

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2018

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 Matthew T. Budash, Chief Clerk Robin Maryai and others. Members of the news media present were Josh Widdowson, Greg Reinbold and Chauncey Ross.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES...MARCH 28, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 28, 2018 as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Rogers was present and announced that there be a sit down for the National Week of Conversation at 7:00 p.m. on April 25th at Oak Place.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were none.

PROCLAMATION...CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION 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 April, 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Indiana County and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect and engage in activities that strengthen families and provide a healthy environment for children to learn, grow and thrive in our community.

Jessica Clark from the Care Center and Mat Simon, Board Member, was present to accept the proclamation and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support. She said the Care Center uses the pinwheel as national symbol of child abuse awareness and every child deserves a safe happy childhood. The pinwheel planting ceremony will be April 6th at noon on the courthouse front lawn and they will be up for the entire month of April.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATOR'S 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 April 8 – 14, 2018 as National Telecommunicator's Week in Indiana County and honor the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to declare April as Fair Housing month in Indiana County. The declaration is to bring attention to the residents of Indiana County that it is their right to live where they want without prejudice and discrimination. It is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) to discriminate in the sale, rental, leasing and financing of housing or land to be used for the construction of housing or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status (families with children), or handicap (disability), and, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age and ancestry.

RESOLUTION – FAIR HOUSING OFFICER DESIGNATION FOR INDIANA COUNTY / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to designate Christina Coleman of the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development as the County's Fair Housing Officer. Mrs. Coleman's duties will include receiving all complaints on housing discrimination and taking the appropriate action to resolve the complaint as needed. A public notice will be advertised identifying the County's Fair Housing Officer and the process of filing a complaint on Thursday, April 12, 2018, in the Indiana Gazette's legal ad section.

RESOLUTION – DESIGNATING A FAIR HOUSING COMPLIANT PROCESS / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to adopt the complaint process to assist all residents of the County that encounter discriminatory acts in housing. The complaint process includes discriminatory acts if based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status (families with children), or those with a disability. These actions are prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act adds the additional protected classes of age and ancestry. It is noted that the notice of the Fair Housing Officer and complaint process for Indiana County is scheduled to be published in the Indiana Gazette's legal ad section on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

INDIANA COUNTY ACT 13 IMPACT FEE DISTRIBUTION – 2016 / PLANNING

Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning Development, explained that Indiana County has received the funding notification from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) of the Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution for 2016. The Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution is based on an eligibility formula utilizing a complicated series of criteria based on unconventional gas wells located in Indiana County as compared to statewide. The PUC has determined for 2016 that there are 19 eligible unconventional gas wells that are located in Indiana County. Under Section 2314(d)(1) of Act 13, Indiana County has been allocated \$74,177.52 for 2016. These funds must be used for one of the thirteen criteria outlined in Act 13 under this section.

Upon an examination of the thirteen criteria under Section 2314(d)(1) and a review of the needs of the County to support various projects and initiatives, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures/projects for consideration:

- Criteria 3 – \$15,000.00 – Funding for the Indiana County Fire Academy to assist local fire departments and first responders with training for emergency preparedness and related costs;
- Criteria 4 – \$10,000.00 – Funding for Farmland Preservation;
- Criteria 9 – \$49,177.52 – Funding for Social Service expenditures.

**IMPAIRED DRIVERS PROGRAM ENFORCEMENT GRANT FY 2019-2020 /
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

At the request of Brad Shields, District Attorney's Office, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the Indiana County Impaired Driving Program Grant in the amount of up to \$10,000.00 per year. This is a two-year grant covering years 2019 and 2020. The money will be used to help fund DUI enforcement activities through Indiana County. The funds are 100 percent reimbursable and there is no cost to Indiana County.

AGREEMENT AMENDMENT...INDIGO / HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement amendment with Indigo/Indiana County Transit Authority. The amended agreement increases the rate per trip from \$34.00 to 38.00 for the 4th quarter to enable Indigo to pay the subcontractors for MATP transportation. The increase is due to rising gas prices and changes in the dynamics of how many people are able to be transported for direct rides.

AGREEMENT...STEEL CITY DRONES / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Steel City Drones to provide training for five (5) full time EMA employees and one (1) drone at the total cost of \$17,250.00 to be paid from HAZMAT Funds. Mr. Stutzman explained as part of ongoing efforts to improve situational awareness during incident responses, EMA is undertaking the deployment of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV or Drone. Commissioner Baker said when it comes to emergency response, being able to fly over an area without putting anybody at risk and getting some situational awareness and some intelligence from the ground about what's going on there, we can't begin to calculate the value. Mr. Stutzman also said the drone can be used to inspect the county's emergency communication radio towers rather than having someone climb to the top. It will also would also be able to go into areas during emergency situations that would present safety concerns or require protective equipment.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Frank Staszko to the Tri-County Workforce Development Board; term to expire September 30, 2018.

**IMPORTANT ELECTION DEADLINES FOR THE MAY 15, 2018 GENERAL
PRIMARY ELECTION**

Chief Clerk Robin Maryai announced the following important deadlines for the May 15, 2018 General Primary Election:

- Last day to register to vote is April 16, 2018
- Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot is May 8, 2018

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hess announced Take Back the Night will be held on April 11th at 8:00 p.m. at Putt Delaney Hall. This is an international event with the mission of ending sexual, relationship and domestic violence in all forms.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...APRIL 25, 2018 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 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 11:08 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman