

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023

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...OCTOBER 25, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 25, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Henry made public comment regarding Indiana County Day in Harrisburg.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT...McKINSEY

At the request of Bob Marcus, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve participating in the class action settlement with McKinsey. Once the Court enters a final approval, funds will be paid to eligible class members automatically in a single lump sum. Mr. Marcus explained that the McKinsey settlement of \$207M is relatively smaller than the multi-billion-dollar national settlements obtained by the team over the last few years, but believes the amount is appropriate under the circumstances applicable to McKinsey.

GRANT APPLICATION...FY 23-24 MDJ ESSENTIAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT REIMBURSEMENT PROJECT / COURTS

At the request of Katrina McCombie, Court Administrator, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve that a grant application be submitted to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), for the 2023-24 MDJ Essential Security Equipment Reimbursement Project in the amount of \$20,000.00. These funds will be used to replace cameras and security system at the Magisterial District Judge Office in Homer City.

CHANGE ORDER #2 – YMCA ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Dave Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the YMCA of Indiana County and Thomas R. Harley Architects, LLC, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #2 with CE Davis Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$4,985.00 on the YMCA Roof Replacement Project. Change Order #2 is to remove and replace 24 sheets of 5/8 plywood, rafter tails, fascia board, soffit and

fascia. The revised contract with CE Davis Contracting, LLC with approval of Change Order #2 will be \$715,843.00 and the additional cost will be covered with Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant Funds and YMCA Funds.

CHANGE ORDERS #4 – YMCA ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Dave Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the YMCA of Indiana County and Thomas R. Harley Architects, LLC, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #4 with CE Davis Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$25,750.00 on the YMCA Roof Replacement Project. Change Order #4 is to install a snow retention system to the Gym Roof Area. The revised contract with CE Davis Contracting, LLC with approval of Change Order #4 will be \$732,593.00 and the additional cost will be covered with Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant Funds and YMCA Funds.

CHANGE ORDERS #5 – YMCA ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Dave Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the YMCA of Indiana County and Thomas R. Harley Architects, LLC, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #5 with CE Davis Contracting, LLC. Change Order #5 is a no cost change order for the extension of the contract agreement 120 calendar days.

CHANGE ORDER #1...INDIANA COUNTY SCOUR MAINTENANCE PROJECT

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve change order #1 with Straw Construction Co., Inc. changing the completion date for the Indiana County Scour Maintenance Project date to June 14, 2024. This change order is at no additional cost to the county.

LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF INDIANA AND INDIANA BOROUGH

At the request of Matthew Budash, County Solicitor, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a lease agreement between the County of Indiana and Indiana Borough to rent office space at 827 Water Street while their building is being renovated. Term of the lease is for 12 months with the option to renew at the rate of \$500.00 per month plus \$400.00 per month for utilities.

2024 TENTATIVE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Lisa Gregersen, Financial Director, requested the Board approve the following Tentative General Fund Budget:

Opening Balance.....	\$1,667,848
Total Revenues.....	\$58,336,995
Total Expenditures.....	\$56,669,147

The real estate tax would increase by 1.7 mills. This will allow a real-estate tax rate of 6.605 mills. .98 mill of 6.605 are applied to debt service with the remaining millage of 5.625 to general operating fund.

Commissioner Keith called for comments from the Board.

Commissioner Hess said that this is a very difficult time for the county and knows expenses are rising and there are external forces we have no control over and she can't in good conscious except this budget. This has no reflection on our financial department as there has been amazing work to get it where it is. She is willing to work to do whatever we need to do to create a sustainable budget going forward. She does not feel we need to cut services but need to find ways to increase the revenue stream. She also said the state legislature needs to help the counties with the unfunded mandates that the counties must pay for.

Commissioner Gorman said she echoes Commissioners Hess's comments and agrees this is a position we never want to be in. Throughout the year there are very difficult choices that have to be made to not be in this position and during that time we need to be honest with our citizens. If we are going to make cuts so that taxes will not be increased, we need to put them out there. Maybe we sell our parks and the nursing home, cut the courts, 9-1-1, etc. Those are decisions that need to be made during the year and we do not. These are hard decisions to make whether to cut services or keep services.

Commissioner Keith agreed with the comments, however, said we are faced with increased operational costs, healthcare, wages, union contracts, capital projects that need fulfilled along with county bridges. The County has worked on healthcare reform over the last three years, we have addressed debt reduction and will continue to do so, we have lost revenue through the State, and we are continuing to restructure the departments to help bring in additional revenue. Budgets back to 2016 have been operating with expenditures greater than revenues. We are a government and we are not exempt by no means of the expenses we incur; we still have to pay. Costs are still increasing and we cannot continue down this road and we need to reverse what we have done. The decisions we need to make is do we cut the services or do we pay for the services. Either way the residents of our county are going to suffer one way or the other.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keith to approve the 2024 tentative General Fund Budget a presented. The motion failed a second.

2024 TENTATIVE CAPITAL FUND BUDGET

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the Capital Fund Budget as follows:

Opening Balance.....	\$58,220
Total Revenue.....	\$21,780
Total Expenditures.....	\$80,000

2024 LIQUID FUELS BUDGET

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the Liquid Fuels Fund Budget as follows:

Opening Balance.....	\$0
Total Revenues.....	\$441,990
Total Expenditures.....	\$441,990

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...DECEMBER 13, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 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. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman