



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

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

[Register](#) online to receive a notification when meeting agendas are posted.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:01 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins (by phone), Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator John Franek Jr. and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Beth Lechman, Ray Stolinas and Chad Joyce.

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson, Peyton Kennedy and Halie Kines.

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 to the agenda.

V. MEETING MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 and work session held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners meeting and work session.*

VI. PRESENTATION

Electricity Procurement Update

Deputy Administrator John Franek Jr. provided an update on the County's electric energy supply initiatives, through the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute (PSFEI) COSTARS RFQ, Correctional Facility solar array and a Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

PAGE 2

The County's participation in PSFEI's electric procurement RFQ has placed 36 of the County's 39 electric accounts in a new 36-month contract through the end of the 2024 calendar year. Annual savings through this contract total \$1,135.36 with a total three-year savings of \$36,406.38.

The solar array constructed at the Centre County Correctional Facility is producing more energy than it is consuming. Lifetime generation at the end of 2021 included 1,788 solar renewable energy credits (SRECS) sold for \$45,716 in net proceeds and over \$34,000 banked in overproduction proceeds with Constellation. This account returned to West Penn Power in January.

The County has elected to participate in the investigation of a SPAA spearheaded by the State College Area School District, led by the GreenSky Development Group.

VII. COVID-19 Planning and Response

CDC's COVID-19 Community Level Recommendations

Administrator Margaret Gray discussed the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The County has aligned as best possible with guidelines from the Center for Disease Control. Recently, they have identified community levels based on the number of hospital beds used, hospital admissions, and the number of new COVID cases.

Centre County is designated as high transmission, which requires mask wearing while in an indoor setting.

On Thursday, the Board will be presented with revisions to the COVID-19 Masking Policy.

As legislative bodies in Washington start to meet without the requirement of masks, Commissioner Dershem urged the Board to consider removing the masking requirement.

Commissioner Pipe said it is time to learn to live with the virus and view it as more of a seasonal illness. If the County falls below 200 cases per 100,000 residents over a seven-day period, we can meet the CDC's community guidelines. The challenge will be the hospital formula to see how many beds the PA Department of Health is county as hospitalizations continue to decrease. Commissioner Higgins asked that the Board continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC, especially in terms of the Correctional Facility.

Action: *Discuss Centre County's COVID-19 community level.*

VIII. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATIONS

- A. Elections – Director of Elections, Beth Lechman introduced a contract with Phoenix Graphics, Inc. to provide absentee and mail-in ballot printing and mailing services for the 2022 General Primary. The contract total is estimated at \$21,000 - Dept. 131.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract with Phoenix Graphics, Inc. to next week's Consent Agenda.*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

PAGE 3

B. Planning

- i. Resolution 4 of 2022 – Authorizing the submission of an application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for funding through the Community Conservation Partnership Program for the Soaring Eagle Wetland Phase 2 Project – Dept. 151.
- ii. Letter in support of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation to extend accessibility improvements in the Soaring Eagle Wetland as Part of its Phase 2 expansion – Dept. 151.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add Planning items i-ii to next week's Consent Agenda.*

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. Facilities

- i. Contract with McGarvey Janitorial Service to provide cleaning services at Magisterial District Office 49-3-03 in Philipsburg. The contract total is \$13,931.76 for the period of March 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 – Dept. 254.
- ii. Contract with Altoona Roofing and Sheet Metal LLC to perform the services outlined in the IFB Centre County Roof Replacement Project. The contract total is \$805,750 – Dept. 971.

B. Human Services

- i. Children and Youth Services – Contract renewal with Devereux Foundation DBA Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health to provide residential services. The contract total is \$65,000, which is funded as follows: State \$39,000 and County \$26,000 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 – Dept. 511.

X. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XI. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$1,152,825.50 dated February 24, 2022.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated February 18, 2022.*

XII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XIII. LETTER OF SUPPORT

Letter in support of the Entrepreneurial pathway (D3 - Discover, Design, Delight) and the IDEA (Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship, Action) Hub for Central Pennsylvania's grant application - Dept. 111.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

PAGE 4

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the letter of support.*

XIV. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported 105,056 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is #54 Haines Township with 793 registered voters. In the Municipal Election there were 295 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 37.2%

B. Announcements

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

The Board will meet in Executive Session following this meeting.

XVI. BID AND PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

RFP – Homemaker Services & OPTIONS Program – Pre-Proposal Meeting – 3 PM - Virtual

Friday, March 18, 2022

RFP – Copier Lease Services – Proposals Due – 4:00 PM

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

RFP – Copier Lease Services – Proposal Opening – 10 AM - Willowbank

Friday, March 25, 2022

RFP – Homemaker Services and OPTIONS Program – Proposals Due – 4 PM

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

RFP – Homemaker Services & OPTIONS Program – Proposal Opening – 10 AM – Willowbank

XVII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Commissioners Work Session – ARPA – 11 AM – Willowbank 146

Retirement Board – 1:30 PM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Board of Commissioners – Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Commissioner Higgins provided comment in regard to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

XVIII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 AM.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

PAGE 5

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray

Administrator