



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Virtual – Zoom

To join the meeting please visit: www.centrecountypa.gov/zoom.

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<http://www.centrecountypa.gov/AgendaCenter>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:00 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Jill Savage, Travis Walker, Controller Jason Moser, Ray Stolinas, Krista Davis, Diana Griffith, Betsy Barndt, Human Service Administrator Natalie Corman, Kristen Simkins, Jury Commissioner Laura Shadle, and Ryan Smeltzer and Betsy Barndt.

Representatives from the news media included Marley Parish and Chris Morelli.

Guests present included Denise McCann, Peyton Kennedy, Maddie King, Jorge Simental, Michelle Mitinger, Theresa Kieffer, Zack, Vernel Smith, iPad (8).

CNET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Higgins offered public comment regarding violence and racist hate.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Tuesday, December 29, 2020 and Tuesday, January 5, 2021 Board of Commissioners' meetings.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 29, 2020 and January 5, 2021 Board of Commissioners' meetings.*

V. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 1 of 2021 – Denise McCann of the Centre County Youth Service Bureau joined the Board in proclaiming the month of January as Mentoring Month in Centre County. The Youth Service Bureau is looking for caring adults who want to be a voice of support for children. With COVID-19, they are experiencing extra need.

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She thanked everyone for all that they do for Centre County kids and families.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation No. 1 of 2021.*

VI. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

A. AMI Testing Site

Since October 27, over 8,139 tests have been administered by the COVID-19 testing site. Administrator Margaret Gray introduced medical director Dr. Jorge Simental. AMI has been providing healthcare solutions for fourteen years. Commissioner Dershem asked Dr. Simental about concerns regarding the turnaround time to receive testing data. Dr. Simental apologized, using two Pennsylvania laboratories they were affected by the increased number of nursing home testing. Contacting new labs, they do not expect to have issues moving forward. AMI nurse, Michelle [REDACTED], advised citizens that the easiest way to treat the virus is prevention. She recommends patients remain in isolation until they receive their test results. Testing is performed free of charge; patients are required to complete a demographic form with their contact information prior to receiving a test.

Margaret announced that the AMI testing site will move from the Nittany Mall to 1155 Benner Pike, Suite 120, which is known by many as the former Comcast location.

B. COVID-19 Leave Policy proposed revisions

The COVID-19 Leave Policy was revised in early December to align with CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines. Director of Human Resources Kristen Simkins reported that the Families First Corona Relief Act was set to sunset on December 31, 2020. The stimulus bill adopted at the end of December allows employers to provide the paid sick leave benefit and emergency FMLA for school closures through March 31 at their discretion. Commissioner Pipe offered that it would make sense to continue the benefit, Commissioner Higgins and Dershem agreed. On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to extend the COVID-19 Leave Policy directive through March 31, 2021.

VII. GRANTS

- A. Probation** – Director Ryan Smeltzer presented a grant award notification from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for the Juvenile Probation Services Grant. The total award is \$66,935.85 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 – Dept. 301.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the grant award notification from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.*

B. Human Services

- i. Aging** – Human Service Administrator Natalie Corman presented a grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Departments of Human

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Services and Aging to provide the Medical Assistance Information and Referral services, Aging and Disability Resource Center/PA Link Program services and the Nursing Home Transition services to consumers and participants in need of long-term services and supports. The grant total is to be determined with the State budget for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 – Dept. 521.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Departments of Human Services and Aging.*

- C. **Planning** – DCED announced a revision to the Community Development Block Grant FFY 2020 allocation. This has revised all entitlement allocations with Centre County's additional allocation in the amount of \$109 and on behalf of Bellefonte Borough \$22. The recommendation is to increase the Penn Township project amount by \$109 for a revised total of \$209,167.00 and the Bellefonte Borough Streetscape Safety project by \$22 – Dept. 817.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve revised allocations for the CDBG 2020 FFY Penn Township and on behalf of Bellefonte Borough Streetscape projects.*

