

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2019

Commissioner Chairman Michael A. Baker called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Michael A. Baker, present
Commissioner Rodney D. Ruddock, present
Commissioner Sherene Hess, present

Also, in attendance were Solicitor Matthew T. Budash, Chief Clerk Robin Maryai and others. Members of the news media present were Josh Widdowson, Greg Rienbold and Chauncy Ross.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Baker led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVE MINUTES...APRIL 24, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 24, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to proclaim May 5 – 11, 2019 as National Travel and Tourism Week in Indiana County, and urged citizens to join them in this special observance with appropriate events and commemorations. Denise Liggett, Director of the Tourist Bureau along with her staff, were present to accept the proclamation.

NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to proclaim May as National Bike month in Indiana County. Bicycling is an environmentally-sound form of transportation, and excellent form of fitness and quality family recreation that residents of Indiana County enjoy on a daily basis. Initiatives like the annual Walk or Bike to School or Work Day which took place today Wednesday, May 8, 2019 and the Indiana County Opening Day for Trails- Hoodlebug Trail Appreciation Ride which took place on Saturday May 4 encourage participation in bicycling and increase awareness of road safety for not only bicyclists but also for individuals driving motor vehicles and pedestrians.

CONTRACT AGREEMENT – HOME 2018 / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to enter into a contract agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a HOME Program contract. The contract will provide \$300,000.00 to assist permanently disabled residents with accessibility and modification

rehabilitation improvements. This enables these residents to remain in their homes in lieu of institutionalization and improving their quality of life. The contract timeline is February 14, 2019 to February 13, 2022. Approval also allows for Commissioner Baker to sign other required paperwork for contract execution.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DELEGATION OF SIGNING AUTHORITY 2018 HOME PROGRAM / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the delegation of the signing authority for invoicing of the 2018 HOME Program contract number C000071093. The delegation of the signing authority is for LuAnn Zak to review and sign all invoices for the CDBG contract prior to submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for approval. The signing authority request is to comply with the Commonwealth's paperless invoicing process. The resolution includes a commitment that the Commissioners will notify DCED of any changes in personnel and understand that the ultimate responsibility of the overall management of the grants remain with the County.

MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR COOPERATION AGREEMENT / PLANNING

At the request of Josh Krug, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to authorize the signature of a cooperation agreement between Indiana Borough, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the County for the design, engineering, and construction of the Indiana Multimodal Corridor-Hoodlebug Trail Extension. This corridor will connect the existing Hoodlebug Trail with destinations throughout Indiana Borough and IUP's main campus and ultimately terminate at the parking lot owned by the Borough located at 8th and Church Streets. The parties involved in the agreement will provide \$30,000 each for local match toward the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant funding the project. The County is to provide any necessary additional local match. The county's total contribution is not to exceed \$60,000. All parties will maintain their existing ownership and maintenance responsibilities in general and as it pertains to the project and associated improvements.

ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR THE HOODLEBUG TRAIL RESURFACING PROJECT / PARKS & TRAILS

At the request of Robin Maryai, on behalf of Ed Patterson, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an engineering agreement with Gibson Tomas Engineering to provide engineering services for the Hoodlebug Trail Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$23,295.00.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD / CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to appoint Janelle Mason and Erica Aiken to the Citizens Advisory Board; terms to expire December 31, 2019.

LEASE WESTGATE TERRACE ASSOCIATES #1 (1967 MERRY PLACE) / CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Lease with Westgate Terrace Associates to provide a two-bedroom apartment that will be available to homeless youth and are designed to be transitional housing. These youths have been involved with the child welfare

system and frequently have no support system. While in the apartment, an independent living worker will work intensely with the youth and focus on those skills that will move them to independence such as job seeking, budgeting and any other skills identified. The lease term for this contract is May 21, 2019 to May 11, 2020 at the rate of \$695 per month plus electric. Renter's insurance is required at the rate of \$15 per month. Costs associated with the lease will be paid from the Independent Living Grant budget.

LEASE WESTGATE TERRACE ASSOCIATES #2 (931 LILAC ST)/ CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Lease with Westgate Terrace Associates to provide a two-bedroom apartment that will be available to homeless youth and are designed to be transitional housing. These youths have been involved with the child welfare system and frequently have no support system. While in the apartment, an independent living worker will work intensely with the youth and focus on those skills that will move them to independence such as job seeking, budgeting and any other skills identified. The lease term for this contract is June 4, 2019 to June 1, 2020 at the rate of \$667 per month plus electric. Renter's insurance is required at the rate of \$15 per month. Costs associated with the lease will be paid from the Independent Living Grant budget.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS 18-19 / CYS

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Alternative Community Engagement Solutions, Indiana, PA for FY 18-19 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with IRMC Physicians Group-Neuropsychiatric Associates, Inc., Indiana, PA for FY 18-19 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Bethany Christian Services of Western PA for FY 18-19 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

At the request of Sarah Ross, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Families United Network, Inc., Muncy, PA for FY 18-19 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

CONTACT...INDIANA BOROUGH / DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION

At the request of Darren Divido, Domestic Relations Section, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Indiana Borough to provide parking for Domestic Relations Section at the rate of \$50.00 per space from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

COUNTY RETURN BOARD...MAY 21, 2019 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to appoint Robin Maryai, Debra Streams and Melissa Miller to the County Return Board for the May 21, 2019 Municipal Primary Election.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner spoke about his recent experience at Blue Spruce Park during a competition in environmental protection and preservation skills where there were more than 120 individuals in attendance and he tried to contact Commissioners Baker and Hess via cell phone. The messages did not go through because of inadequate wireless coverage at the county park. Commissioner Ruddock said "If you were here on a weekend and had a heart attack at Blue Spruce Park, most likely you are not going to be served for a significant amount of time. That doesn't pass my common-sense test, and it doesn't pass your common-sense test. I am concerned that we are not getting the support of private vendors to provide service to rural communities that need that service, and it's time that we are not second best."

Commissioner Ruddock further expressed his frustration that cellular service companies have surveyed the county, are aware of the holes in the coverage, worked with the county for placement of new emergency service radio towers, some of which are equipped with cell links to help the companies. He said "We have gone out over the years to connect with private vendors like Verizon, Sprint, AT&T to see if they would help us bring cellular and internet service to that particular site. We worked with them on a plan about eight years ago to have this fixed. It wasn't. We've got to find a way to get an organization like Verizon to come in and fix that problem for our county residents and those who com in as tourists and expect a carefree day."

Commissioner Ruddock said in the 15 years he has been in this position he has taken personal responsibility to try and improve certain aspects of Indiana County, and one are is broadband, internet, optic fiber and cellular service for Indiana County. "That is a platform that will not leave me until I leave this desk".

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...MAY 22, 2019 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman