indiana, and the White Township Recreation Complex. The Office of Planning & Development requests the authorizing of this resolution and the signing of additional materials as specified by the program application.

CONTRACT...HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Director of Human Services Director, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Indiana County Community Action for the provision of Homeless Services for FY 2015-2016 in the amount of \$205,382.00. ICCAP will continue to provide rental assistance, homeless case management, bridge services and emergency shelter to residents of Indiana County. The Department of Human Services will continue administer the funding for the grant.

TIME EXTENSION...T-460 AULTMAN BRIDGE #3

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a time extension for T-460 Aultman Bridge #3. The time extension is being requested in order to address permitting issues that occurred during preliminary engineering. The time of completion will be changed from July 14, 2015 to December 14, 2015.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to appoint Larry Stadtmiller, Joseph Engler and Paulette Marcoline to the Board of Assessment Appeals; term to expire January, 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

Denise Liggett from the Tourist Bureau announced that Indiana County Day will be on July 24th at Idlewild Park. Jim Struzzi, Chamber of Commerce announced Chamber After Hours on July 23rd at the Communities at Indian Haven.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...AUGUST 12, 2015 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 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 11:45 a.m.

Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman