

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Commissioner Chairman Michael A. Baker called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:30 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...AUGUST 23, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of August 23, 2017 as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

PROCLAMATION...100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COOKPORT FAIR

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to recognize and congratulate the Board of Directors and all members of the Green Township Community Association, better known as "The Cookport Fair", on the 100th Anniversary of the Association. The Commissioners offered their commendation and gratitude for a century of service and commitment to the people of Indiana County.

RESOLUTION...IMAGINE TRANSPORTATION 2.0

Commissioner Ruddock introduced Carly Dobbins-Buckland from the Allegheny Conference/ Regional Transportation Alliance. She explained that in 2013 the State passed a Comprehensive Transportation Funding Package which gave leadership across the region a chance to say we can finally do more than what we have to do which is figure what we want to do. The Allegheny Conference reached out across the 10-county region and the City of Pittsburgh to staff a Regional Transportation Alliance Steering Committee. They asked what do we want transportation to look like and what do we need to do differently to get there. The rising generation (millennial's) are looking for different things out of transportation than we have been baking into our system to date. They want more walkable and bikeable communities and more options like transit and other car alternatives. Additionally, our region, as well as many others across the country, have an increasingly aging population and we want and need those people to be able to age in place and be able to stay in their homes and be a productive part of our tax base

and part of our communities. They may need additional options beyond cars like single occupancy vehicles. Technology is changing and we don't want to be behind the curve and potentially have it go by us or cause us problems. A lot of other communities that we compete with across the country are already taking a look at these things and starting to take steps to work in putting the pieces in place. We want to do that as well and started asking communities across the 10-county region what are your priorities and what do think is needed to really to make transformational investments in transportation to support livability and attractiveness and economic competitiveness of communities here. What came out of that was Imagine Transportation 2.0 with the heart of which is seven principles to guide investment-planning decisions. It is very important that Indiana is a part of this regional process. And one of the things that has come out of the research and work is how very much we are a region and that is how transportation works. People don't just live and work in the same place anymore. In Indiana as of the last census as much as 55% of the employed residence work outside the county but choose to live here. Thinking about those connections that are outside borders and are clean places are really important to be successful moving forward.

Commissioner Ruddock said that SPC worked very hard to make sure the funding plan for the state transportation improvement allows us to get all the roads and infrastructure bridges suitable for our residents of Indiana County to travel not just Indiana County but the region. That collective effort is vested in the fact that you have seen significant improvement. A vast amount of work has been done in Indiana and are proud of what has happened. That investment is based upon the availability of transportation dollars to make sure that work gets done. SPC doesn't necessarily have a visionary piece to it and this regional alliance adds a dimension to say this is what we do in our counties and this is where we are in our counties, where is it we want to be with our counties and region. The commercial industry side reminded us that our role is just not on passenger comfort but it also in getting our goods to market. So whatever we do the roads structure has to allow us, the rail structure has to allow us, the air structure has to allow us to goods to market. That is one of the challenges we have in Indiana County and one is Route 422. There is about 30 million dollars in the TIP though SPC earmarked for that project. We want accelerate that project because there are some additional dollars that may come available that could possibly move that project up. If your not at the table protecting you lose the money and it goes elsewhere. Everything we do has to represent the people, the goods, the products, businesses, manufacturing firms of Indiana County. We do that knowing we cant do it in isolation but as a region.

After the Resolution was read by Commissioner Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the following Resolution and the 7 principles.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0913

Resolution from the County of Indiana endorsement of the Regional Transportation Alliance's Seven Principles for a Better Transportation Future and Better Mobility for All.

WHEREAS improving connectivity and mobility is critical to the 10-county region's quality of life, economic vitality, competitiveness, and ability to connect people to opportunity; and

WHEREAS the Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern Pennsylvania, a public-private partnership formed in 2015, has been building a "from-the-ground-up" vision for the 10-county region's transportation future; and

WHEREAS there is a need to demonstrate a willingness to think differently and to work together on mobility issues that will benefit residents and communities in every corner of the region; and

WHEREAS there is desire by Indiana County to provide for our residents and business safe and efficient access of a transportation infrastructure which supports sustainable prosperity and a high quality of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is appropriate that we, the Commissioners of Indiana County endorse the Seven Principles for a Transportation Future with Better Mobility for All outlined in Imagine Transportation 2.0, released by the Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern Pennsylvania in 2017. They Are:

- Principle 1: Optimize Our Existing Assets
- Principle 2: Prioritize Connections to Jobs and Education
- Principle 3: Embrace New Operating Models
- Principle 4: Make Flexible, Future-Proof Investments
- Principle 5: Adopt Best Management Practices
- Principle 6: Support Multiple Mobility Options
- Principle 7: Operate as an Integrated System

Dated this 13th day of September, 2017.

INDIANA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael A. Baker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Rodney D. Ruddock, Commissioner

Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk

Sherene Hess, Commissioner

AGREEMENT...AFSCME (COMMUNITIES AT INDIAN HAVEN)

John Reilly, Labor Negotiator for the County, was present and recommended the Board approve a new contract for the AFSCME representing employees at Communities at Indian Haven. This is a 27-month contract commencing October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. The agreement provides for modifications in the healthcare that were agreed by the other unions. There is a 4% increase in wage schedules for 2017, 2.25% for 2018 and 2.5% for 2019. Modifications include the removal of 5 holidays, new employees hired after October 1, 2017 will see a reduction in both sick, holidays and vacation leave provisions. A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to ratify the contract with AFSCME representing Indian Haven Employees. The Commissioners thanked both John Reilly and Melissa Miller for work on the agreement.

JUVENILE PROBATION GRANT AGREEMENT FY 2017-2018 / 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 a Juvenile Probation Grant Agreement for FY 2017-2018. This agreement provides for partial funding of Juvenile Probation Services for Indiana County from the Commonwealth in the amount of \$81,668.00.

CONTRACT...INDIANA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER / DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to approve a contract with the Indiana Regional Medical Center adding them to the Volunteer Opportunities Listing.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT FY 2016-2017 / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Director of Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the 2016-2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$84,405.00 for funding of EMA staff positions. This grant provides for reimbursement of up to 50% of the total amount for staffing of the EMA Coordinator and Operations & Training Coordinator's positions.

LIQUID FUELS – COUNTY AID – CHERRYHILL TOWNSHIP / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the submission of the necessary Liquid Fuels funding encumbrance to PennDOT District-10 to amend the previously approved Application for County Aid on behalf of Cherryhill Township of \$30,000 for an updated encumbrance total of \$34,200.00 to partially offset eligible project costs for the Timber Lake and Chestnut Heights road restoration projects, including the installation of two culvert pipes in Chestnut Heights. The additional \$4,200 is to install two (2) 2' x 4' catch basins and an additional culvert pipe at the intersection of Hickory and Chestnut roads in the Chestnut Heights development. The total estimated project costs have been revised to \$139,800.00. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 24% of the total project costs. The remaining project funding sources are \$105,600.00 from Cherryhill Township, plus the materials (culvert pipe, gravel, etc.) to install the two culvert pipes in Chestnut Heights.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the re-appointment of Linda Gwinn, Blairsville, PA to the Parks & Trails Commission; term to expire August, 2022.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING...WESTMORELAND COUNTY / JAIL

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Westmoreland County to allow Indiana County to house inmates at the rate of \$55.00 per day. In the interim, Judge Martin issued an emergency order that would allow us to house inmates until the agreement is signed by Westmoreland and Indiana Counties.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hess announced there is a Lumber Heritage Photo Exhibit on loan from the Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Museum in the lobby of the Courthouse. Commissioner Hess also announce that Penn State will hold a public meeting on September 18th at the KCAC to obtain input regarding the expansion of animal agriculture in Western Pennsylvania.

Chief Clerk Robin Maryai reminded those present of the sale of surplus items. Bids will be received until 10:30 a.m. on September 25th.

Commissioner thanked those who attended the 9-1-1 ceremony at noon on September 11th. It is important that each year we continue to remember what happened that day and how it changed the world forever.

Commissioner Ruddock said our thoughts and prayers are still out to those affected by the recent hurricanes.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 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 10:57 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman