



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Virtual – Zoom

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

[Register](#) online to receive a notification when meeting agendas are posted. Previously recorded Board of Commissioners' meetings can be viewed [here](#).

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, Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Jeff Wharran, Kristen Simkins, Travis Walker, Norm Spackman, Ray Stolinis, Chad Joyce and Deb Smeal.

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

Guests present included Donna Smith and Mitzi Gallagher Long.

CNET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Tuesday, January 26, 2021 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 January 26, 2021 Board of Commissioners' meeting.*

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V. ANNOUNCEMENT

2021 Emergency Responder Scholarship Program

Commissioner Higgins announced that the Centre County Board of Commissioners are offering \$15,000 for the 2021 Emergency Responder Scholarships. Individuals may apply to receive up to \$2,000 for attendance at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology, South Hills or the Phlebotomy Institute of Central Pennsylvania.

Deb Smeal, Deputy Coroner of Centre County, and Director at the Phlebotomy Institute of Central Pennsylvania. A phlebotomist is a front-line worker in a hospital's laboratory setting to perform a blood draw for medical testing. Instruction includes how to properly and safely use needles, lancets and butterflies to collect samples, as well as the different types of collection tubes to use for appropriate tests. Upon completion of the course, students are issued a diploma. The course objective is to prepare students to gain employment as an entry-level phlebotomist. Classes are offered semi-annually in March and September.

VI. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Administrator Margaret Gray announced that the COVID-19 testing site reopens today on the Benner Pike.

VII. CONTRACTS

- A. Emergency Communications – Director Norm Spackman introduced a proposal from Mission Critical Partners for the Southern Alleghenies 911 Cooperative grant projects including the regional CAD project \$10,000, regional ALI service project \$16,140 and the regional ESINet port monitoring project \$19,053.25. Mission Critical Partners will provide support related to technology, planning, evaluation, procurement, configuration, migration, transition and implementation support. The project total is \$45,193.25, which is funded through a PEMA grant for the period of February 9, 2021 through February 8, 2022 – Dept. 354.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the proposal from Mission Critical Partners to next week's Consent Agenda.*

VIII. GRANTS

- A. Emergency Management – Director Jeff Wharran asked the Board to endorse the submission of the Hazardous Material Emergency Response Preparedness assessment for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 – Dept. 352.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the proposal from Hazardous Material Emergency Response Preparedness assessment to next week's Consent Agenda.*

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B. Planning – Director Ray Stolinas and SEDA COG’s Mitzi Gallagher Long presented the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Response (CDBG-CV) subrecipient agreements for the period of December 10, 2020 through October 31, 2022.

- i. Seven Mountains EMS Council in the amount of \$40,875 – Dept. 817.
- ii. Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) in the amount of \$10,000 – Dept. 817.
- iii. Centre Safe in the amount of \$10,000 – Dept. 817.
- iv. Centre Helps in the amount of \$45,377 – Dept. 817.
- v. Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County (CBICC) in the amount of \$43,300 – Dept. 817.
- vi. Bellefonte Borough in the amount of \$59,974 – Dept. 817.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the CDBG-CV Subrecipient Agreements with Seven Mountains EMS Council, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, Centre Safe, Centre Helps, CBICC, and Bellefonte Borough.*

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Capital Projects – Contract with Watkins Security, LLC to perform the services outlined in the RFP – Centre County Camera Project in the amount of \$480,576.10 – Dept. 971.
- B. Planning – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Final Land Development Plan - Premier RV Storage located in Potter Township; CCPCDO File No. 125-20. This proposal constitutes a Final Plan submission showing the development of a single building, being 81’x 235’ (19,035 square feet) along with corresponding infrastructure (i.e., lighting, storm water facilities, on-site sanitary sewer and on-site water supply, access road, etc..) on Tax Parcel No. 20-8-7P, lands of Scott A. & Kimberly A. Burk. The building will comprise five (5) uses / offices with one of those being an RV Storage Facility. The other four (4) offices will be leased to prospective tenants for spate businesses.
- C. Probation – Owner county agreement with the Central Counties Youth Center, a juvenile detention center jointly owned by Centre, Clinton, Clearfield, Huntingdon, and Mifflin Counties. The contract total is \$136,081, which funded as follows: State \$68,040.50 and County \$68,040.50 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 305.

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D. Sheriff – Software Maintenance Agreement with Teleosoft, Inc. to provide the Sheriff's Countysuite software for civil and warrant process for all records. The contract total is \$12,721 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 211.

E. GRANTS

i. Emergency Communications – Grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for Statewide Interconnectivity Projects. This is the third Southern Alleghenies Cooperative (SAC) project grant. This grant will fund the ESInet connectivity maintenance project (\$11,804), CHE and ALI Maintenance (\$114,434), SCM Protocol Maintenance (\$2,000), and SAC 911 Regional CAD (\$205,107). The grant total is \$333,344.93, which is State funded for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 354.

ii. Planning – Submission of Application for Payment #1 to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Budget Office for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) in the amount of \$1,336,616 for Titan Park Plant 1 Improvements – Dept. 151.

X. LETTER OF SUPPORT

XI. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Margaret Gray reported on the sources of funding for the Centre County Camera Project. She proposed a funding breakdown of \$20,000 from the PCoRP annual security grant, \$23,957 from the IT budget and \$4,067.75 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life grant. The total cost of \$480,576.10 will be funded in part from the County's Capital Budget (\$432,557.35) and from the other sources as identified (\$48,018.75). The Board agreed to move forward with the funding as presented.

The Board of Commissioners will be meeting with the State College Borough Council on Friday to identify how each entity will move forward both together and individually on the recommendations received from the Mental Health Task Force.

XIII. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$400,909.26 dated January 29, 2021.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated January 29, 2021.*

XIV. C-NET REQUESTS

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XV. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported 105,319 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is #9 Millheim with 605 registered voters. In the General Election there were 510 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 84.3%.

B. Announcements

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

The Board will meet in executive session following this meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

XVII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10:00 AM – Virtual

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Board of Commissioners/Salary Board – 10:00 AM – Virtual

Friday, February 6, 2021

Joint Work Session with State College Borough – 11:00 AM – Virtual

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Board of Commissioners/Salary Board – 10:00 AM – Virtual

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Prison Board of Inspectors – 8:00 AM - Virtual

Board of Commissioners/Salary Board – 10:00 AM – Virtual

XVIII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

First day to circulate and file nomination petitions.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

First day to file nomination papers.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Last day to file objections to nomination petitions.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions.

XIX. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

There were no questions from the press.

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XX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Dershem discussed closure of Federal Prisons including the GEO prison on the Centre and Clearfield County line. He has received a lot of contact from concerned citizens regarding the loss of many jobs.

Commissioner Pipe suggested employees consider job fairs and employment at other correctional institutions including State and County.

Commissioner Higgins highlighted the importance of economic diversity in Centre County to help citizens continue employment at times like this. Within a short drive of the facility, there are four correctional institutions that citizens may consider for employment.

Commissioner Dershem asked the Board to act and submit correspondence to the Federal Government to express displeasure with this decision. Commissioner Pipe is not in favor of private prisons for incarceration and he would not support keeping them open. Federal prison population has been dropping significantly over the last several years. That being said, Commissioner Higgins is in support of job training and unemployment assistance.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:36 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator