



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

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

Amended May 23, 2020

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:02 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Pipe asked for a moment of silence for those who have been lost to COVID-19.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray and Solicitor Elizabeth Dupuis.

County personnel present included Sheriff Bryan Sampsel and Tom Martin.

Guests present included Dave Schultz and Mike Hawbaker.

Representatives from the news media included Evan Hinkley and Gary Sinderson.

CNET staff were present.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Dave Schultz of Howard offered comment regarding the green phase of re-opening Centre County.

### IV. MEETING MINUTES

- A. Minutes from the Tuesday, May 19, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting.*

- B. Board of Commissioners Meeting on Friday, May 22, 2020. Commissioner Pipe asked the Board to consider minutes from the meeting held on Friday, May 22. He cited Act 15 of 2020 § 5741. Response to COVID-19 disaster emergency. Subsection (d) Minutes.--The draft minutes of a meeting called under exigent circumstances, without advance notice to the public, to address any issue related to the Governor's disaster emergency declaration related to COVID-19 shall be posted within 20 days after the meeting or before the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever is earlier. Commissioner Dershem asked for an opportunity to review the draft minutes

before taking any action. Commissioner Higgins asked for declaration by the County Solicitor if this is better classified by an Executive Session as opposed to a public meeting.

Solicitor Betsy Dupuis said in her understanding this is an Executive Session as there was no deliberation and the discussion was personnel related. Minutes are not recorded for an Executive Session. Commissioner Dershem and Commissioner Higgins agreed that it be classified as an Executive Session.

V. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation No. 14 of 2020 – Proclaiming May as Foster Care Awareness Month in Centre County. There are 90 children and youth in foster care within Centre County. Commissioner Higgins expressed genuine appreciation for foster families and their wonderful work.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation No. 14 of 2020.*

VI. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

A. Personnel

i. Public Defender

1. The reinstatement of Summer Corl, Paralegal, from fulltime furlough to regular full-time status effective May 25, 2020, pay period 12 - Dept. 132
2. The reinstatement of Kate Hull, Investigator, from fulltime furlough to regular full-time status effective May 25, 2020, pay period 12 - Dept. 132
3. The reinstatement of Janet L. Poorman, Legal Secretary II, from fulltime furlough to regular full-time status effective May 25, 2020, pay period 12 - Dept. 132

*On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to table items 1 and 3.*

*On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reinstatement of Kate Hull.*

B. Reopening Centre County

Commissioner Dershem asked the Board to consider a petition to Governor Wolf allowing Centre County to move to the green phase of re-opening effective Friday, May 29, 2020 following all COVID-19 health and safety guidelines as set forth by the PA Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Commissioner Higgins offered thanks to the residents who contacted him to offer their opinions on moving to the green phase. The Governor's staff allowed 90

minutes for a recommendation. The Board asked the Governor asked if he would delay the green phase until June 3 after the Primary Election. After careful reconsideration he is supportive of the Board asking Governor Wolf to allow Centre County to move to the green phase on Friday, May 29.

Commissioner Pipe asked that since Centre County does not have a health department, they should not be part of the decision making going forward. The decision made was based on concern for the health and safety for the citizens of Centre County and potential of community spread on Election Day.

Commissioner Dershem said there was nothing nefarious about anything that occurred, it was genuine concern for the citizens of Centre County. The way the situation was presented at the State level was not helpful. He encouraged everyone to stay serious about this and continue hand washing and sanitizing, be smart and be safe.

Mike Hawbaker of Patton Township offered public comment.

*On a motion by Commissioner Dershem, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to petition Governor Wolf to allow Centre County to move to the green phase on May 29.*

#### VII. CONTRACTS

Risk Management - Liability, property, and crime insurance policy renewal through Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP). The total cost is \$385,014 for the period of June 1, 2020 through June 1, 2021. This represents a 14% increase over the previous fiscal year, nearly \$40,000 over budget – Dept. 112.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the policy renewal through PCoRP to next week's Consent Agenda.*

#### VIII. GRANTS

A. Elections - Director of Financial Management Tom Martin presented the following items:

i. Application and Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State for CARES Act Grant Funds to be expended from March 28, 2020 until December 31, 2020 – Dept. 131.

ii. Application and Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State for HAVA Act Grant Funds to be expended from December 21, 2019 until December 31, 2022 – Dept. 131.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve submission of the grant applications and agreements to the Pennsylvania Department of State.*

B. Risk Management – Administrator Margaret Gray sked the Board to consider submission of a grant application to Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) in the amount of \$10,500. This project includes hand railings to the lower Willowbank

Building, emergency evacuation chairs, bag valve masks, reconstruction of a ramp at the MDJ Centre Hall. The project total is \$20,000 submitted in two parts, \$9,500 has already been spent - Dept. 112.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add submission of the grant application to next week's Consent Agenda*

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Capital Projects - Access License Agreement between Centre County Solar Partners, LLC ("Aggregator") and the County of Centre ("Owner"). The agreement allows Centre County Solar Partners the right and license for ingress and egress to the Site to install, operate, maintain, and service the System and an electricity line to the System. The term of this agreement commences on April 24, 2020 and shall continue for a period of up to twenty-five (25) years, subject to termination provisions- Dept. 971.
- B. Emergency Communications - Contract renewal with Breon's Inc. to provide generator maintenance for all 911 tower sites and the Willowbank tower. The contract total is \$12,248.87 for the period of June 9, 2020 through June 8, 2021- Dept. 971.
- C. GRANTS
  - i. Planning - Submission of Payment Request #1 to the Department of Community and Economic (DCED) for disbursement of funds from the Chesapeake Bay Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grant - Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan in the amount of \$25,000 - Dept. 151.

X. LETTER OF SUPPORT

Commissioner Higgins asked the Board to consider a letter of support for Appalachian Food Works to submit a grant application to the US Department of Agriculture. They are proposing to use \$6,250 of the \$10,000 allocated by the Board with the adoption of the County's 2020 budget. On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the letter of support.

XI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XII. LIQUID FUELS

XIII. FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$666,860.98 dated May 22, 2020.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

PAGE 5

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated May 22, 2020.*

XVI. C-NET REQUESTS

XVII. RECOGNITION

XVIII. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reminded voters that the General Primary is next Tuesday, June 2.

B. Announcements

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

The Board met in executive session on Friday, May 22 from 12:44 to 1:05 PM and again from 2:56 to 3:05 PM. The Board will meet in executive session following this meeting.

XX. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

BOC/Salary Board Meeting- 10:00 AM - 146WB

Board of Elections - 1:00 PM - Room 146WB

Thursday, May 28, 2020

BOC/Salary Board Meeting- 10:00 AM - 146WB

XXI. BID / PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

XXII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

GENERAL PRIMARY

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. Must be received by 8PM.

XXIII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

A. Evan Hinkley

i. Does the Board have a guarantee that the Governor will honor the request to go green on Friday?

B. Gary Sinderson

i. Do you have any concerns or worries that you have lost the confidence of the business leaders in the County?

ii. Are there any other issues that the Board would be in dispute with?

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

PAGE 6

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 11:04 AM.

ATTEST:

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Margaret N. Gray  
Administrator