VIII. CONTRACTS

A. Planning

- i. Diana Griffith asked the Board to consider certifying appropriations for the 2021 Program Year of the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Appropriations include \$80,000 standard County allocation, \$9,548.03 in 2020 Clean and Green interest, no commitment from Ferguson Township under MPP, and no commitment from Potter Township under MPP; a total of \$89,548.03. To date, the Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has created 55 agricultural conservation easements in seven townships, a total of 8,205 acres. Tomorrow, the Board will close on an 81.75-acre farm in Potter Township. There are also two Ferguson Township farms approved for later this year– Dept. 846.
- ii. Betsy Barndt asked the Board to consider submission of the 2021 Fair Housing Annual Report to the Department of Community and Economic Development – Dept. 151.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add certification of appropriations for the 2021 Agricultural Land Preservation Program and submission of the 2021 Fair Housing Annual Report to next week's Consent Agenda.*

- B. **Risk Management** – Krista Davis asked the Board to consider submission of an Insurance Renewal Application to the Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) to

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establish rates for 2021-2022 – Dept. 112.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the PCoRP 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 except for item E. Recorder of Deeds.

- A. Resolution 1 of 2021– Authorizing Margaret N. Gray Administrator and Chief Clerk the authority to execute financial documents not to exceed \$10,000 on behalf of the County of Centre – Dept. 111.
- B. Resolution 2 of 2021 – Authorizing submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for Federal fiscal year 2020 under the Community Development Block Grant Program and certify compliance with requirements of the program – Dept. 151.
- C. GRANTS
 - i. Planning
 - 1. Disclosure Report for the Haines-Aaronsburg water well rehabilitation project certifying Centre County Government as the Grantee, Haines-Aaronsburg Municipal Authority as Sub-Grantee and SEDA COG as Grant Administrator. The total Community Development Block Grant – Competitive Grant requested is \$1,148,650 – Dept. 151.
 - 2. General application certifications for the Community Development Block Grant Program for the year 2020C – Dept. 151.
 - 3. Certification of completion of a four-factor analysis for limited English proficiency persons and certification of the activities to be included in the language access plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program – Dept. 151.
- D. Planning - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Centre Regional Planning Agency establishing joint rights and responsibilities of each party in completing transportation and project development activities on behalf of the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO). The County's contribution for the MOU is \$134,336 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 151.
- E. Recorder of Deeds – Proposal from RBA Professional Data Systems, Inc. to develop a recording notification service by April 30, 2021 at a total cost of \$9,885 – Dept. 133.

X. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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ABC	Name	Action	Term
SEDA COG Board of Directors	Mark Higgins	Re-Appointment	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
SEDA COG Board of Directors	Lisa Strickland	Re-Appointment	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
Higher Education Authority	Theodore McDowell	Re-Appointment	January 1, 2021 - December
Hospital Authority	Richard Wisniewski	Appointment	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2023
Hospital Authority	Kelsye Stott	Appointment	January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2025

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ABC re-appointments and appointments.*

XI. LETTER OF SUPPORT

XII. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Resolution 2 of 2020 Fourth Quarter Report

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that thirty items were approved in the 4th quarter in accordance with Resolution 2 of 2020.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$788,483.57 dated January 8, 2021.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated January 8, 2021.*

XVI. C-NET REQUESTS

XVII. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported 105,414 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is #6 Centre Hall Borough. In the General Election there were 930 registered voters with 790 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 84.95%.

B. Announcements

Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XIX. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

To view a recording of previous meetings, visit <http://www.centrecountypa.gov/2176/Remote-Public-Meetings>.

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Prison Board of Inspectors – 8:00 AM - Virtual

Board of Commissioners/Salary Board – 10 AM – Virtual

Board of Assessment – 11:00 AM – Virtual

Retirement Board – 1:00 PM - Virtual

XX. BID / PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

XXI. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

XXII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:02 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator