



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 12:00 P.M.

Virtual

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 12:02 PM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

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 Chad Joyce.

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

COVID-19 Hospitality and Industry Recovery Program

Administrator Margert Gray reported that the County received the application on Wednesday of last week and it was submitted within the 24-hour deadline on Thursday. On Friday the County received the agreement on which herself and Commissioner Pipe were authorized signatories, as prescribed by the Commissioners on Thursday. The agreement has been submitted. Yesterday, the County received an invoice document, which now also needs to be approved and sent back to Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in order to receive payment.

Commissioner Pipe stated that the County is looking at contracting with SEDA-COG to perform the administration of the COVID-19 Hospitality and Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP). He asked Commissioner Higgins if he was aware of the timeframe in which SEDA-COG would be sending a contract for the administration services. Commissioner Higgins stated that SEDA-COG has a deadline of this Friday for Counties to respond whether or not they plan on participating. SEDA-COG is currently writing the contract, and they plan to have it available by the end of February.

Commissioner Dershem asked if it was concrete that SEDA-COG would be contracted for the grant administration. Commissioner Pipe confirmed that after discussions with the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership it was

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indicated that the direction should be SEDA-COG. Commissioner Dershem is comfortable with the decision and Commissioner Pipe suggested the Board have an informational meeting with SEDA-COG to understand the parameters of what they are planning on doing, and marketing materials for the application.

Commissioner Higgins reported some confusion about which entity will physically cut the checks and disburse payment to grant recipients. It is difficult to determine the responsible entity based on the way the Act is phrased. CCAP distributed a memo outlining what the Act meant. Executive Director Lisa Shaffer asked her contact at DCED for guidance regarding this matter and hopes to have a response ready by the 3:00 PM meeting. SEDA-COG is under the impression they will be handling all of the grant administration including setting up and monitoring the online application.

Commissioner Higgins stated that the Commissioners are very supportive of the local hospitality industries. Businesses eligible for the CHIRP are motels, hotels, restaurants, bars, and businesses that serve food for pay to the public. Businesses such as truck stops, and gas stations will be looked into further to determine their eligibility. Centre County will have around \$1,839,232 to distribute to between 100 and 200 businesses. CHIRP is more flexible than previous programs, it is possible that businesses that opened as late as February 15, 2020 would be eligible for funding. SEDA-COG hopes to have the application online by March 15 and all funding must be allocated by June 15.

Administrator Margaret Gray asked for confirmation that she has the authority to submit the invoice today. Commissioner Pipe confirmed and the Board was in agreement.

IV. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10:00 AM – Virtual
Employee Benefits Trust – 11:00 AM – Virtual

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Finance Committee – 9:00 AM - Virtual
BOC/Salary Board – 10:00 AM - Virtual

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 PM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator