

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was made by Lee Schweitzer, Julie Baker, Garnet Fryling, Mary Kay Yarchak, Heather Serian, Colleen Donovan, Bailey Nace, Tamara Whited, Faye Bradwick, Jessica Jopp, Susan Comfort, Sue Majoris, Paul Majoris, Ralph Ferraro, Kendre Philp, Carolyn Trimarchi, Kathy Edwards. All made comments regarding the proposed Data Centers.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no executive sessions.

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 ARIN IU 28, 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 Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Service Master of Indiana County, Indiana, PA for FY 26-27 to provide cleaning services to Children & Youth Services 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 Christian Family Services-the Bair Foundation, New Wilmington, 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 Pressley Ridge, 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.

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 Belmont-Harrisburg Juvenile District (Sargus), St.Clairsville, OH for FY 26-27 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT TREATMENT PROGRAM INITIATIVE GRANT

At the request of Amanda Leondard, Probation Office, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve the Intermediate Punishment Treatment Program Initiative Grant Application in the amount of \$135,000.00. This is a collaboration grant with the Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission. These funds will be used to support the Intermediate Punishment Program in Indiana County which includes Drug Treatment Court and Probation specifically to help pay for salaries, continuous alcohol monitoring, drug screens, treatment, case management, etc.

RESOLUTION – 2026 INDIANA COUNTY CDBG PROJECT SCOPE AND 3-YR PLAN/ 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 a resolution approving the project scope and 3-year plan of the County-wide needs priorities for the 2026 Non-Entitlement CDBG application. Indiana County will submit the multiple County housing initiatives for the 2026 CDBG funds. The proposed activities include rehabilitation to the Bridge House located in Graceton and other County housing initiatives such as other rehabilitation and/or demolition efforts. The 2026 Indiana County Entitlement is \$281,362.00 and is due by 5:00 PM on October 30, 2026, to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. All citizen participation requirements for project development and selection were completed as required.

FILING RESOLUTION – 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ENTITLEMENT APPLICATIONS / 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 the a resolution authorizing the filing of the 2026 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development by the deadline date of October 30, 2026. The application submission includes Indiana County's CDBG Entitlement and the two entitlement communities of Indiana Borough and Center Township. The total application amount is \$581,707.00. This request includes approval for the Chairman Keith to sign all necessary forms to complete the application process.

CONTRACT AWARD – CARRIAGE HOUSE AND OFFICE BUILDING DEMOLITION PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC) and Stiffler-McGraw & Associates, Inc., a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to enter into a contract agreement with Ritenour & Sons Construction Company of Connellsville, PA, for the Carriage House and Office Building Demolition Project located at 1300 and 1302 Oakland Avenue in Indiana Borough. The contract award request in the amount of \$342,000.00 is for the demolition of these two buildings, with an anticipated completion date of early December 2026. Ten bids were received for the demolition project, ranging from the \$342,000 low bid to a \$949,800 high bid. This project is funded by a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant, Keystone Communities Program Initiative grant and ICDC cash.

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

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, in partnership with the Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center and project architect UpStreet Architects, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to table all bids received for the General Construction Contract for the Challenger Learning Center Phase 2C – 3 Rooms project.

Bids for this phase of construction, which details specialized interior classrooms for the upcoming STEM academy campus at the Indiana County Technology Center complex, were formally opened and publicly read on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. The submitting entities require a temporary tabling of these proposals to allow sufficient time to thoroughly review the technical specifications, verify contractor qualifications, and ensure full compliance with project funding criteria.

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

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, in coordination with UpStreet Architects and the Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to enter into a contract agreement with Sheesley Electric in the amount of \$103,700 for the Challenger Learning Center Phase 2C 3-Rooms Project – Electrical Construction Contract.

Under this contract, the contractor will provide and install all necessary electrical systems and infrastructure required to finish the primary educational and simulator spaces. The scope of work specifically covers the following areas:

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

Three bids were received for this project, with the low bid submitted by Sheesley Electric and a high bid of \$149,760. Project costs will be covered by a Keystone Communities Initiative Program grant.

RESOLUTION – GRANT APPLICATION – CENTER CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF THE CENTRAL ALLEGHENIES, INDIANA, PA / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning and Development, on behalf of the Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center, a motion was made by Commissioner Dunlap, seconded by Commissioner Hess and carried unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development – Keystone Communities Initiative Program – in the amount of \$1,100,000.00 for eligible project costs, including construction and related professional services, associated with the development of an approximately 11,166 +/- square foot education and training facility on the campus of the Indiana County Technology Center (ICTC). The purpose of the project is to provide a regional learning facility for students K-12, as well as adult learners that includes a community college, the technology center, and the Challenger Learning Center of the Central Alleghenies, Indiana, PA that strengthens knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to inspire students to pursue careers in these fields, all intended to provide students entering the workforce the necessary skill sets to pursue successful careers in high-demand occupations.

Additionally, includes authorization to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center for the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development to administer the project and for the Executive Director to submit the KCIP grant application and for Commissioners Mike Kieth and Bonni Dunlap authorized as designated signors of the grant agreement.

RESOLUTION – GRANT APPLICATION – ICCAP FOOD BANK RENOVATION FINAL PHASE II PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, on behalf of the Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP), a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a grant application to the Hillman Family Foundations in the amount of \$50,000.00 for eligible project costs associated with the ICCAP Food Bank Renovation Final Phase II Project located at 2131 Shelly Drive in White Township. The grant funding request will be for project costs, such as the installation of a marquee sign with a message board, sliding electronically controlled site access gates, a storefront door, and parking lot LED light fixtures. It also includes relocating select interior gas lines, electrical fixtures, and interior walls to address safety concerns. The estimated construction costs are \$289,000.00 plus engineering, inspection and construction administration fees, together with the Hillman Family Foundations funding, the balance of the project will be covered by 2025 and 2023 CDBG grant funds. Authorization includes entering into a Cooperation Agreement with Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP) for the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development to administer the project.

Lastly, request authorization for the Executive Director to submit the Hillman Family Foundations grant application and for Commissioners Mike Keith and Bonni Dunlap to be authorized as designated signors of the grant agreement.

2026 SALLADE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Dunlap and carried unanimously to approve a 2026 Sallade Safety Improvement Project Program Grant Application in the amount of \$2,929.24. These funds will be used to purchase rock salt in preparation for the winter season and for protective equipment for the parks department when cutting trees/debris.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 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 11:25 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman