

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2021

Commissioner Robin Gorman called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:33 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman R. Michael Keith, Zoom
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...AUGUST 11, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of August 11, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kami Parke and Chris Zeisler both spoke seeking support for the Lenny Alert, a concept similar to an Amber Alert for missing children.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There was an Executive Session held on August 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss legal matters related to the Opioid Lawsuit.

COVID 19 UPDATE

Thomas Stutzman reported that Indiana County over the last week saw increase of 38.5% in positive cases, an increase in testing, a 7% increase in ICU patients and average cases per day have exceeded 13 per day. He is strongly stressing residents to please get the vaccine. There are over 50 locations in Indiana County that administer vaccines.

PROCLAMATION...SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK AND MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to proclaim the Week of September 5 – 11, 2021 as Suicide Prevention Week and the Month of September, 2021 as Suicide Prevention Month in Indiana County.

**GRANT APPLICATION...CRISIS INTERVENTION/DIVERSION GRANT /
PROBATION**

At the request of Jim Decker, Probation Office, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve a grant application for the Crisis Intervention/Diversionary Grant through the Pennsylvania Council on Crime and Delinquency in the maximum amount of \$150,000.00. This grant if awarded will be used for the diversionary program of Veterans Treatment Court.

CONTRACT...BI INCORPORATED / PROBATION

At the request of Jim Decker, Probation Office, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a contract with BI Incorporated to provide house arrest electronic monitoring units. These units divert offenders from incarceration at the Indiana County Jail reducing inmate costs associated with housing and medical care. This contract is a continuation of services that has changed to incorporate newer monitoring devices with current cellular technology.

CHANGE ORDER #1 – PEG RUN RESERVOIR DREDGING PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of Gibson-Thomas Engineering and the Indiana County Municipal Service Authority, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #1 with Charles J. Merlo, Inc. in the amount of \$45,000.00 on the Peg Run Reservoir Dredging Project. Change Order #1 is to perform additional concrete work on the spillway area of the dam. The revised contract with Charles J. Merlo, Inc. with approval of Change Order #1 will be \$342,000.00. This additional cost being funded with 2018 CDBG Entitlement Funds and 2019 CDBG Competitive Funds.

CHANGE ORDER #GC-08 – ALICE PAUL HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the Alice Paul House Board of Directors and Stiffler McGraw & Associates, Inc., a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #GC-08 with General Contractor Mid-State Construction, Inc. in the credit amount of \$843.82 on the Alice Paul House Building Project. Change Order #GC-08 is a deduct change order to delete the installation of a Fire Extinguisher and Cabinet in the 1st floor mechanical room by Mid-State Construction. This fire extinguisher was installed by AFC Advanced Fire as part of an annual inspection. The revised contract with Mid-State Construction, Inc. will be \$2,389,413.19.

CONTRACT AWARD – INDIANA BOROUGH SOUTH 7TH STREET STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of David Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of Indiana Borough and Stiffler McGraw & Associates, Inc., a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to enter into a contract agreement with Shadco, LLC, from Home, PA for the Indiana Borough South 7th Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project. The contract award request in the amount of \$211,837.00 is for the replacement of the existing storm sewer along South 7th Street between Virginia Avenue and Grant Street in Indiana Borough. A total of four proposals were submitted ranging from low bid by Shadco, LLC of \$211,837.00 to a high bid of \$347,774.00. This project is being funded by the Indiana Borough's 2016 and 2017 CDBG Entitlement Funds.

2020 ESG-CV(1) - CONTRACT EXTENSION/MODIFICATION/AMENDMENT / PLANNING

LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development and in behalf of ICCAP, requested that the Board of Commissioners approve a revised request for the 2020 ESG-CV (1) contract that had been approved at the last Commissioners meeting. The request revises the contract extension date from June 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 as was presented at the last meeting. The contract expiration date will be revised from January 8, 2022 to June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Keith to approve the revised contract expiration date.

Lu Ann Zak explained the second action requested for the ESG-CV-(1), remains as it was presented at the August 11th meeting, for the approval of budget revision #2. However, she requested a revision that will adjust allocation amounts within the previously contracted activities. The revisions reflect services and funding amounts necessary to account for actual need for services.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to adjust the contract and budget line items as follows:

- Adjust Rapid Rehousing Component
 - Increase the Financial Assistance Services line by \$3,009.69, from \$11,000.00 to \$14,009.69.
 - Increase the Housing Services line by \$1,456.88, from \$17,500.00 to \$18,956.88.
 - Increase the Rental Assistance line by \$6,000.00, from \$44,500.00 to \$50,500.00.

- Adjust the Homelessness Prevention Component
 - Decrease the Financial Assistance line by \$3,009.69; from \$4,000.00 to \$990.31.
 - Decrease the Housing Services line by \$1,456.88; from \$6,000.00 to \$4,543.12.
 - Decrease the Rental Assistance line by \$6,000.00; from \$10,000.00 to \$4,000.00.

The HMIS and Administration budget lines remain unchanged as does the total contract amount of \$99,640.00. The necessary citizen participation requirements have been fulfilled and the extension/modification will be submitted to DCED for final approval.

GRANT APPLICATION – KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM – ICCAP / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a resolution to submit a Keystone Communities Program (KCP) application seeking a \$500,000 grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development to support the Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP), including and in particular the Food Bank Warehouse. Due to the pandemic and other economic issues, the demand for food has dramatically increased. ICCAP has 17 conveniently located food pantries throughout Indiana County that operate on a monthly basis for households or individuals that are in need of food. Additionally, ICCAP offers specific food programs tailored for seniors, students and offers nutritional programs. This project does not require nor commit any matching funds from either the County or ICCAP. The motion also allows for Commissioner Keith and the Executive Director of the Office of Planning & Development to submit the KCP application and for any two Commissioners to execute documents is also requested.

\$50,000 CARES ACT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CARES ACT RLF) LOAN TO JOHANNA S. LEACH, D/B/A THE FINERY / PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a \$50,000 term loan from the Indiana County CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Johanna S. Leach, d/b/a The Finery. The Finery specializes in Women's and Men's clothing and accessories. The Finery, or as it was once known as, J. Covitch & Son, has been located in downtown Indiana since 1985 with Terry Leach as part owner. In 1992, the store was bought out by Terry and the named changed to The Finery. In 2013, the business transitioned to Terry's wife, Johanna as the women's business continued to grow. All 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 1.5 full-time equivalent employees as a result of these funds. The application was reviewed and approved by Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

GRANT APPLICATION...PCOMP SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

At the request of Melissa Miller, Commissioners Office, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve a PComp Safety Improvement Program Grant Application to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) in the amount of \$1,361.35. If approved by CCAP, these funds will be used to purchase polo shirts and tee shirts with a badge on the front chest and Probation screened on the back. These will be used as identification while the officers are working in the field, making arrests, house searches, and warrant duty to provide a level of safety for recognition in the community.

BIDS...VOTING BOOTHS (080921)

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to accept the low bid received from American Made Election Equipment, San Diego, CA in the amount of \$66,024.00 for the purchase of new election booths. One other bid was received from William Penn Printing in the amount of \$85,945.00.

BIDS...BARRIER RETROFIT AND BEAM CRACK REPAIRS

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve the low bid received from Thornbury, Inc, West Sunbury, PA in the amount of \$166,416.00 for the Barrier Retrofit and Beam Crack Repairs for the following county-owned bridges: Kintersburg, Glen Campbell, McElhoes, Graceton, Hankinson and Starford. One other bid was received from Clearwater Construction in the amount of \$239,000.00.

OPIOID LITIGATION

Solicitor Matthew Budash explained Indiana County is part of a national lawsuit against the opioid manufacturers and distributors. Bob Marcus and Brian Niederhiser were present and reported that, Mallinckrodt, one of the manufacturers in the nationwide lawsuit has filed for bankruptcy. Their bankruptcy is being driven by massive debt obligations, business failures and costs driven by this litigation. Currently pending is whether or not to approve the Mallinckrodt Bankruptcy Plan. The national consortium has a seat at the table in this process and they are anticipating a yes vote on the bankruptcy plan. This vote is due September 1, 2021 by email; however, the consortium is requesting we hold off until the last minute because negotiations are

ongoing. A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to follow the advice of the consortium as to whether to vote yes or no on the Mallinckrodt Bankruptcy Plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Commissioners echoed Tom Stutzman's report to continue to encourage those who are not vaccinated for COVID 19 to do so. Indiana Regional Medical Center will have a mobile unit set up at the Indiana County Fair Wednesday through Friday. Work is continuing regarding the America's Recovery Program funding. The United Way Kickoff Campaign is August 26th at the Jimmy Stewart Airport from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The Board had a quarterly meeting recently with the Department Heads at the Public Safety Academy in Homer City. A tour of the facility followed the meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING... SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 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 11:24 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

R. Michael Keith, Chairman