

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2019

Commissioner Chairman Michael A. Baker called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:48 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...SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were two Executive Sessions held since the last meeting:

October 9, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. to discuss a legal issue for EMA.

October 9, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss a legal issue for Conservation District.

MARY KINKEL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE...BARBARA RADO

The Commissioners recognized Barbara Rado, Domestic Relation Section, for receiving the Mary Kinkel Award for Excellence. This award is for DRS staff members throughout the Commonwealth who have demonstrated a commitment to the PA Child Support Program beyond the scope of their normal duties.

PACAH ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR 2019...KIMBERLY COBAUGH

The Commissioners recognized Kimberly Cobaugh, Indian Haven, for was recently named the Administrator of the Year by the Pennsylvania Coalition of Affiliated Healthcare & Living Communities.

PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to proclaim October 21 – 27, 2019 National Business Women's Week and recognized the critical role women have played in the development and success of Indiana County's business community.

PROCLAMATION...HONORING OUR INDIANA COUNTY VETERANS

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to proclaim Saturday, December 14, 2019, as Honor Our Indiana County

Veterans Day and ask Indiana County residents to support the effort of laying ceremonial wreaths at the Indiana County Courthouse Veterans Wall and cemeteries throughout Indiana County.

PROCLAMATION...THE WALL THAT HEALS

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Ruddock, a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to recognize The Wall that Heals. This is a traveling exhibit that will be in Indiana County October 10 – 13, 2019 in Mack Park. The Wall that Heals features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. It honors the men and women who sacrificed themselves in the Vietnam War. The board thanked Wesley Wertz for organizing the visit to Indiana County.

PROCLAMATION...COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Hess, a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to proclaim the month of October as Community Planning Month in Indiana County. October has been designated as National Community Planning Month by the American Planning Association (APA) as a way to highlight the role of planners and planning in each community. This year's theme, "Planning for Infrastructure that Benefits All," highlights how well-planned infrastructure projects (including roadways, transportation systems, housing, parks, and even broadband networks) strengthen communities, boost the economy, expand opportunity, and promote equitable development.

The month-long celebration is an opportunity to recognize how planning shapes Indiana County and the work of planners and the planning profession in creating communities of lasting value. Our County Commissioners and our award-winning Planning Department work with our residents, community-based organizations, schools, businesses and community leaders of all kinds in the 38 municipalities of Indiana County and at the regional, state and federal level to ensure that the needs of all county residents are addressed.

AGREEMENT...PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES / COMMUNITIES AT INDIAN HAVEN

At the request of Kimberly Cobaugh, Indian Haven, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve an agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and Indiana County. This agreement provides for Intergovernmental transfers of funds to DHS in order to provide the non-federal share of Medical Assistance payments to county nursing facilities.

AGREEMENT...GRACE BIBLE CHAPEL / DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Maureen Pounds, Department of Human Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement between the Grace Bible Chapel and the County for their participation in Project SHARE. Project SHARE is a collaborative effort by organizations and the faith community to share resources and information to help residents of the county in need.

CONTRACT...TEXTBEHIND, INC. / JAIL

At the request of Jillian George, County Jail, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve a contract with TextBehind that provides contraband-free communications between inmates and their family and friends using printed mail generated using-computers and hand-held devices with internet browsing capabilities. The TextBehind system performs mail-screening functions to ensure that no contraband items such as

narcotics are transmitted to the prison mailroom. The system also enables correctional facilities to monitor and manage Inmate communications in real time, and incorporates robust investigative search features. There is no cost to the county for use of the system.

AGREEMENT...WESTMORELAND COUNTY / JAIL

At the request of Jillian George, County Jail, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Westmoreland County for the housing of youthful offenders at the rate of \$199.00 per day per youthful offender.

POLLING PLACE CHANGE...CHERRYHILL #2

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the polling place change for Cherryhill #2 from the Mahoning Hills Senior Center to the Clymer Fire Department. This change is being made because of concerns of parking at the Mahoning Hills Senior Center.

LETTER OF SUPPORT...FEDERAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM.

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to send a letter of support regarding pending federal legislation that would create a zero-tax credit program to provide relief to the coal mine site cleanup industry. The endorsement comes at the request of the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association, a trade association representing coal refuse reclamation to energy industry. The tax credits would enable mine site remediation companies to conduct their activities as cost-effectively as possible. It's a 10-year program beginning in 2019 that would provide a \$12 ton credit for each ton of coal refuse removed through this program.

CONTRACT AWARD...INDIANA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE PROJECT / PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, explained the commissioners previously tabled bids received for the Indiana County Conservation District Office Project. Bids were opened on August 21, 2019 and have been subsequently tabled over the last few weeks with the intent to award at this meeting. However, there are still issues with site control that have not been resolved with the Technology Center and solicitors. Mr. Stauffer asked the board to table the bids and to seek authorization to reach out to the contractors, based on county code, to seek a written mutual 30-day extension and have the attorney's finalize the land lease and the authorization to have the site control with approval either at a special meeting or the next Commissioners Public meeting. Commissioner Ruddock said there is no one more disappointed than him that we cannot move forward to award the contracts. However, he thanked Attorney Budash for making sure we have what is needed in place before award is approved. If you don't have a site approved, it's pretty hard to approve four contracts to low bidders to bring their equipment in and when the site is not finalized yet.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to table award of the bids until such time a land lease is finalized and then move rapidly to move forward.

Ms. Hess said this is an investment in the future for education and workforce development in conservation and agricultural needs in Pennsylvania and Indiana County. Mr. Baker said if we could move forward today with approval, we would but we need the paperwork necessary to get it done. Beth Marshall from the Conservation District thanked the board for support and continued work to get the project done.

COURTHOUSE CLOSED...MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 2019 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

Commissioner Baker announced the courthouse will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2019 in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...OCTOBER 23, 2019 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 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 11:40 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman