COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2026

Commissioner 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 Bonni S. Dunlap, 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 Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 14, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Public comment was made by Lana Ratay regarding the Indiana County Municipal Emergency Services Authority. Lee Schweitzer, Jessica Jopp and Kegan Kneckt who all made comments regarding the proposed Data Centers.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
There were no executive sessions.

PROCLAMATION…NATIONAL HOSPICE AN PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH
After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously proclaim November 2026 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY
After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Commissioner Keith, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to proclaim October 28, 2026 as National First Responders Day.

RIGHTS AN SERVICES ACT (RASA) GRANT/ DISTRICT ATTORNEY
At the request of Geri Dubose, District Attorney's Office, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the 2027 Rights and Services Act Grant in the amount of $56,316.00 concurrent to funds being available for this position. These funds will be used to cover the cost of the Victim Rights Coordinator, training and supplies.

AGREEMENT…PROJECT SHARE AGREEMENTS / HUMAN SERVICES

Maureen Pounds, Human Services Department, requested that the Commissioners approve agreements with 3 agencies 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. The Department of Human Services coordinates the Project's efforts and the goals of the project are to decrease duplication of services and to maximize resources available in the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the Project Share agreement with Plumville Presbyterian Church.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the Project Share agreement with Family Promise of Indiana County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the Project Share agreement with Calvary Presbyterian Church.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 26-27 / CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Guiding Changes Counseling, LLC, New Castle, PA for FY 26-27 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 Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Children's Aid Society of Mercer County, Mercer, PA for FY 26-27 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 Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Attorney Amy Dougherty to provide Guardian Ad Litem services at the rate of $100.00 per hour.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Attorney Erica Dussault to provide Guardian Ad Litem services at the rate of $100.00 per hour.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Attorney James Carmella as solicitor for Indiana County Children & Youth Services at the rate of $150.00 per hour.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Children's Aid Society of Clearfield County, Clearfield, PA for FY 26-27 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

PUBLIC DEFENDER CASE MANAGEMENT / PUBLIC DEFENDER

At the request of Holly Cioca, Public Defender's Office, a motion was made by Commissioner Keith, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the Public Defenders and Indigent Defense Grant Application FY 26-27 be submitted to PCCD. This is a non-competitive grant that will award the Public Defender's Office in the amount of $97,463.00. These funds will be used for retention of employees, training, travel and software costs within the Public Defender's Office.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF INDIANA AND THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE / PUBLIC DEFENDER

At the request of Matthew T. Budash, Solicitor, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Indiana and the Public Defender's Office. The public defender's office is receiving grant funds through the Pennsylvania Commissioner on Crime and Delinquency. These grant funds will be used for the payment of bonuses up to $3,000.00 for five (5) Public Defender positions and two (2) staff positions, so long as they remain employees in the PD Office through December 31, 2026.

CONTRACT AWARD - INDIANA COUNTY HOUSING PLAN UPDATE AND LAND BANK FEASIBILITY STUDY / PLANNING

At the request of Josh Krug, Office of Planning & Development, a motion as made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into a contract agreement with 4ward Planning Inc. for assistance in completing the Indiana County Housing Plan Update and Land Bank Feasibility Study.

There is a subconsultant that will be assisting with the community engagement and other aspects of the project and that is Mackin Engineering Co. After receiving 5 proposals in response to our Request for Proposals and interviewing two firms, the consultant selection committee has recommended entering this agreement with this consultant team.

The existing Indiana County Housing Plan was adopted in 2014. In the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2012, Chapter 7 - Housing in the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan. A Blighted Property Inventory (BPI) has been completed, identifying approximately 225 properties in the most recent update. Recently, a Blight Remediation Strategy has been developed by the County. Both the BPI and Blight Strategy will be key elements in the development of a Lank Bank Feasibility Study including an implementation Strategy. The project will ensure the following:

A. The Housing Plan Update effectively reflects the community development objectives in the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in 2012, Indiana County Housing Plan of 2014, and other adopted plans.

B. Plan and Study development involves key stakeholders for the development of the update and study, including Indiana County Commissioners, the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development, Redevelopment Authority of Indiana County (RAIC), Indiana County Housing Consortium, Indiana Landlord Association, local municipalities, partners and other stakeholders.

C. The Land Bank Feasibility study is inclusive and comprehensive in nature with respect to utilization of available data and developing appropriate data and as well as thorough in the analysis and recommendations regarding land banking in Indiana County.

The contract award is not to exceed $75,000.00 and will be paid for with CDBG Entitlement funds and local housing project funds.

CONTRACT AWARD – PLATINUM VISUAL SOLUTIONS EAST PRODUCTION BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development and on behalf of Platinum Visual Solutions, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to into a contract agreement with Byler Roofing Service, of Ebensburg, PA, for the Platinum Visual Solutions East Production Building Roof Replacement Project. The contract award request, in the amount of $102,186.00, is to remove existing roof coverings and install new wood rafters and sheathing to create a positive water flow. The roof finish application will be a TPO membrane with all necessary trims and flashings. Project costs will be covered by a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant and Platinum Visual Solutions funds.

CHANGE ORDER #1 – ICCAP FOOD BANK FINAL PHASE II / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development and on behalf of Stiffler McGraw Architects, LLC a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #1, in the amount of $2,839.00, with CNC Construction, Inc. for the ICCAP Food Bank Final Phase II Project. This change order will provide and install all electronic hardware and a keypad at the new aluminum storefront entrance. The revised contract with CNC Construction, Inc. will be $291,839.00, and the additional project costs will be covered by CDBG grant funds.

CONTRACT AWARD – WELCOME CENTER DOWNCOMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to enter into a contract agreement with Davis Brothers Heating, Cooling & Plumbing of Indiana, PA, for the Welcome Center Downcomer Replacement Project. The contract award request, in the amount of $18,800.00, is to remove approximately 20’ of existing downcomer pipe from below the

southeast and northeast roof drains to below the drainpipe from the cornice. Install new schedule 40 PVC downcomer of the same size vertically in place of the steel pipe and install 3" schedule 40 PVC horizontally to the cornice drain. Project costs will be covered by a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant.

RESOLUTION – 2026-2027 PHARE-RTT RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution approving the preparation and submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. The application submission will be for $300,000.00 of Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Funds-Realty Transfer Tax (PHARE-RTT) program funds. The funds will be utilized to continue the +55 Roof and Heating Systems Replacement Program. The program assists income eligible homeowners age 55 or older with replacing an inoperable or inefficient heating system and/or a leaking or deteriorated roof. $25,000.00 of ACT 137 funds are proposed to provide match for the PHARE-RTT application. The application deadline is November 19, 2026 by 2:00 PM.

VEHICLE PURCHASE…TRI-STAR MOTORS / SHERIFF'S OFFICE

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve a vehicle purchase under state government pricing from Tri-Star Motors, Blairsville, PA in the amount of $45,253.00.

SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT…FREDERICK FUELLNER

At the request of Matthew T. Budash, Solicitor, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Settlement and Release Agreement between the County of Indiana, Indiana County Municipal Airport Authority and Frederick Fuellner in the amount of $55,000.00. The County will issue payment in the amount of $5,000.00 for wage loss damages and the remainder will be paid from the County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania settling all outstanding litigation costs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Byron Stuaffer presented the board with a plaque with the Old County Courthouse engraved on the original slate donated by Tim Toy.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING…NOVEMBER 18, 2026 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business coming before the Board at this time, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

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Sherene Hess, Secretary R. Michael Keith, Chairman