

**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**JUNE 9, 2021**

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...MAY 26, 2021**

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 26, 2021.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

There were no Executive Sessions.

**COVID 19 UPDATE**

Thomas Stutzman reported the positive cases are down in Indiana County. The number of people getting tested has dropped off to 38.29 percent per day. He also reported that the percentage of population 18 and older who have been fully vaccinated is only at 31.69 percent. Indiana County is No. 64 in the state and only three other counties have lower immunization rates. There are 50 locations within a 25-mile radius of Indiana County and the Transit Authority offers free rides for people who need a bus ride to get immunized.

**PROCLAMATION...COVID 19 VACCINE MONTH**

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Keith, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim the month of June, 2021 as COVID-19 Vaccine Month and the board encouraged everyone to take advantage of COVID Vaccinations.

**PROCLAMATION...INDIANA COUNTY READY**

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Gorman, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim the week of June 7 – 11, 2021 as Indiana County Ready Week in recognition of the countywide initiative of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, community business leaders and local educators. READY is a collaborative workforce initiative designed to help build a better workforce. More than 250 juniors and seniors from Indiana County's seven public school districts were awarded the certification upon conclusion of the school year.

## **PROCLAMATION...JUNETEENTH**

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to proclaim and promote the observance of and their support for Juneteenth 2021 in Indiana County. Juneteenth 2021 offers an opportunity to reflect on the country's ongoing emphasis on the importance of commemorating and celebrating the end of slavery in this country and to share with others their ideas about the actions needed to eradicate racism and racial discrimination.

## **INDIANA COUNTY LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUND – VETERANS PARSONAGE ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT**

In 2021, the US Interagency Council on Homelessness recognized Indiana County as one of 81 communities along with three states nationwide to have effectively ended veteran homelessness. This designation to end homelessness is to achieve and sustain "Functional Zero" what is a well-coordinated and efficient community system that quickly identifies and connects those experiencing a housing crisis with the supports they need and want to avoid staying on the street and to be moved to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

This designation was achieved by the cooperative efforts provided by the federal, state and local government and housing agencies in conjunction with partnerships developed and sustained with local community and nonprofit organizations. Indiana County through the Veterans Providers Group has combined efforts to build and strengthen coordinated services to Indiana County Veterans. The Veterans Providers Group meets monthly sharing resources and solutions to best assist Veterans in need. These combined efforts include assistance and resources for housing, education, employment, health services, transportation, recreation, etc.

The Veterans Parsonage, located on Oakland Avenue in White Township, is dedicated to the housing and care of those that have served our nation and is a participant of the Veterans Providers Group. Recently, the Parsonage initiated a fundraising efforts to modify the facility so it is 100% handicap accessible for the Veterans, staff and/or visitors.

The Veterans Parsonage works with the local housing providers that can assist with securing permanent housing alternatives. Many times, the Parsonage houses homeless veterans that cannot be assisted through other housing programs, for a variety of reasons, or while a housing vacancy is located. This on-going partnership contributes to the support system Indiana County has successfully developed to address veteran's homelessness.

The Indiana County Commissioners, pledge their continued support and on behalf of the citizens of Indiana County, desire to financially support the efforts of the Veterans Parsonage with a \$10,000 allocation of Local Housing Trust Funds. These funds will be dedicated to providing housing accessibility modifications to the Veterans Parsonage. Kristin Squires, Evan Clawson and Adam Clawson, who are members of the board for the Veterans Parsonage, were present to accept the \$10,000 check.

## **ICCAP EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG AND ESG-CV) PROGRAM VENDOR SERVICES CONTRACTS / PLANNING**

LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, recommended that the Board of Commissioners enter into multiple fiscal year vendor services contract agreements with the Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP) to provide services for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) through the PA Department

of Community & Economic Development. ICCAP is designated as the County's vendor for services through multiple ESG contract timelines and services. Three separate contract awards are requested as follows:

A motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the 2020 ESG Contract. The services to be provided include rapid-re-housing rental and financial assistance, data entry for the Pennsylvania Human Management Information System, (HMIS), and associated administrative services. The contract dates are July 24, 2020 to January 24, 2022 and is for \$105,618.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the 2020 ESG-CV(1) Contract. The ESG-CV services being provided include homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing rental and financial assistance, data entry for the Pennsylvania Human Management Information System, (HMIS), and associated administrative services. The contract dates are July 8, 2020 to January 8, 2022. The ESG-CV(1) contract is for \$99,640.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve the 2020 ESG-CV(2) Contract. The services to be provided include homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, data entry for the Pennsylvania Human Management Information System, (HMIS) and associated administrative services. The contract dates will coincide with the executed contract from the Commonwealth that is being finalized. The ESG-CV (2) contract is for \$108,272.00.

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT...INDIANA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (HSDF) / 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 Cooperation Agreement between the County of Indiana and Indiana County Community Action Program FY 2021-2022 for the Homeless Assistance Program. The County agrees to designate ICCAP, in coordination with Indiana County, to use HSDF funding to cover a portion of wages and benefits for the Homeless Assistance Program and Homeless Case Management.

**CONTRACT...INDIANA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) / 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 Indiana County Community Action Program who will act as a subcontractor to implement the Homeless Assistance Program for FY 21-22.

**GRANT APPLICATION...DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SITE BASED PROGRAM / PROBATION**

At the request of James Decker, Probation Office, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a grant application for the Department of Justice Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Site Based Program. This grant is in conjunction with the Indiana/Armstrong Alcohol and Drug Court Program and a Pre-trial Diversionary Program. The grant is used for financial and technical assistance to units of local

government dealing with the epidemic id addiction in our communities. The amount of funding for this is a competitive grant set at a ceiling of \$6,000,000.

**GRANT APPLICATION...COUNTY DIVERSIONARY GRANT / PROBATION**

At the request of James Decker, Probation Office, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a grant application for the County Diversionary Grant in conjunction with the Indiana/Armstrong Alcohol and Drug Commission. This grant is designed to be made available for the expansion of existing drug courts, implementation of juvenile drug courts, or implementation of pretrial initiatives and/or provide opioid-related treatment services to problem-solving court participants. This will include improving the operation of drug courts to better respond the Pennsylvania's opioid crisis through advanced training and accreditation. This is a competitive grant with an award amount of \$2,000,000.

**CONTRACT...JEFFERSON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT DETENTION FACILITY / PROBATION**

At the request of James Decker, Probation Office, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve a contract with Jefferson County Juvenile Court Detention Facility. This is a renewal contract for use of their detention beds at the rate of \$185.00 per day and only utilized on an as needed basis. Terms of the contract is July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT...MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK, LLC**

At the request of Matthew Budash, County Solicitor, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an engagement agreement with McNees Wallace & Nurick, LLC to provide legal services to Indiana County and Randy Degenkolb in his official capacity as the Prothonotary of Indiana County in the defense of a class action litigation.

**COURTHOUSE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FLAG DAY HOLIDAY**

Commissioner Keith announced the courthouse will be closed on Monday, June 14, 2021 in observance of the Flag Day Holiday.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Hess announced that the Conservation District recently held the Envirothon and the Home Schoolers for Christ Coop placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the state. Commissioner Gorman said the board continues to get updates regarding American Recovery Funds and hopefully will release the information soon. Commissioner Keith reminded residents to get their COVID 19 Vaccines.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING... JUNE 23, 2021 AT 10:30 A.M.**

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 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 11:29 a.m.

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Sherene Hess, Secretary

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R. Michael Keith, Chairman

