

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2017

Commissioner Chairman Michael A. Baker called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:32 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Michael A. Baker, present
Commissioner Sherene Hess, present

Commissioner Rodney D. Ruddock, present

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES...APRIL 12, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 12, 2017 as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There was an Executive Session held on May 2, 2017 at 1:15 p.m. to discuss a real estate matter.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim the week of May 7 – 13, 2017 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Indiana County, and urge the citizens to join in this observance with appropriate events and commemorations. Denise Liggett, Director of the Tourist Bureau along with her staff, were present to accept the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION...MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim the month of May 2017 as Mental Health Awareness Month and call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private organizations, businesses and schools to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services to promote recovery for all people with mental illnesses. Tammy Calderone, Director of BDHP, was present to accept the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION...LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Ruddock and carried unanimously to proclaim the month of May 2017 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Tammy Curry and John Compardo were present to accept the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to proclaim the month of May, 2017 as National Bike Month throughout Indiana County. 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 annual Bike to School Day which will take place, on Friday, May 12, 2017, encourage youth participation in bicycling and increase awareness of road safety for not only bicyclists, but also for pedestrians and individuals driving motor vehicles. Josh Krug from the Office of Planning & Development was present to accept the proclamation.

AWARD ON CONTRACT...REMOVE TREE OBSTRUCTIONS / JIMMY STEWART AIRPORT

At the request of Tom Robertson, Indiana County Airport, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to award a contract in the amount of the base bid of \$459,629.12 to Richardson Tree and Landscaping Co., Inc. (New Wilmington, PA) for the removal of trees which are obstructions on private properties in the areas adjacent to the Airport. The award is contingent or conditioned on securing the federal and state grant funds from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation that provide 95% of the total project costs. The 5% local share of costs is being provided by the Indiana County Airport Authority.

APARTMENT LEASE CONTRACTS – INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANT / CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an Apartment Lease Contract #2 with Westgate Terrace Associates to provide a two-bedroom apartment for a homeless youth. These youths have been involved with the child welfare system and frequently have no support system. While in the apartment, an independent living worker will work intensely with the youth and focus on skills that will move them to independence. The term of the lease is May 23, 2017 to May 21, 2018 at a cost of \$695.00 per month plus electric. Costs will be paid out of the Independent Living Grant budget.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an Apartment Lease Contract #1 with Westgate Terrace Associates to provide a two-bedroom apartment for a homeless youth. These youths have been involved with the child welfare system and frequently have no support system. While in the apartment, an independent living worker will work intensely with the youth and focus on skills that will move them to independence. The term of the lease is June 11, 2017 to June 6, 2018 at a cost of \$664.00 per month plus electric. Costs will be paid out of the Independent Living Grant budget.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT...INDIANA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT / CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a cooperative agreement between Indiana County Children & Youth Services and the Indiana County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Office will provide CYS security at their office by providing at least two-armed Deputy Sheriff during business hours. CYS will be responsible for paying the hourly

rate for the lowest and highest paid deputies. In addition to the hourly rates, CYS will pay for 1 family health benefit and 1 individual health benefit coverage.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 16-17 / CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess, and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Holy Family Institute, Pittsburgh, PA for FY 2016-2017 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess, and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with JusticeWorks YouthCare, Pittsburgh, PA for FY 2016-2017 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock, and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Central Counties Youth Center, Bellefonte, PA for FY 2016-2017 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock, and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Community Specialists Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA for FY 2016-2017 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess, and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Harborcreek Youth Services, Harborcreek, PA for FY 2016-2017 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS / JAIL

At the request of Sam Buzzinotti, Warden, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Indiana County and Fayette County to house adult offenders over the age of 18 years for Franklin County at the rate of \$55.00 a day, per inmate.

At the request of Sam Buzzinotti, Warden, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously carried to approve conditional approval pending a receipt of signed Memorandum of Understandings between Indiana County and Lancaster, Schuylkill and Westmoreland Counties to house adult offenders over the age of 18 years at the rate of \$55.00 a day, per inmate.

GRANT APPLICATION...PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME & DELINQUENCY / PROBATION

At the request of Mike Hodak, Chief Probation Officer, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a grant application with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This application is proposed to provide funding for the purchase of a Polycom Video Conferencing Unit and one computer to be installed in the conference room in the Probation Office to be used for staff trainings and conducting court hearings. Additional equipment proposed in the application is for the purchase of three laptop computers which would enable staff to access agency and court records at remote locations within the courthouse through the Wi-Fi system. This is a non-competitive grant and the purchase of these items will not exceed \$10,000.00.

PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF PROBATION & PAROLE GRANT-IN-AID FUNDS AGREEMENT FY 2017-2022 / PROBATION

At the request of Michael Hodak, Chief Probation Officer, a motion was made Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the FY 2017-2022 Adult Probation Grant-In-Aid Application and Agreement. This agreement is a five-year contract that provides funding for the improvement to supervision and programs of the adult probation program. Indiana County received for FY 2015-2017 \$108,953.00 from the Commonwealth as a result of this agreement.

PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF PROBATION & PAROLE SUPERVISION FUNDS AGREEMENT FY 2017-2022 / PROBATION

At the request of Mike Hodak, Chief Probation Officer, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the Offender Supervision Fund Agreement for FY 2017-2022. This is a five-year contract between Indiana County and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole which provides the return of county supervision fees received by the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth which were assessed to and collected from offenders under supervision of the Probation Office at the monthly rate of \$30.00. During the last fiscal year 2015-2016 \$138,629.00 was returned to Indiana County.

RESOLUTION – COOPERATION AGREEMENT/WHITE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning and Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the signing of a Cooperation Agreement with the White Township Municipal Authority. The Agreement is for the construction of the Fulton Run Alternative Sewer System Project that has been allocated \$200,000.00 of 2014 Community Development Block Grant funds. The White Township Municipal Authority is responsible for the remaining funding necessary to construct the project that is estimated to be approximately \$390,000.00. The Agreement details the responsibilities and duties between the County and the Authority for the development, construction and completion of the sewer system in the community of Fulton Run. The County will provide financial assistance through grant funds only and at the completion of the proposed system the Authority will retain ownership at no further costs to the County.

**GRANT AMENDMENT- RESOLUTION – COMMONWEALTH FINANCING
AUTHORITY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND / PLANNING**

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a resolution formally committing the encumbrance of \$300,000 Liquid Fuels funds as the required match for a \$980,000 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority, Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant administered by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The Office of Planning & Development is currently working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and local municipalities to recommend various transportation projects for an amendment to the CFA/DCED MTF grant. As proposed transportation projects are developed, the Board of Commissioners will approve specific requests through the typical Liquid Fuels administration procedures.

LIQUID FUELS – COUNTY AID – INDIANA BOROUGH / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve County Aid under the administration of the Indiana County Liquid Fuels funding to Indiana Borough in the amount of \$69,225.00 to partially offset eligible project costs for roadway milling, Superpave scratch and leveling course, and Superpave wearing course for various roadway paving projects. The initial encumbrance amount to be released is \$58,808.58. The total estimated project costs are \$430,750.00. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 16% of the total project costs.

**GRANT AGREEMENT – DCED – STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
PLAN/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN /
PLANNING**

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) through the Early Intervention Program (EIP) in the amount of \$200,000 for partial funding to develop a Strategic Financial Management Plan as well as an Economic Development & Workforce Development Plan.

The Strategic Financial Management Plan phase involves developing a multi-year strategy customized to address the specific needs and critical issues facing Indiana County in order to maintain long term fiscal and economic viability. The following are examples of key measurements that will be explored, such as a) expenditure reduction; b) revenue enhancement; c) implementation of long term community and economic development strategies for tax base stabilization; d) adoption of best management practices to achieve operating efficiencies; and, e) pursuit of intergovernmental cost-sharing strategies.

The second phase of the overall project includes partial funding for conducting a planning process culminating in a countywide Economic and Workforce Development Plan, to be incorporated as an addendum to the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan.

The last formal economic development plan for Indiana County, conducted in 1991, provided the framework for numerous infrastructure and economic development projects that helped Indiana County transition out of a period of high unemployment resulting in severe job losses in the coal industry in the late 1980s; and that plan has guided the overall economic development strategy in Indiana County for the ensuing 25 years.

The Indiana County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2012 did not include an economic development section; rather, the Comprehensive Plan recommended that a separate economic development planning process be conducted and an official economic development plan be subsequently incorporated into the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan. The Indiana County Center for Economic Operations (CEO) has identified the development of a new Economic and Workforce Development Plan for Indiana County as a priority project.

The proposed EIP project budget would include matching funds of up to \$50,000 commitment from Indiana County. The CEO has also pledged to assist the Indiana County Commissioners in every phase of the economic and workforce development planning process in collaboration with the Office of Planning & Development.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – INDIANA COUNTY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC OPERATIONS / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana County Development Corporation, the Indiana County Tourist Bureau, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, collectively referred to as the CEO Affiliates. In 1994, the Indiana County Center for Economic Operations, commonly referred to as the CEO, was established to serve as an integrated service delivery system spearheading economic development efforts in Indiana County by facilitating access to resources and information and assisting businesses in their efforts to grow and expand. One of the ways the CEO Affiliates plan to work together is to jointly assist the funding of coordinated economic development marketing efforts to foster increased business growth throughout Indiana County. In support of this collective effort, the County Commissioners' contribution shall include providing one staff person within the Office of Planning & Development in order to support marketing and related activities pursuant to the MOU. The CEO Affiliates have also committed assistance in the development of a comprehensive Economic & Workforce Development Plan. The MOU term shall be retroactive to December 1, 2016, and will terminate on December 31, 2019. This request also includes authorizing Commissioner Baker to execute the MOU and any related documents.

TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Hess introduced Tina Perdue from the Center for Community Growth. She explained that a Sustainable Economy Summit was recently hosted at the Rustic Lodge. Co-sponsors of the summit were the League of Women Voters of PA, League of Women Voters of Indiana County, The Evergreen Conservancy, Indiana County Center for Community Growth IUP Sustainability Program, and the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development.

The summit organizers would like to propose a task force to work with the Center for Economic Operations to diversify Indiana County's economy specifically proposing that the task force investigate and pursue the promise of sustainability initiatives in order to expand the county's capacity in three areas; attracting businesses, reduce costs for government and protecting natural resources. A number of exciting developments are converging to make this proposal a timely one. Among them are the growth of the renewable energy sector nationally and across Pennsylvania, technological improvements that make a variety of sustainable economic initiatives more accessible and more affordable, the spreading actions of communities in adopting sustainable practices and the county's plan for economic plan for workforce development. These developments clearly demonstrate the rich possibilities for a strong partnership not only to attract and create green jobs but also to ease tight budgets and allow us to be more responsible stewards of our natural resources. On behalf of the Sustainable Summit Planners, she presented a written proposal to create a task force. Ms. Perdue also presented a petition with nearly 400 signatures supported by Indiana County residents.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to approve creation of a Sustainable Economic Development Task Force to identify opportunities in economic development, education and job training in the renewable energy sector. The Task Force will be led by the Sustainable Economy Summit sponsors and will partner with the Indiana County Center for Economic Operations to ensure exposure to and coordination with current and future county related economic development efforts.

Mr. Ruddock said that I don't think you have a better commissioner leader than Sherene Hess to lead this effort forward. She understands the role and will effectively balance out what is being done with sustainable energy to fossil fuel industry. This is a concept plan that will help diversify Indiana County in economic growth.

Ms. Hess said we have a nice opportunity to honor our past knowing we built this country and region on traditions and we will continue to look to the future.

Mr. Baker said the meat and potatoes of local economy for many years has been coal, natural gas, fossil fuels and we need to be sure that we are bracing that and will continue to support them but also need to brace new strategies.

RESOLUTION BY MUNICIPALITY CERTIFYING PROVISION OF LOCAL MATCH FOR STATE OPERATING & CAPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to approve a Resolution by Municipality certifying of Local Match for State Operating & Capital Financial Assistance that certifies that Indiana County will provide Indiana County Transit Authority local funds in the amount \$68,200.00.

LEASE AGREEMENT EXTENSION...FLUID RECOVER SERVICES

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Lease Agreement Extension with Fluid Recovery Services extending their lease for the property located at 5035 Route 110, Creekside, PA for an additional three years until June 30, 2020.

OFFICIAL RETURN BOARD

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the following to the Official Return Board for the May 16, 2017 Municipal Primary Election:

Democratic

Kimberly L. Fatula, Margaret J. Karp, Margaret Preite, Michelle Forsha

Republican

Phyllis C. Spicher, Darla Coble, Elaine Harris, Margaret Babco

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...MAY 24, 2017 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman