

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 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, absent

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 Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 11, 2023.

COVID UPDATE

Thomas Stutzman reported that COVID following the post-Holiday season, the COVID case rates within the county are decreasing across all areas. PADOH's weekly COVID case count for Indiana County, for the week ending January 18th, were 51, returning to pre-holiday average. The CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels, through January 19th, have reduced to the "LOW" rate category for Indiana and all surrounding counties. PADOH reported one additional death, related to COVID-19, in last week's county report, bringing the total number of COVID related deaths in Indiana County to 388. CDC continues to report 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 0.35% increase has been reported in last week's update. In comparison to the Full Vaccinated rate average, in the same period is 0.07% increases. PADOH Seasonal Flu cases in Indiana County for week 2, of 2023, ending January 14th, reported a total of 982 cases documented. The majority being Type A.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Riley made public comment regarding the \$250,000 revolving loan fund to Upstreet Ace Hardware.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE...PERRY WEATHER / EMA

At the request of Thomas Stutzman, Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an equipment purchase with Perry Weather for the installation of three, geographically located devices in the north,

central and southern portions of the county in the amount of \$10,494.00. This includes a one-time cost of \$2,697.00 and an annual recurring cost of \$7,797.00. This purchase will allow the county to provide access to the National Weather Service for live data from these devices for real weather information.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT (IGT)...PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES / COMMUNITIES AT INDIAN HAVEN

At the request of Kim Chi, Communities at Indian Haven, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the Intergovernmental Transfer Agreement (IGT). This agreement provides for intergovernmental transfers of funds to DHS in order to provide the non-federal share of Medical Assistance payments to the Communities at Indian Haven.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING / ELK COUNTY / JAIL

At the request of Leslie Loveridge, Warden, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman and seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Indiana County and Elk County to house inmates at the rate of \$65.00 per day and any costs associated with medical treatment from Prime-Care Medical, Inc.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS...CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION / DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve the reappointments of Deanna Bobik, Lillian Clemons, Brandi Fleming, Marti Higgins, Shannon Kundla, Barbara Lieb, Shelley Salva-Nibert, Sarah Schroth and Barbara Thelthorster to the Children's Advisory Commission. Terms will expire January 1, 2025.

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the appointments of Angela Boring, Brittany Brown, Angela Calabrese, Christine Brumagin, Linda Mitchell and Jenifer Orr to the Children's Advisory Commission. Terms will expire January 1, 2025.

IRLF LOAN – INDIANA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – EXTEND MATURITY DATE / PLANNING

At the request of Teresa Bachy, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an extension of the maturity date for the \$150,000.00 Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (IRLF) loan to the Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC) until January 21, 2024. The ICDC utilized the IRLF loan for eligible project costs at two priority economic development initiatives, specifically at the Windy Ridge Business & Technology Park (White Township) and the 119 Business Park / Joseph Land Development (Center Township) to leverage funding through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The IRLF was established in 2002 with funding secured by Senator Don White through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The IRLF program was specifically created to finance the up-front engineering and design services necessary for infrastructure projects and community facilities. The \$150,000.00 loan to the ICDC will provide

interim financing for the engineering, design and permitting required to successfully deliver these projects. No other terms of the IRLF loan will be modified.

\$250,000 REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN TO UPSTREET ACE HARDWARE, LLC PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a \$250,000.00 term loan from the Indiana County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Upstreet Ace Hardware, LLC (Upstreet Ace) for the start-up of an Ace Hardware Store, including equipment, fixtures and start-up costs. Upstreet Ace will be owned by Hastie and Frank Kinter and located along Philadelphia Street in downtown Indiana.

The interest rate will be 5.75% fixed for 120 months. The RLF funds will be leveraged by funds from the Altoona Blair Development Corporations Innovate PA program, S&T Bank, and owner contribution. Upstreet Ace will create 5 full-time and 6 part-time employees over the next three years as a result of these funds. The application was reviewed and approved by Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

INDIANA COUNTY ACT 13 IMPACT FEE DISTRIBUTION – 2021 AND PRIOR YEAR MODIFICATIONS

Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development explained that Indiana County received the funding notification from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) of the Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution for 2021. 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 2021 that there are 26 (of 10,995) eligible unconventional gas wells that are located in Indiana County. Under Section 2314(d)(1) of Act 13, Indiana County has been allocated a total of \$105,600.20 for 2021. These funds must be used for one of the thirteen criteria outlined in Act 13 under this section.

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures/projects:

- 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 3 – \$15,000.00 – Funding for the HazMat/EMA Team 900;
- Criteria 4 – \$20,000.00 – Funding for Farmland Preservation;
- Criteria 11 – \$55,600.20 – Capital Reserve Fund

Thus approval also directs and authorizes the Chief Clerk and the Executive Director of the Office of Planning & Development to report the 2021 Act 13 allocation expenditures to the PUC, as required under the Act.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve the following modifications to the previously authorized expenditures for prior reporting years, as follows:

| Current Allocation – 2015 | Proposed Modification – 2015 |
|--|--|
| Criteria 9 – \$25,000.00 – of the balance Held in the Act 13 Fund Social Services line item. | Criteria 2 – \$25,000.00 – Stormwater Management at the County Jail. |

| Current Allocation – 2017 | Proposed Modification – 2017 |
|---|--|
| Criteria 12 – \$30,297.31 – of the balance held in the Act 13 Fund Workforce Development line item. | Criteria 2 – \$30,297.31 – Stormwater Management at the County Jail. |

CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR 2023 PROGRAM YEAR / FARMLAND PRESERVATION

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the Certification of County Funds for 2023 Program Year for Farmland Preservation in the amount of \$20,000.00 from Act 13.

ARPA MUNICIPALITIES FUNDING

Indiana County was the recipient of an ARPA Grant made available under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the United States Treasury. The townships and boroughs in Indiana County were able to apply for funding from this grant.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve a grant agreement for Clymer Borough in the amount of \$32,500.00 to be used for a stormwater projects.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a grant agreement for Marion Center Borough in the amount of \$35,000.00 to be used for a storm water project.

ANNOUNCEMENT CANDIDATES’ NOMINATION PETITIONS

Chief Clerk, Robin Maryai, announced the first legal date to obtain signatures for candidate’s nomination petitions is February 14, 2023 and the last day to circulate and file nomination petitions is March 7, 2023

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...FEBRUARY 8, 2023

The next regular scheduled Commissioners’ Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 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 Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman