

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2023 / 10:30 A.M.

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

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. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 21, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 21, 2022 6:30 p.m. meeting to set the elected officials salaries for the 2024-2027 term.

Chief Clerk Robin Maryai explained a typographical error in the number of undated ballots were reported in the November 9, 2022 Election Board Minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the corrected minutes for November 9, 2022.

COVID UPDATE

Thomas Stutzman reported that COVID case rates within the county are continuing to increase over December's numbers. The county is not approaching the COVID case numbers from the same time period of 2022. PADOH's weekly COVID case rates for the county in the first week (ending January 4th) of the New Year rose to 85. In the final week of December, PADOH reported 57 COVID Cases in the county. Compared to the first week of January 2022, in which the county had 824 cases, we are in much better shape starting this year. The CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels, through January 5th, have been elevated to the "MEDIUM" rate category for Indiana and several of our surrounding counties. The combination of COVID, Seasonal Flu and RSV, continues to be a concern. PADOH reported one additional death, related to COVID-19 in the county at end of 2022, bringing the total number of COVID related deaths in Indiana County to 386. CDC continues to report significant increases in the rates of Bivalent Booster shots throughout the region. In the population of those 5 years of age and older, on average, in the six-county region, a 0.27% increase has been reported in the past week. In comparison to the Full Vaccinated rate average, in the same period is 0.02% increases. PADOH Seasonal Flu cases in Indiana County for week 52, ending December 31st, reported a total of 824 cases documented. The majority being Type A.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to express their gratitude to the members of the Law Enforcement community in Indiana County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the United States for their honorable service and dedication to our citizens and to proclaim January 9, 2023 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day" and urged all citizens to demonstrate their appreciation for the work of our Law Enforcement Officers.

GRANT APPLICATION...IMPROVING JUSTICE SYSTEM RESPONSES TO OPIOID, STIMULANT AND RELATED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

At the request of Kami Anderson, Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug & Alcohol Commission and Robert Manzi, District Attorney, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a grant application through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency called Improving Justice System Responses to Opioid, Stimulant and Related Substance Use Disorders in the amount of \$500,000.00. The grant will cover three programs. (1) Provide medication-assisted treatment (2) A certified recover specialist would be housed at the Indiana County Jail and (3) Pay for a part of the salary of an assistance district attorney who would meet with first and second-time offenders who are dealing with substance use disorders. The term of the grant is from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

SAVIN MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT / DISTRICT ATTORNEY

At the request of Lexi Rieger, District Attorney's Office, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the PA SAVIN Maintenance and Service Agreement. This is a no cost agreement through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency that provides a free service of around the clock access to the custody status of offenders in county jails, state prisons, or under state parole supervision in the Commonwealth. PA SAVIN also provides automated telephone, email and/or text message notification of any change in an inmate's incarceration status; including release, transfer to other prisons, escape, and any custody changes, for all victims.

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT...AFSCME AND COMMUNITIES AT INDIAN HAVEN

At the request of John Reilly, County Labor Negotiator, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the tentative agreement with AFSCME and Communities at Indian Haven. Effective January 1, 2023 a new pay scale will be implemented, January 1, 2024 will increase the 2023 schedule by 2.5% and January 1, 2025 will increase the 2023 schedule by 3.0%. There are also adjustments on the seniority and probationary period, vacation and sick leave, extend current seven percent (7%) cap for 2023, 2024 and 2025 and uniform allowances.

REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT...BLAIRSVILLE RIVERFRONT TRAIL RESURFACING PROJECT / PARKS & TRAILS

At the request of Ed Patterson, Parks & Trails, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the reimbursement agreement for the Blairsville Riverfront Trail Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$292,000.00. The construction and inspection phases will be funded by a Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Grant through the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission. The goal of the project is to apply an asphalt overlay to the existing 1.7 mile of the Blairsville Riverfront Trail around the Borough of Blairsville.

AUTHORIZATION TO SELL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS DISPLAYS / PARKS & TRAILS

At the request of Ed Patterson, Parks & Trails, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to authorize the sell of 15 light displays that were previously used for the Festival of Lights Displays that ended in 2014.

CONTRACT...DIANN OVERMAN / DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES

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 approve an agreement with Diann Overman to provide certain services with regard to the Veteran Outreach Program at the rate of \$20.00 per hour up to 960 hours. This contract is effective from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

CONTRACT...LEO BUCK / DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES

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 approve an agreement with Leo Buck to provide services to the Suicide Task Force of Indiana at the rate of \$20.00 per hour not to exceed 300 hours. Terms of the agreement are from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

GRANT AGREEMENT...ADULT PROBATION GRANT IN AID / PROBATION

At the request of James Decker, Probation, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the Adult Probation and Parole Grant in Aid in the amount of \$110,720.00. This annual award is designed to improve adult probation and parole services by providing funding to counties that offer probation services for costs incurred for supervision of adult offenders.

AGREEMENT...THOMAS KAUFFMAN, ESQUIRE / CYS

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 Thomas Kauffman, Esquire to provide (1) Guardian Ad Litem services at the rate of \$100.00 per hour (2) represent CYS as the Solicitor in dependency matters, appeal hears and termination hearings at the rate of \$120.00 per hour and (3) represent parents of children in dependency matters at the rate of \$75.00 per hour.

AGREEMENT...ALLEN FIECHUK, ESQUIRE / CYS

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 Allen Fiechuk, Esquire to represent parents of children in dependency matters at the rate of \$75.00 per hour.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 22-23 / CYS

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Indiana Health Physicians, DBA, IRMC Physicians Group, Indiana, PA for FY 22-23 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. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Sargus Juvenile Center, St. Clairsville, OH for FY 22-23 to provide services to Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide 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 addendum to the agreement with Pathway Adolescent Center, Oil City, PA for FY 22-23 to provide two new services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

CONTRACT AWARDS – INDIANA COUNTY JAIL MANHOLE REHABILITATION PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Dave Morrow, Office of Planning & Development and on behalf of Gibson-Thomas Engineering requested that the Board of Commissioners enter into the following two prime contract agreements for the Indiana County Jail Manhole Rehabilitation Project.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an Excavation Contract with Hilty Excavating from Blacklick, PA in the amount of \$25,000.00. This contract is for the excavation and replacement of one existing manhole along with sidewalk and curb replacement as necessary. This contract will be paid with County General Funds

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve a Spray Lining Contract with Harvey Paving from Homer City, PA in the amount of \$75,000.00. This contract is for the spray lining of 18 manholes. This contract will also be paid with County General Funds.

The total of the combined two contracts seeking approval is \$100,000.00.

CHANGE ORDER #GC2 – ICCAP FOOD BANK WAREHOUSE RENOVATION PHASE II / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP) and Stiffler McGraw, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #GC2 with

LMJ Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$2,662.73 on the ICCAP Food Bank Warehouse Renovation Phase II Project. Change Order #GC2 is to increase the freezer door size from 42” x 84” to 60” x 96”. The revised contract with LMJ Contractors, Inc. with approval of Change Order #GC2 will be \$1,178,563.23 and the additional cost will be covered with Multi-Source Grant Funds.

CHANGE ORDER #GC3 – ICCAP FOOD BANK WAREHOUSE RENOVATION PHASE II

At the request of Dave Morrow, The Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP) and Stiffler McGraw, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #GC3 with LMJ Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$12,569.50 on the ICCAP Food Bank Warehouse Renovation Phase II Project. Change Order #GC2 is to perform floor grinding in mastic covered areas. Approximately 4,850 sq. ft. Also included is to shotblast approximately 6,900 sq. ft. of existing concrete floor. Upon completion of floor prep a 2” concrete infill will be overlaid in these areas. The revised contract with LMJ Contractors, Inc. with approval of Change Order #GC3 will be \$1,191,132.73 and the additional cost will be covered with Multi-Source Grant Funds.

GRANT AGREEMENT – PENNDOT MTF – ROUTE 22 PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLIST BRIDGE PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, in collaboration with Indiana County Parks & Trails, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a Resolution committing matching funds in the amount of \$638,382.48 for the construction and related costs (inspection, etc.) for the proposed Route 22 Pedestrian-Bicyclist Bridge Project located in Burrell Township in support of a grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) in the amount of \$1,702,044.00, which will leverage an additional \$794,808.00 of funding through other State, local and private funds. Authorization also allows Commissioner Keith to sign the PennDOT MTF grant agreement is requested.

CONTRACT AWARDS – INDIANA COUNTY BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into a Phase I contract with Salsgiver, Inc. to construct, operate and maintain a fiber optic based high-speed Internet network in targeted unserved and underserved areas of Indiana County, as follows:

MUNICIPALITY	ROAD NAME	BUILD COST
West Mahoning Township	Dayton Smicksburg Rd.	\$203,185
West Mahoning Township	Goodville Rd.	\$7,874
West Mahoning Township	Chestnut St.	\$21,916
West Mahoning Township	Maple St.	\$7,884
West Mahoning Township	Clarion St.	\$12,038
West Mahoning Township	Mill St.	\$11,955
West, South and North Mahoning	Smicksburg Main / Split A	\$708,266

North Mahoning Township	Smicksburg Main / Split B	\$71,939
West Mahoning Township	Route 954 South	\$23,183
West and South Mahoning Twp.	Barnard Rd.	\$115,024
South Mahoning Township	Mahoning Rd. (State Route 1026)	\$173,943
South Mahoning Township	Wells Rd.	\$18,213
West Mahoning Township	Hemlock	\$411,923
West Mahoning Township	Stephenson	\$65,706
Public Access Wi-Fi	4 locations to be determined Indiana County	\$48,000
Cherryhill Township	Metz to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	\$328,004
Center Township	Waterman	\$76,332
West Mahoning Township	Internet Connections for 4 Wi-Fi locations to be determined by Indiana County	\$0 Contribution from Salsgiver, Inc.
TOTAL		\$2,315,395

Funding to implement this project will be through one or more Federal, State and local sources, including Community Development Block Grant – COVID-19 (CDBG-CV), Appalachian Regional Commission Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (ARC POWER) Initiative, the Keystone Communities Program (KCP) and County of Indiana matching funds. Authorization also allows Commissioner Keith to execute contract documents for this project.

Mr. Stauffer explained that we increasingly live in a knowledge-driven economy, making access to high-speed internet essential to our daily lives and economy. Lack of quality internet access means that businesses and farmers are not able to market themselves and conduct business online, our children and adult learners miss out on online educational opportunities and residents cannot connect to healthcare facilities or cannot share information with specialists using telehealth access, for example. As defined by the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), broadband or high-speed internet allows users to access the Internet at significantly higher and faster speeds than those available through “dial-up” services, specifically at speeds at 100/20 Mbps for residential services and 100/100 Mbps for business services.

COURTHOUSE CLOSED...MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY HOLIDAY

Commissioner Keith announced that the courthouse will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Keith introduced Sarah Youngdahl from Congressman Guy Reschenthaler’s office. She announced that there will be a representative from the office at the Courthouse Annex the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...JANUARY 25, 2023

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 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. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman