

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Commissioner R. Michael Keith called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman R. Michael Keith, present
Commissioner Robin A. Gorman, present
Commissioner Sherene Hess, present

Also, in attendance were Solicitor Matthew T. Budash and Chief Clerk Robin Maryai.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 24, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER...BABST CALLAND

At the request of the County Solicitor, Matthew Budash, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into an agreement with Babst Calland to jointly represent the County of Indiana and seven other counties with respect to the litigation filed in District Court title David H. Zimmerman vs Al Schmidt, Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at rates ranging from \$160.00 to \$705.00 per hour.

OPIOID LITIGATION

Attorney Bob Marcus was present and explained that on January 2, 2024, Endo filed its proposed Plan of Reorganization and related Disclosure Statement with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The Endo Plan is different from prior opioid-related bankruptcies as it allows you to decide whether or not to grant releases to parties who have not filed for bankruptcy. Attorney Marcus explained we have the following options: 1. Vote to approve the plan; 2. Vote to reject the plan or 3. Abstain from voting. A vote to approve the Plan automatically grants a release. A vote to reject the plan or choosing to abstain from voting gives you the option to not grant a release. At the recommendation of Attorney Marcus and the National Consortium, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to abstain from voting and submit a ballot electing to "opt out" of granting any releases to best protect our interests.

It is noted that Mallinckrodt Bankruptcy was also on the agenda; however, there is no action that needs to be taken.

CERTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY (PHA) ANNUAL PLAN / HOUSING AUTHORITY

At the request of Shannon Kundla, Indiana County Housing Authority, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the Housing Authority of Indiana County Annual Plan. The Plan is a comprehensive guide to their public housing agency policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the Housing Authority Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which is submitted to HUD (Housing and Urban Development) once every 5th fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 23-24 / CYS

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an addendum agreement with Justice Works Youth Care, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA for FY 23-24 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Appalachian Youth Services, Inc., Ebensburg, PA for FY 23-24 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

GRANT MODIFICATION...RIGHT AND SERVICES ACT (RASA) GRANT / DISTRICT ATTORNEY

At the request of Meghan Foulk, District Attorney's Office, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Grant Modification to reallocate funds from the Rights and Services Act Variable Penalty Assessments that were collected from June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and add them to Year 2 of the existing Right and Services Act (RASA) Grant in the amount of \$3,519.00. These funds will be used to help offset salaries and benefits of the Victim Witness Coordinator for 2024.

APPLICATION FOR INITIAL/RECERTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, EMA, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the application for re-certification of the Hazardous Materials Response Team so they can provide hazardous materials response coverage within Indiana County.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

At the request of Tom Stutzman, EMA, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Garrett Kuhner to the Local Emergency Planning Committee; term expires February, 2026.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS...CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to appoint the following members to the Children's Advisory Commission: Teri Butler, Terra Cravener, Barb Thornton, Becky Perkovich, Cate Planisky, Britany Allison, Susanne Hamilton, Denise Jennings, Amy Shellhammer, Leann Dishong, Carolyn Princes, Theresa Wolfe, Patricia Berezansky, Becca Boston, Michelle Jordan; terms expire December 31, 2026.

PROJECT SHARE AGREEMENT...ARIN IU 28 / DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Maureen Pounds, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement between the County and ARIN IU28 for their participation in Project SHARE. Project SHARE is a collaborative effort by organizations and the faith community to share resources and information to help residents of the county in need.

CONTRACT AGREEMENT – 2023 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning and Development, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into the 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) contract agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for \$100,000.00. Indiana County's service provider for the contract is the Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP). This contract will provide funds for Rapid Re-Housing financial and rental assistance, data collection and administrative activities. The original application request was for \$181,100.00 however due to the high volume of statewide requests for assistance DCED reduced the award amount by \$81,100.00. This request includes approval for the Commissioners to complete the required e-signature contracting process and for Commissioner Keith to sign all paperwork

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING...UMWA (JAIL SERGEANTS)

At the request of John Reilly, the County's Labor Negotiator, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the tentative agreement for the UMWA Jail Sergeants. The term of this agreement is from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 allowing a 4% wage increase for each year for 6 employees. There is also a change to employees' contributions hired after January 1, 2024 to 12%.

AGREEMENT...ZELENKOFKSKE AXELROD, LLC

At the request of Lisa Gregersen, Financial Director, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC to prepare an Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for Indiana County to recoup costs from both federal and state programs. The fees are as follows: 2022 - \$19,868; 2023 - \$20,274; 2024 - \$20,679; 2025 - \$21,092.

COURTHOUSE CLOSED...MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

Mr. Keith announced that the courthouse will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...FEBRUARY 28, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman