

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 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 Reinbold and Chauncy Ross.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES...OCTOBER 9, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 9, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions held since the last meeting.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 19-20 / 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, Adelphoi Village, Latrobe, PA for FY 19-20 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, Adoption Connection PA, Beaver, PA for FY 19-20 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, Centre County Youth Service Bureau, State College, PA for FY 19-20 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, Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers, LLC, Milton, PA for FY 19-20 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, Family Pathways, Butler, PA for FY 19-20 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 19-20 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, KidsPeace National Center, Inc., Schnecksville, PA for FY 19-20 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, Vision Quest National Ltd., South Mountain, PA for FY 19-20 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE...CAPITAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS / EMA

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Emergency Management Agency, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve equipment purchase from Capital Area Communications for the installation of a Cell Site Extension System for Blue Spruce Park. This equipment will be installed at the County tower site within the park and utilize the County's dark fiber between the tower and the park office to a cell antenna placement. The purpose of this installation is to provide public access within area of the park office, lakeside lodge and general area around the lake with cell phone service. The total cost for this project is \$67,753.40 and will be procured under State Contract pricing.

UNION CONTRACT...UMWA (JAIL)

At the request of John Reilly, Labor Consultant for the County, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a 4-year contract with UMWA (Jail). This includes 60 employees at the County Jail. The contract will begin January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023 and includes wage adjustments of 3% in 2020 and 2.5% in 2021, 2022, and 2023. There will be a 7% cap on insurance premiums, therefore if the premiums go in excess of 7% the parties will be required to modify benefits to be within the cap. The sick leave buyout upon retirement with the county will be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per day.

UNION CONTRACT...UMWA (COURT RELATED)

At the request of John Reilly, Labor Consultant for the County, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a 4-year contract with UMWA (Court Related). This includes 15 employees with Prothonotary, Register & Recorder, Public Defender and the District Attorney's Offices. The contract will begin January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023 and includes wage adjustments of 3% in 2020 and 2.5% in 2021, 2022, and 2023. There will be a 7% cap on insurance premiums, therefore, if the premiums go in excess of 7% the parties will be required to modify benefits to be within the cap. The sick leave buyout upon retirement with the county will be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per day.

UNION CONTRACT...AFSCME (COURTHOUSE)

At the request of John Reilly, Labor Consultant for the County, a motion was made by Ms. Hess seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to approve a 4-year contract with AFSCME (courthouse). This includes 63 employees at 911, Airport, partial Courthouse and Parks. The contract will begin January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023 and includes annual wage adjustments of 3% in 2020 and 2.5% in 2021, 2022, and 2023. There will be a 7% cap on insurance premiums, therefore, if the premiums go in excess of 7% the parties will be required to modify benefits to be within the cap. A new pay schedule will be implemented for the 911 Dispatchers with a base rate of \$18.78 per hour. The sick leave buyout upon retirement with the county will be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per day.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION SUBMISSION – 2019 PHARE FUNDS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (PHFA) / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Rudock and carried unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) for the 2019 Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Funds (PHARE). The application will request up to \$300,000.00 of PHARE funds to continue the 55+Roof and Heating Systems Replacement Program. The motion also allows Commissioner Baker to sign all necessary application documents.

The program will target income eligible Indiana County homeowners age 55 and over with roof and/or furnace replacements. The program will be conducted on a countywide basis and will not be a first come first serve program. The applications will be prioritized according to need by the Housing Committee.

REQUIRED CDBG COMPLIANCE REGULATIONS / 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 the following plan statements and goals for the 2019 CDBG program to meet compliance requirements with the federal and state mandates of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for all Community Development recipients. This approval includes the Borough of Indiana and the Townships of Burrell and Center as CDBG entitlement municipalities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- Affirmative Action Plan for Indiana County
- Section 3 – U.S. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 for Employment Opportunities for Local Business and Low-Income Persons
- County of Indiana Statement of Goals: This is the Section 3 requirement of the U.S. Housing Act of 1968 for the Community Development Block Grant Program that sets forth the County's goals for contract to Indiana County based businesses at 15%.
- Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Plan
- Citizen Participation Plan
- Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan
- Language Access Plan
- Grievance Procedure Americans with Disabilities Act
- Grievance Procedure Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Plan

All of the Plans are on file at the Office of Planning & Development and are available for public review.

RESOLUTION - INDIANA COUNTY ADA COORDINATOR / 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 designate Lisa Spencer, Executive Director of the Indiana County Department of Human Services as the County's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator. Ms. Spencer's duties will include receiving all grievances from disabled people that believe they were discriminated against for services, programs or activities provided by Indiana County. A public notice will be advertised identifying the County's ADA Coordinator and the process of filing a grievance.

RESOLUTION – INDIANA COUNTY SECTION 504 COORDINATOR / 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 designate Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, as Indiana County's Section 504 Coordinator. Mrs. Maryai will oversee the grievance procedure that has been developed in accordance with other applicable laws including the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 that requires buildings that are constructed or assisted with federal funds be accessible to and usable by handicapped persons and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act) that prohibits discrimination in housing-related transactions on the previously described basis as well as familial status and disability.

NOTIFICATION OF CDBG COMPLIANCE DUTIES / PLANNING

At the request of LuAnn Zak, Office of Planning & Development, on behalf of the Indiana County Commissioners, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to publicly identify the following personnel responsible for specific CDBG/HOME compliance for environmental reviews and labor standards, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development:

LuAnn Zak is the designated Environmental Review Officer and is responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Environmental Review Officer is responsible for environmental review, decision-making and action under NEPA and HUD regulations 24 CFR PART 58, as well as the statutes and authorities contained in 24 CFR Part 58.5 for the administration of the programs.

David A. Morrow is the designated Labor Standards Officer. Mr. Morrow is responsible for compliance with labor standards as set forth in Section 110 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and HUD's implementing regulations. These standards include the Davis-Bacon Act, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, the Copeland Anti-Kickback Act, and the U.S. Department of Labor regulations at 29 CFR Parts 1,3,5,6 and 7.

RESOLUTIONS – COOPERATION AGREEMENT 2019 CDBG INDIANA COUNTY “OBO” BURRELL TOWNSHIP / HIGHRIDGE WATER AUTHORITY / 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 for the 2019 CDBG Indiana County on behalf of Burrell Township. The resolution approves entering into a Cooperation Agreement with the Highridge Water Authority to undertake activities funded by CDBG funds through Indiana County on behalf of Burrell Township's allocations for the

Campbell Mills/Falling Run Road Water Line Extension. This will be accomplished with multiple fiscal years of CDBG funds including the 2019 monies. The Cooperation Agreements identifies the roles and responsibilities between the Highridge Water Authority and the County on behalf of Burrell Township for the undertaking the CDBG funded activity.

RESOLUTION – COOPERATION AGREEMENT 2019 INDIANA COUNTY CDBG NON-ENTITLEMENT / GLEN CAMPBELL BOROUGH / 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 for the 2019 CDBG Indiana County Non-Entitlement Program. The resolution approves entering into a Cooperation Agreement with Glen Campbell Borough to undertake the replacement of the water storage tank that will be funded with the County's 2019 CDBG allocation. It is proposed that a competitive CDBG application will be submitted in early 2020 to complete the financial package necessary to complete the project. The Cooperation Agreement identifies the roles and responsibilities between Glen Campbell Borough and the County for undertaking the CDBG activity.

RESOLUTION – CDBG COMPETITIVE AUTHORIZATION TO FILE / 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 a Competitive Community Development Block Grant be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The application will request a total of \$230,000.00 of Competitive CDBG funds for the Peg Run Reservoir Improvement Project. The Board of Commissioners have previously allocated \$232,000.00 of their 2018 CDBG Entitlement funds. The competitive CDBG funds will complete the financial package necessary to meet state and federal water quality standards. The reservoir will be dredged and spillway renovations will be completed. All CDBG required public hearings and citizen participation requirements have been met for the application submission. The approval also allows for the Chairman to sign all necessary application forms.

CONTRACT AWARD – 280 INDIAN SPRINGS ROAD SUITE 333 & LOBBY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Dave Morrow, Office of Planning & Development, and on behalf of the Indiana County Development Corporation and Desmone Architects, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to enter into a contract agreement with Mid-State Construction, Inc. in Altoona PA., for the 280 Indian Springs Road Suite 333 & Lobby Improvements Project. The contract award request in the amount of \$153,480.00 is for the renovation of approximately 7,300 square feet of existing space on the third floor, and enhanced security measures in the lobby area at 280 Indian Springs Road. Upon completion, the office space will be occupied by Domestic Relations. A total of two responsive proposals were submitted with a difference of \$2,520 between the two bids. Desmone Architects estimate for this project was \$150,000.00. This project is being funded with Indiana County Funds.

LIQUID FUELS – COUNTY AID – ERNEST BOROUGH / PLANNING

At the request of Teresa Bachy, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to authorize submission of the necessary Liquid Fuels funding encumbrance to PennDOT District-10 for a total \$50,000.00 Application for County Aid on behalf of Ernest Borough to partially offset eligible project costs for Mine Hill Road Resurfacing and 3rd Street Resurfacing projects. The total estimated project

costs are \$92,212.50. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 54% of the total project costs.

LIQUID FUELS – COUNTY AID – GREEN TOWNSHIP / PLANNING

At the request of Teresa Bachy, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to authorize submission of the necessary Liquid Fuels funding encumbrance to PennDOT District-10 for a total \$35,000.00 Application for County Aid on behalf of Green Township to partially offset eligible project costs for the Holly Road Culvert Replacement Project. The total estimated project cost is \$133,110.00. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 26% of the total project costs.

LIQUID FUELS – COUNTY AID – BLACKLICK TOWNSHIP / PLANNING

At the request of Teresa Bachy, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to authorize submission of the necessary Liquid Fuels funding encumbrance to PennDOT District-10 for a total of \$75,000.00 Application for County Aid on behalf of Blacklick Township to partially offset eligible project costs for the Howard Road Culvert and 2 culverts along Mahan School Road. The total estimated project costs are \$260,000.00. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 29% of the total project costs.

RESOLUTION – ARC AREA DEVELOPMENT FUNDS GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION – WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE & CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER BUILDING PROJECT / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, in collaboration with Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) and the Challenger Learning Center Indiana Pennsylvania (CLCIP), a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to authorize a Federal grant application be submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Funds grant program in the amount of up to \$350,000 for eligible costs associated with the development of an approximately 27,000 square foot education and training facility proposed 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 a proposed Challenger Learning Center that strengthen 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. The ARC Area Development grant will be administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Office of Planning & Development in collaboration with the Indiana County Development Corporation that will assist in the construction of the site improvements and the building. This request also includes authorization for any County Commissioner and/or any appropriate officials, as necessary, to be granted authorization to execute any such documents or take such actions required to execute the ARC Area Development Funds contract and to implement same.

AGREEMENT...RON MARSH ON BEHALF OF MARSH CONTRACTING, LLC

Mr. Ruddock explained that in July the West Mahoning election house was sold to Ron Marsh in the amount of \$685.50 through sealed bid. When Mr. Marsh learned that when Mr. Ruddock voted against the sale, he offered to give the building back to the county as a historic site and to relocate the building to Smicksburg. A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried to approve a contract with Ron Marsh on behalf of Marsh Contract, LLC to move the building from the current location to a site owned by the Army Corps of Engineers in

Smicksburg. Under the agreement Mr. Marsh will be reimbursed for costs incurred for the relocation of the building. It is also noted that the County Parks will maintain the building.

MUTUAL RELEASE...GERALD BARRET

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a Mutual Release Agreement between the County and Gerald Barrett, Sr. and Angela Barrett allowing Ron Marsh to enter the property to move the building and release the Barrett's of any liability during the relocation.

APPEAL TO COURT OF COMMON PLEAS...PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE IN BURRELL TOWNSHIP

Matthew Budash, County Solicitor, explained that on July 16, 2019 the County submitted a revised land use development plan for the Route 22 Pedestrian Bridge Project to Burrell Township. The plan was denied by the Burrell Township Supervisors on October 11, 2019. Mr. Budash requested the board authorize the filing of an appeal of the denial. A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously authorize the filing of an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas on behalf of the County.

INDIAN HAVEN ROOM RATE INCREASE FOR 2020

At the request of Kylie Berry, Indian Haven, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to approve the following increases to room rates at the Communities at Indian Haven:

- Private Room - \$309.00 per day
- Semi-Private - \$285.00 per day
- Semi-Private Long-term Room - \$271.00 per day

It is noted that these increases are necessary due to the increase in operations due to the need to remain competitive with area facilities in wages, increase in health insurance coverage and the increased acuity of the population of residents being cared for.

RESOLUTION...REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVES (RGGI)

After a Resolution was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives (RGGI) Resolution urging Governor of Pennsylvania to rescind executive order 2019-07 and work collaboratively with the General Assembly and communities who rely on economic benefits of electric generation before considering membership in RGGI and the implementation of a carbon tax on emissions.

RESOLUTION 2019-1023

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's coal and coal refuse-fired electric generating units are a major economic, employment and tax revenue generator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and for the communities in which they are located; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2019, Governor Wolf signed executive order 2019-07 directing Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to develop and present a rulemaking package establishing a cap and trade program consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, that allows for credit trading with other states, for presentation to the Environmental Quality Board no later than July 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a cap-and-trade program targeting electric generating units by imposing a tax on coal, coal refuse and natural gas fired electricity in our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will increase the cost of wholesale electricity in our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will retire 6,400 MW of coal and coal refuse-fired facilities from Pennsylvania, and displace the electric generation to other states that do not impose such a tax; and

WHEREAS, 980 megawatts of coal and coal-refuse fired plant retirements occurred or will occur in 2018 and 2019 in our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, within Indiana County, coal and coal refuse electric generating unit operations produce \$1.36 billion in total economic impact, supporting 1,225 total jobs with \$59 million in employee compensation annually; and

WHEREAS, Within Armstrong County, coal and coal refuse electric generating unit operations produce \$199 million in total economic impact, supporting 1,025 total jobs with \$44 million in employee compensation annually; and

WHEREAS, Within Cambria County, coal and coal refuse electric generating unit operations produce \$160 million in total economic impact, supporting 770 total jobs with \$34 million in employee compensation annually; and

WHEREAS, in total, coal and coal refuse electric generating unit operations in Pennsylvania produce \$3.1 billion in total economic impact within Pennsylvania and support 8,000 jobs with \$467 million in employee compensation; and

WHEREAS, coal and coal refuse electric generating unit operations grow the state and local property tax base and generate state and local property tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, economic activity from coal and coal refuse electric generating unit operations generates \$9.4 million in income taxes, \$10.7 million in sales tax, and \$3.4 million in business taxes for a combined \$23.4 million in state taxes annually; and

WHEREAS, Affordable, reliable, resilient and diverse sources of electric power generated in Pennsylvania are vital to the health, safety and welfare of the Commonwealth's residents and to the prosperity of its economy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the impact on coal-fired and coal refuse electric generating facilities, Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or any cap and trade program will have a significant negative economic impact on the Commonwealth's industrial, manufacturing, and transportation sectors; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Indiana County recognize that the Pennsylvania General Assembly's authority is required for the Commonwealth to join and implement the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or any cap and trade program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Indiana County Commissioners urge communities throughout Pennsylvania to work to educate all elected officials and the Governor on the economic impacts associated with a cap and trade program such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

RESOLVED, the Indiana County Commissioners recognize that a tax on natural gas, coal and coal refuse generation would be counterproductive to Pennsylvania's economy, and specifically impact communities like Indiana County which would be economically devastated by electric generation plant closures.

RESOLVED, the Indiana County Commissioners applaud the efforts of our local legislatures to enact legislation to protect electric generation in Pennsylvania and, preserve family sustaining jobs in our communities and ensure the availability of affordable electricity for our residents.

RESOLVED, the Indiana County Commissioners urge that the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania be invited to be part of any discussion on this matter.

RESOLVED, the Indiana County Commissioners urge the Governor of Pennsylvania to rescind executive order 2019-07 and work collaboratively with the General Assembly and communities who rely on the economic benefits of electric generation before considering membership in RGGI and the implementation of a carbon tax on emissions.

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2019.

INDIANA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael A. Baker, Chairman

Rodney D. Ruddock, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk

Sherene Hess, Commissioner

Mr. Ruddock said "I think the intentions are good, but what's going to happen is that you will have a lot of our plants closing because they won't be able to afford the taxation and still be operational. If they leave Indiana County, there will be a serious dent in property tax because it will devastate the base of our property tax in many of our communities. When you do something like this, there is an impact on communities like Indiana County where the complementary organizations, trucks, the people that support the coal-mining industry in Indiana County will be affected by this." Mr. Ruddock also added that the resolution signifies a call for education of the public and political leaders to the potential impact of RGGI on Indiana County and other communities that fact plant closures.

Commissioner Hess said "I support this resolution because the initiative could have devastating effects on local economies and because I support the workers that are involved in this industry. But I also want to say that, increasingly, climate change is a concern to many Pennsylvanians and many in Indiana County and we have to find a way to deal with it. I do not think the

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a fair way to deal with it because it will have a disproportionate impact on counties like Indiana County and we already have taken many hits to our economies. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest producer of carbon-dioxide emissions and we need to urge our elected officials to work on the solutions that will address this problem. I have spent my career working on cleaning up the effects of the extraction industries, and doing that for the reasons that it beautifies, and brings tourism dollars and cleans our air, water and soil. I agree with the statements and facts in the resolution and support it, but we do need to applaud our elected officials who are trying to find solutions to climate change issues because it will affect us all. The world is moving toward a cleaner energy economy, and I hope Pennsylvania and counties will move along with it.”

BOARD APPOINTMENT...INDIANA COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICES

AUTHORITY (ICMSA)

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve the board appointment of Brad Martineau, Indiana, PA to the Indiana County Municipal Services Authority (ICMSA); term to expire January, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ruddock read a proclamation in honor of Mr. Baker’s last meeting with the Board of Commissioners and congratulated his achievements, commended his service to Indiana County and offered personal gratitude and best wishes for his continued journey. Mr. Baker said “I’ve had an enormous privilege and pleasure serving as County Commissioner and before that as County Coroner. I have been blessed to work with three outstanding partners and colleagues – Rod Ruddock, Sherene Hess and Patty Evanko.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...NOVEMBER 13, 2019 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners’ Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 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 11:33 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman