

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 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 Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 9, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 16, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was made by Jessica Jopp, Lindsey Levine and Emma Menard. All made comments regarding the proposed Data Centers.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no executive sessions.

PROCLAMATION...OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Commissioner Keith, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to recognize November 2026 as Operation Green Light for Veterans Month.

PROCLAMATION - WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING 2026

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to proclaim October 1 – 8, 2026 as Week Without Driving Week.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT REQUEST – HOME-ARP-NCS CONTRACT / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the submission of a contract amendment to the PA Department of Community & Economic Development for the Pathway Homeless Shelter Project. The amendment seeks to add an

additional \$650,000.00 of HOME-ARP-NCS funding to the original contract amount of \$3,820,000.00 for a revised total of \$4,470,000.00.

Construction bids for the Shelter Project were received and opened on September 10, 2026. The total cost of the general construction, plumbing, electrical and HVAC bids exceeded the grant funds available. The construction costs for the project were projected in 2024 at the time of the HOME-ARP-NCS application submission. Since 2024 the costs of materials, supplies, etc. have risen substantially affecting today's project costs.

Indiana County submitted a preliminary request for additional funds to DCED that has been approved pending receipt of the formal contract amendment paperwork. This request includes approval for Commissioner Keith to sign the requested documents for submission to DCED for final approval.

CONDITIONAL AWARD – PHARE 2025-2026 / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the acceptance of a Conditional Award from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). The award is for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement – Realty Transfer Tax Program (PHARE-RTT). Indiana County has been awarded \$150,000.00 of funding to continue the +55 Roof and Heating Replacement Program. Upon approval Indiana County will submit paperwork to PHFA for final execution of the contract.

CONTRACT AWARD: CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER PHASE 2C 3-ROOMS PROJECT – GENERAL CONSTRUCTION / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center, and UpStreet Architects, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to enter into a contract agreement with Penn Installations, Inc. in the amount of \$268,386.00 for the Challenger Learning Center Phase 2C 3-Rooms Project – General Construction Contract. Under this contract, the contractor will provide and install all necessary interior finishes and infrastructure required to finish the primary educational and simulator spaces. The scope of work specifically covers the following areas:

- Transport Room7
- Spacecraft Room
- Mission Control Room
- Minor adjoining support rooms

Two bids were received for this project, with the low bid of \$268,386.00 submitted by Penn Installations and a high bid of \$368,000.00. Project costs will be covered by a Keystone Communities Initiative Program grant.

CHANGE ORDER #2 – CARRIAGE HOUSE AND ESSEX HOUSE ASBESTOS REMOVAL PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the Indiana County Development Corporation and Stiffler McGraw & Associates, Inc., a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #2 under the contract agreement with R.L. Abatement, Inc., of Hopewell, PA, for the Carriage House and Essex House Asbestos Removal Project located in Indiana Borough. The change order request of \$82,692.90 is for the removal and disposal of additional asbestos-containing materials identified in Essex House. Specifically, this includes the black mastic beneath the ceramic flooring and grout located in each of the eighty-two (82) apartments. The total additional area for the removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials is estimated to be 9,963 square feet. A four-week (28-day) time extension is applicable to this additional Phase II work item. As a result of this \$82,692.90 Change Order #2, the R.L. Abatement, Inc. contract will increase to a revised total contract of \$295,512.90. Project costs for this change order will be covered by Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funds and Keystone Communities Initiative (KCI) funding administered by the Indiana County Development Corporation.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 26-27 / CHILDREN & YOUTH 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 Innersight, LLC, Greensburg, 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 Justice Works YouthCare, Indiana, 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 Professional Family Care Services, Johnstown, PA for FY 26-27 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and 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 Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Bethany Christian Services of Western PA, Wexford, PA for FY 26-27 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and 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 Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with White Deer Run, LLC dba Cove Prep, Torrance, PA for FY 26-27 to provide

services to Children & Youth Services and 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 Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC, Pittsburgh, PA for FY 26-27 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

MUNICIPAL WASTE PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL SERVICE CONTRACTS / SOLID WASTE

Marian Paulina, Indiana County Solid Waste Authority, explained the following contracts are for the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan that are renewed every ten years to ensure that the Indiana County communities have an outlet to dispose of solid waste including garbage and recycling.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and unanimously carried to table the contracts for Valley Landfill/USA Valey Facility, Inc and Laural Highlands Landfill, Inc./Laurel Highlands Landfill as their contract had incorrect information in them.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Senica Landfill, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Mostoller Landfill/Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Commonwealth Environmental Systems, L.P. (CES), L&D Management, Inc. its General Partner.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING...FRANKLIN COUNTY / JAIL

At the request of Robin Maryai, Clerk, 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 Franklin County. Indiana County Jail agrees to house adult offenders over the age of 18 at the rate of \$75.00 per day.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING...THE OPEN DOOR

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Indiana and The Open Door. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a collaborative relationship between the Crisis Department and the County to

facilitate timely access to crisis intervention services and promote the safety and well-being of individual experiencing behavioral health crisis.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / ICCAP

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve amendment no. 1 to the Program Management Agreement for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Agriculture and the County of Indiana. This amendment will extend the agreement to September 30, 2027 of the original agreement dated October 1, 2021. All other provisions of the agreement remain in full force and effect.

2026-2027 LOSS PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve a grant application be submitted to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) for the 2026-2027 PCORP Loss Prevention Gant Program Application in the amount of \$2,625.50. These funds will be used to purchase new chairs for the Commissioners Public meeting Room replacing chairs that have been in place for over 50 years. And also, to place chairs in the hallway for the Tax Claim Office for clients who are unable to stand.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to appoint Walter Schroth to the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board; term expires September 30, 2029.

COURTHOUSE CLOSED...MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2026 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

Commissioner Keith announced the courthouse will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2026 in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...OCTOBER 12, 2026 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 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 11:00 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman