



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Belleville, PA 16823

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:00 AM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator John Franek Jr., Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Lee Sheaffer, Krista Davis, and Deb Smeal.

Guests present included Scott Rhoat, Connie Holt, Sharon Nilson, Josh Fremburg, Rich Kelley, Scott Rawson, Marie Librizzi, Michelle Shellberg, Jen Delantonio, Mike Hawbaker, Joe Hall, Bill Becker, Fred Gay, Connie Holt, Debra Smeal, Jody Reese, Kathy Davies, Alan Moise, Alexandra Llyod, Alfred Franklin, Mike Hawbaker and Jim Willshier

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson, Halie Kines and Maria Cade.

C-NET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions made to the Agenda.

V. MEETING MINUTES

VI. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 25 of 2023 – Scott Rhoat, Connie Holt, Sharon Nilson, Josh Fremburg, Rich Kelley, Scott Rawson, and Deb Smeal joined the Board in proclaiming May 21-27, 2023 as “Emergency Medical Services Week” in Centre County.

Scott Rhoat thanked the Board for the Proclamation and this year’s theme is “EMS, where emergency care begins.” Scott stated there are 13 licensed EMS agencies in Centre County that respond to about 68 EMS calls each day, and 25,000 responses annually in Centre County. EMS personnel are usually the first people on the scene other than family members. Scott Rawson also thanked the Board for recognizing EMS Week. Scott spoke about annual memberships with local EMS providers that range from \$40 to \$60 that help with out-of-pocket expenses. In 2022 there were 7,123 responses in Centre County with 770 of those calls outside of their service area. He also stated that their volunteer core

went from 10,500 to 5,000. Connie Holt with Pine Glen QRS spoke and stated everyone with Pine Glen QRS are all strictly volunteers.

The Board thanked all of the EMS providers and everything that they continue to do for Centre County.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 25 of 2023 proclaiming May 21-27, 2023 as "Emergency Medical Services Week" in Centre County.

VII. ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2 [sic] of 2023 – Responsible Contractor Ordinance – An Ordinance providing for the adoption of certain procedures related to the solicitation and award of Centre County Government public construction contracts valued at \$250,000 or more.

Administrator John Franek Jr. gave a brief overview of the Ordinance and explained the changes that were made to the Ordinance over the past few months after several work sessions were held. The changes were relative to the following: the definition of prefabrication, training and certification, subcontractor responsibility requirements in the terms of submitting a subcontractor list within 30 days compared to 14 days, and waiver of requirements.

Commissioner Concepcion noted this Ordinance protects both the County and workers on larger projects projected at over \$250,000. It is establishing benchmarks for participating in apprenticeship programs that are registered with the state to ensure that quality work in highly skilled and technical fields are being done on projects.

Commissioner Dershem stated he is not in favor of the Ordinance. He also commented on the list of qualified workers that will limit the availability of local contractors on future Government projects in Centre County.

Commissioner Higgins reiterated this Ordinance only applies to Centre County Government projects over \$250,000. He stated that right now if they get a low bid, they have to take it even if the contractor hasn't performed well. There is an option that if there are no bids received or only one bid received above the budget that they are able to waive the ordinance and put the project back out to bid.

Commissioner Dershem commented on the prices that will be driven up for the off-site fabrication of goods and is unsure of what is driving this Ordinance and suggested that the Board table this item.

Commissioner Concepcion stated that she did some research and she found that these ordinances are not uncommon. She found that the ordinances did not have an impact on the price of public projects.

Mike Hawbaker with Glenn O. Hawbaker gave public comment on the EMR that has been removed and questioned on the fabrication language in the current Ordinance.

Michelle Schellberg of Halfmoon Township gave public comment on how the Ordinance will limit jobs in Centre County and increase taxpayers' costs.

Fred Gay of Benner Township gave public comment on conflict of interest of the Board and the Ordinance.

Alexandra Lloyd with Centre County PA of Realtors gave public comment on how the Ordinance will eliminate local contractors and impact affordable housing costs in Centre County and recommends an amended Ordinance be considered.

Marie Librizzi gave public comment on the Ordinance and the concern for the off-site fabrication language.

Jim Willshier of Associated Builders and Contractors Keystone Chapter gave public comment on numerous aspects of how the Ordinance will negatively impact the County.

Jen Delantonio of Rush Township gave public comment on the 70% apprenticeship threshold.

Joe Hall of Huntingdon County with Local 520 Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union out of Harrisburg gave public comment on how the Ordinance protects the County and also ensures the County receives a quality product.

Commissioner Dershem stated the Ordinance is unfair and discriminates against several Centre County contractors.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted 2:1 with Commissioner Higgins opposed to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 2 [sic] of 2023.

VIII. BIDS AND PROPOSALS

- A. Centre County Courthouse Retaining Wall Reconstruction IFB – Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve a contract with JG Contracting Company, Inc. to provide a design-build and construction of the retaining walls on the north and south sides of the existing Courthouse building for a total of \$2,141,300.00 - Dept 971.

Jen Delantonio gave public comment on the bids received for the retaining wall IFB.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted 2:1 with Commissioner Dershem opposed to approve the contract with JG Contracting Company, Inc. pending solicitor review.

IX. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATION

- A. District Attorney – Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve a contract with Thomson Reuters/Westlaw-Proflex to provide access to a multitude of online legal research data including, but not limited to, all State and Federal cases, statutes, regulations, administrative decisions and directives. The contract total is \$23,507.88 for the period of August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024 – Dept. 221.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract with Thomson Reuters/Westlaw-Proflex to next week's Consent Agenda.

- B. MDJ-Centre Hall 49-3-04 – Lee Sheaffer asked the Board to approve a contract with Stoltzfus Bros Construction LLC to replace the roof at the Centre Hall MDJ Building. The contract total is \$15,736 – Dept 256.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract with Stoltzfus Bros Construction LLC to next week's Consent Agenda.

- C. Risk Management – Krista Davis asked the Board to approve a contract renewal with PA Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) to provide property/causality insurance. The contract total is \$472,133 for the period of June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024 – Dept 112.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract with PCoRP to next week's Consent Agenda.

Human Services

- D. Adult Services – Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle asked the Board to approve the second change to the FY 2021-2022 Human Services Block Grant I&E Report. Due to a miscalculation, additional funds were available in FY 2020-2021 Retained Earnings; therefore, the Retained Earnings plan for FY 2021-2022 needed to be updated. Additional funds were added into staff salaries and benefits. The grant total is \$6,150,312 funded as follows: State \$5,892,657 and County Match \$257,655 for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept 501.

Julia stated the report was off by \$53,364 for the benefit of the County and requires the Boards' signatures in order to resubmit the report.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change to the FY 2021-2022 Human Services Block Grant I&E Report.

- E. MH/ID EI- D&A – Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle asked the Board to approve an Addendum #1 with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to provide additional funds for early intervention services in the amount of \$100,000. Service provider's contract maximum will increase from \$300,000 to \$400,000. The contract total is \$400,000 funded as follows: State \$360,000 and County Match \$40,000 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 561.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract addendum #1 with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to next week's Consent Agenda.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve this week's Consent Agenda.

- A. 9-1-1 Emergency Communications – Consider approval of an agreement with PennDOT to provide the Commonwealth's PennDOT traffic cameras from its transportation management systems. This will be beneficial to the efficient and safe operations of Pennsylvania highway systems. This agreement will remain in effect from the time of signature until either party provides 24 hours' written notice to terminate. There is no charge for the county with this agreement – Dept. 354.
- B. Planning & Community Development – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with McDonald's USA, LLC for the "Final Land Development Plan – McDonald's L/C 37-2172" located in Benner Township; CCPCDO File No. 53-23. This proposal constitutes a Final Plan submission showing the development of a 4,285 square foot McDonald's restaurant along with corresponding infrastructure located at the corner of Benner Pike (State Route 0150) and Paradise Road (State Route 3004) – Dept 151.

Human Services

A. MH/ID EI- D&A

- i. Consider approval of a contract addendum No.1 with Care for People Plus, Inc. to allow funds to provide additional home and community support services and adding transportation services in the amount of \$11,500. The contract maximum will increase from \$23,000 to \$34,500. The contract total is \$34,500 funded as follows: State \$32,910 and County Match \$1,590 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 561.
- ii. Consider approval of a referral agreement with Crossroads Counseling, Inc. to provide referrals of clients who meet eligibility requirements to mental health and drug and alcohol services. There is no contract total for the period of February 3, 2023 to February 2, 2025 – Dept 561/562.

-----END OF CONSENT-----

XI. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$1,259,950.47 dated May 19, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated May 19, 2023.

XII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XIII. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

B. Announcements

- i. Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day.
- ii. The Board of Commissioners and Salary Board meetings on Thursday, June 1, 2023 have been CANCELLED.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XV. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Board of Commissioners Work Session – 11:45 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections – 3:00 PM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Finance Committee – 9 AM – Willowbank 146

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections – 3:00 PM – Willowbank 146

XVI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

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XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 11:43 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator