

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2022

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...SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 14, 2022.

COVID UPDATE

Tom Stutzmen reported that the PADOH, Rural Community Grant funded projects, coordinated by the Indiana County Human Services Department are well underway throughout the county. It's everyone's hope that the billboards and media advertising will increase vaccination rates among all county residents, especially in those who have been reluctant. The CDC COVID Community level has returned to the "LOW" rating. Over the past several weeks, Indiana County has been up and down in this rating category. The "LOW" rating indicates decreased numbers in hospitalizations and case rates during the period. PADOH's early warning monitoring, for last week, indicated the PCR testing rates at 12.9%, this is a continuing decrease from the previous several weeks. Since his last report, one new COVID related death has been reported by PADOH, bringing the total number of COVID related deaths in Indiana County to 381. The CDC's website reported a 44.77% decrease in COVID Cases as of the October 10th update. They also reported a 37.24% decrease in COVID Testing, as of their last update on October 4th. COVID Vaccinations throughout the region have slowed tremendously. Based on CDC data, updated to October 3rd, the region has only seen a 0.03% increase in "Fully Vaccinated" and a 0.016% increase in "Booster Vaccinations". These are reflective of the age groups currently eligible for these shots. IRMC has not reported any significant increases in patient volume, related to COVID. CDC's data on hospitalized patients, amongst Indiana County residents, shows a 62.3% increase, over the 7-days ending, October 9th. CDC's COVID Community Transmission rate for almost all of Pennsylvania is in the "HIGH" Rate category. Only six Counties remain at the "SUBSTANTIAL" Rate Category.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

PROCLAMATIONS

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all citizens to work towards the elimination of domestic violence in our community.

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim October 2022 as National Bullying Prevention Month and urged all citizens to work towards the elimination of bullying.

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim October 16 – 22, 2022 as National Businesswomen’s Week and encouraged all citizens to recognize the many ways in which women have contributed to the success of our businesses and the advancement of their professions.

LEASE AGREEMENT...KENNETH N. MENTCH AND MARIE M. MENTCH TRUST / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to renew the lease between the County and Kenneth N. Mentch and Marie M. Mentch Trust for the Strong’s Hill Tower Site. This is a 10-year agreement at the rate of \$1,200.00 per month with a 3% annual increase.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE...VISUAL SOUND / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an equipment purchase from Visual Sound replacing audio visual equipment at the Alternate EOC in the amount of \$170,833.00.

9-1-1 STATEWIDE INTERCONNECTIVITY FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to the 9-1-1 Statewide Interconnectivity Funding Grant Agreement in the amount of \$85,383.00 for FY 2022. This funding is to be used towards the ICORRS Master Site Maintenance, WestCORE CHE Maintenance and West CORE ESI net Maintenance projects.

AGREEMENT...GLOBAL WORDSMITHS LANGUAGE SERVICES / COURTS

At the request of Christy Donofrio, Court Administrator, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, Seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Global Wordsmiths Language Services to provide interpretation services on an as needed basis.

CONTRACT...RENDA MEDIA / 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 a contract with Renda Media to provide advertising services for Covid 19 vaccinations for residents in the amount of \$1,050.00.

GRANT AGREEMENT...WOMEN’S REENTRY GRANT PROGRAM / PROBATION

At the request of James Decker, Probation, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a grant application be sent to the Pennsylvania

Commission on Crime & Delinquency for the Women's Reentry Grant Program. This is a competitive grant and is designed to implement a reentry program targeted for women.

CONTRACT AWARD – S 15TH STREET STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS/REPLACEMENT / PLANNING

At the request of Dave Morrow, Office of Planning & Development a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to table the bids opened at 11:00 a.m. on October 5, 2022 for the S. 15th Street Storm Sewer Improvements/Replacement Project. Additional time is needed to review the bids.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 22-23 /CYS

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Beacon Daycare, Inc., 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 Families United Network, Inc., Muncy, 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 Family Services of NW, Pa., Greensburg, 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 Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Diakon Child, Family and Community Ministries, Tipton, 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. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Auberle, McKeesport, 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.

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 Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a grant agreement for Blacklick Township in the amount of \$22,500.00 to be used for a storm drain project.

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a grant agreement for Rayne Township in the amount of \$69,803.49 to be used to recover roadways that were damaged by the Water Renovation 20 project.

AGREEMENT...GIBSON THOMAS ENGINEERING (NBIS) BRIDGE SAFETY INSPECTIONS)

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement between the County and Gibson Thomas Engineering to perform all work and services for local NBIS Bridge Safety Inspections over the next 5-year period.

REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT...BRIDGE INVENTORY AND INSPECTIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the Reimbursement Inventory and Inspection Activity Reimbursement Agreement in the amount of \$1,236,413.13 for the NBIS Bridge Safety Inspections for the next 5-year cycle.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gorman announced the 75th Anniversary of the Conservation District, a ribbon cutting for the Marion Center Water Project, a ribbon cutting for the Westmoreland County Community College and the Courthouse open house on October 20th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. including an ICCAP Food Drive.

Chief Clerk, Robin Maryai, announced the last day to apply for an absentee/mail-in ballot is November 1st.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...OCTOBER 12, 2022 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 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 to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman