

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 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...JANUARY 12, 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Stutzman, EMA, reported that for the week ending January 14, 2022 there was an 17.39% decrease in Positive Covid Cases, 16.72% decrease in testing, 48.65% decrease in Covid Hospital admissions and 4.76% decrease in ICU Covid Patients.

Ron Riley made public comment regarding COVID and vaccinations of the younger population. Randy Degenkolb made public comment regarding vaccinations of the younger population and also the role of a County Commissioner.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

PROCLAMATION...BLACK HISTORY MONTH

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to proclaim February 2022 as Black History Month in Indiana County and encouraged citizens to observe this month by attending and participating in appropriate programs, activities, and reflections to continue efforts of creating a more caring, just, equitable, and prosperous community for all.

PROCLAMATION...HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim the month of January 2022 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and urged all citizens to work towards the elimination of human trafficking in our community and the empowerment of human trafficking survivors.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENT FY 21-22 / CYS

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 Indiana County

Child Day Care Program, Inc., Indiana PA for FY 21-22 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING...ELK COUNTY / JAIL

At the request of Sam Buzzinotti, Warden, a motion was made by Mr. Keith and seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Indiana County and Elk County to house inmates at the rate of \$65.00 per day and any costs associated with medical treatment from Prime-Care Medical, Inc.

\$50,000 CARES ACT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CARES ACT RLF) LOAN TO AILIN HOSPITALITY, LLC DBA RAMADA INDIANA PA / PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a \$50,000 term loan from the Indiana County CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Ailin Hospitality, LLC dba Ramada Indiana PA. All of the proceeds of this loan will solely be used as working capital to pay for critical operating expenses such as payroll, utilities, and inventory to alleviate economic injury caused by the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. The interest rate is 0.0% fixed for the term of the loan. There is no payment for the first twelve months; then 60 months of principal. The Borrower will retain 18 and create 6 full-time equivalent employees as a result of these funds. The application was reviewed and approved by the Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

GRANT AWARD - PA WALKWORKS PROGRAM / PLANNING

At the request of Josh Krug, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into a Sub-Award Agreement with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center for the PA WalkWorks Program. Grant funds in the amount of \$16,500.00 will be utilized to update the plan More People Biking and Walking More Often: A Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Indiana County. Planning Staff intend to update More People Biking and Walking More Often with the new Indiana County Active Transportation Plan Update (ICATPU). Planning Staff will administer the grant and provide in kind assistance alongside a competitively selected professional consultant in the development of the ICATPU. Funding is to be provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the State Physical Activity and Nutrition grant and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pennsylvania Downtown Center is the Prime Recipient and we are the Sub-recipient in the agreement. The funding will be awarded on a reimbursement basis. The total grant award is \$16,500.

INDIANA COUNTY ACT 13 IMPACT FEE DISTRIBUTION – 2020 AND PRIOR YEAR MODIFICATIONS / PLANNING

Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development explained that upon an examination of the thirteen criteria under Section 2314(d)(1) and a review of the current needs of the County to support various projects and initiatives eligible under the Act 13 Impact Fee, the Office of Planning & Development recommended the following modification to the previously authorized expenditures for the 2019 fiscal year, as follows:

Current Allocation – 2019	Proposed Modification – 2019
Criteria 11 – \$21,944.68 – of the balance held in the Act 13 Fund line item.	Criteria 13 – \$21,944.68 – Local Planning Initiatives, specifically for the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the modification for fiscal year 2019.

Bryon Stauffer, further explained that Indiana County has received the funding notification from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) of the Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution for 2020. The Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution is based on an eligibility formula utilizing a complicated series of criteria based on unconventional gas wells located in Indiana County as compared to statewide. The PUC has determined for 2020 that there are 26 (of 10,576) eligible unconventional gas wells that are located in Indiana County. Under Section 2314(d)(1) of Act 13, Indiana County has been allocated a total of \$63,322.17 for 2020. These funds must be used for one of the thirteen criteria outlined in Act 13 under this section.

Upon an examination of the thirteen criteria under Section 2314(d)(1) and a review of the current needs of the County to support various projects and initiatives, the Office of Planning & Development recommended the following expenditures/projects for consideration:

- Criteria 3 – \$15,000.00 – Funding for the Indiana County Fire Academy to assist local fire departments and first responders with training for emergency preparedness and related costs;
- Criteria 3 – \$15,000.00 – Funding for the HazMat/EMA Team 900;
- Criteria 4 – \$20,000.00 – Funding for Farmland Preservation;
- Criteria 13 – \$8,730.37 – Local Planning Initiatives, specifically for the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan
- Criteria 11 – \$4,591.80 – Capital Reserve Fund

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the allocations for fiscal year 2020. The request also directs and authorizes the Chief Clerk and the Executive Director of the Office of Planning & Development to report the 2020 Act 13 allocation expenditures to the PUC, as required under the Act.

AGREEMENT...KATHLEEN ABBEY BAKER / DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Kathleen Abbey-Baker to provide coordination services in relation to the Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the County’s Emergency Planning Committee at the rate of \$25.00 per hour up not to exceed a total of \$5,500 over the contract period. This contract is effective from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

CONSULTANT CONTRACT...DIANN OVERMAN / DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Lisa Spencer, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Diann Overman to provide certain services with regard to the Veteran Outreach Program at the rate of \$20.00 per hour up to 960 hours. This contract is effective from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS...CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION / 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 the following appointments to the Children's Advisory Commission: Liz Audo, Sarah Brown, Jessica Clark, Susan DeVaughn, Jesicca Dinger, Marty Dombrowski, Joelyssa Ferringer, Chris Frazer, Robert Fyock, Susan Good, Susan Hayden, Lori Hennessy, David Jonusek, Reba Johnson, Roxie Johnston, Lindsey Jones, Stephanie McAdoo, Laura McLaine, Chelsey Novak, Deneen Peters, Maureen Pounds, Gretchen Prebish, Carey Sabo, Carol Schurman, Lori Shirley, Lisa Snyder, Lisa Spencer, Meghan Strawcutter, Anna Ulery, Susan Wheatley, Karen Winning, Angel Ashbaugh, Candace Horsman, Kathy Monko, Suzette Prenni, Barbara Thornton, Tracy Walnoha, Susan Welch. Terms to expire December 31, 2024.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Connie L. Bence, Indiana, PA to the Industrial Development Board; term to expire January, 2026.

AGREEMENT...INDIANA COURT ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

At the request of Melissa Miller, Human Services Director, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the contract between the County of Indiana and Indiana Court Association of Professional Employees for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Rate increases will be 2.5% effective January 1, 2022 and 2.75% effective January 1, 2023. Stand by time effective January 1, 2023 shall be increased by \$5.00. Healthcare will be a 7% cap through December 31, 2023. All other terms and provisions of the current agreement shall remain as is.

2022 PCOMP SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

At the request of Melissa Miller, Human Services Director, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve that a 2022 PComp Safety Improvement Program Grant Application be submitted to the County Commissioners Association in the amount of \$14,138.20. These funds will be used to purchase a new shelving system in the Public Defender's Office.

CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR 2022 PROGRAM YEAR / FARMLAND PRESERVATION

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the Certification of County Funds for 2022 Program Year for Farmland Preservation in the amount of \$20,000.00 from Act 13.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Keith commented that both proclamations will be posted on the county's website. Also, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes in working with the departments putting safety first and getting updates of infrastructure done within the county. Commissioner Gorman commented about the election process and that the Board of Commissioners oversee the administration of elections. However, the county is not in control of what has been approved by the legislature and often in very tight time frames the counties are handed down law that the county has to follow to administer the elections. The county is trying to do good and trying to bring back integrity back to elections but its almost impossible when you are not in control on what you must operate by. The county's have asked CCAP to help get in front of the issues but they are often times limited in what they can do as well.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...FEBRUARY 9, 2022 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 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 Ms. Hess to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman