



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

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

Virtual – Zoom

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

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:03 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 Margret Gray, Executive office Supervisor Natalie Smith and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Betsy Barndt, Anne Messner, Faith Ryan, Natalie Corman, Ray Stolinas, Chad Joyce and Travis Walker.

Guests included Jennifer Dellantonio.

Representatives from the news media included Chris Morelli and Marley Parish. C-Net Staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Tuesday, February 23, 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 February 23, 2021 Board of Commissioners' meeting.*

V. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Administrator Margaret Gray announced that the AMI COVID-19 Testing Site reopened this morning. The contract for the walk-in testing site has been extended through March 27. Located at 1155 Benner Pike, Suite 120, the site is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM through 7:00 PM.

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VI. CONTRACTS

- A. Commissioners – Margaret presented an Amendment to the Professional and Administrative Services Agreement with the SEDA Council of Governments (SEDA COG) for the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) Grant. This amendment includes SEDA-COGs preparation and approval of all CHIRP receipts and expenditures. The County agrees to transfer the amount of \$1,839,232 to SEDA COG for the purpose of disbursing such funds to qualified businesses. SEDA COG shall be compensated by the County for its services at a cost of \$340 per application with the total cost not to exceed \$58,855 – Dept. 151.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to the contract amendment with SEDA COG.*

B. Human Services

i. Adult Services

Director Faith Ryan presented the following items:

1. Amendment to the agreement with the Department of Community and Economic Development for the Emergency Solutions Grant – CARES Act (ESG-CV) for the period of July 8, 2020 through January 8, 2022. This amendment reallocates \$115,500 awarded for homeless prevention to the rapid re-housing program - Dept. 501.
2. Submission of Centre County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program plan to the Department of Human Services. The project total is \$10,680,110.74, which is Federally funded for the period of March 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 501.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program was created through the COVID-19 stimulus package to assist individuals and families with rental and utility assistance. This is not a reimbursement type program and Faith explained that the County cannot provide assistance for expenses that have already been paid. Applicants will be required to prove how they have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is no cap for assistance available to an applicant for rent or utilities. For more information residents can visit www.centrecountypa.gov/rentrelief. Similar to the CARES Rent Relief program, the Office of Adult Services will continue to do outreach. It is the responsibility of both the landlord and tenant to submit an application through COMPASS, an online tool the Commonwealth utilizes to apply for health and human service programs.

3. Contract with Service Access and Management, Inc. to provide administrative service assistance and housing stability services for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The contract total is \$5,233,254.27, which is Federally Funded for the period of March 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 501.

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Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to Adult Services items 1-3.*

ii. MH/ID/EI – D&A

Human Service Administrator Natalie Corman presented the following items:

1. Contract addendum with The Advocacy Alliance to allow for State allocations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to provide intellectual disability services to include incident management in the amount of \$10,000. This increases the contract total from \$6,250 to \$16,250, which is funded as follows: State \$15,501 and County \$749 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 – Dept. 561.
2. Contract addendum with Crossroads Counseling, Inc. to allow for State allocations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to provide drug and alcohol services including screening/assessment, outpatient, community-based adolescent programming, recovery house, partial hospitalization, and MAT services in the amount of \$52,083. This will increase the contract total from \$72,917 to \$125,000, which is funded as follows: Federal \$100,000, State \$23,500 and County \$1,500 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 – Dept. 562.
3. Contract addendum with UPMC Home Healthcare of Central Pennsylvania (dba Home Nursing Agency of Centre County) to allow for State allocations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to provide early intervention services to include occupational therapy, physical therapy, special instruction, speech pathology and IFSP teaming in the amount of \$16,667. This increases the contract total from \$8,333 TO \$25,000, which is funded as follows: State \$22,500 and County \$2,500 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 – Dept. 561.
4. Contract addendum with Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. to allow for State allocations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to provide early intervention services to include occupational therapy, special instruction, speech pathology, and IFSP teaming in the amount of \$80,417. This increases the contract total from \$39,583 to \$120,000, which is funded as follows: State \$108,000 and County \$12,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 – Dept. 561.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to MH/ID/EI – D&A items 1-4.*

C. Planning

- i. Director Ray Stolinas presented an Amendment to the Professional and Administrative Services Agreement with the SEDA Council of Governments

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(SEDA COG) to remove Bellefonte Borough and compensation relative to Bellefonte Borough in the 2016 through 2019 agreement. The Borough is managing the administration and utilizing the administration funds for the Talleyrand bridge project. This decreases compensation to SEDA COG from \$125,500 to \$91,600 Dept. 151.

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

ii. Transportation Funding Update

Anne Messner provided a presentation and overview of the County's transportation funding programs. In 2017, the Board of Commissioners established the Fee for Local Use program to enhance the existing Liquid Fuels Program. As of 2020, the County has allocated \$723,000 toward bridge construction and reconstruction projects.

The County has received a request from Snow Shoe Township in the amount of \$56,195 toward milling, paving, scratch coat and shoulder work on Guenot and Walnut Road. Total project cost is \$105,195.

Anne proposed swapping Act 13 allocations with Fee for Local Use to secure RoadMap funding. Each Bridge Bundle project has Act 13 funds designated for preliminary engineering that must be changed prior to PennDOT issuing a notice to proceed. The 2018 Bridge Bundle includes a Fee for Local Use commitment of \$195,000. The 2019 Bridge Bundle requires a revision to include \$250,000 of Fee for Local Use funding for construction/final design for a total commitment of \$725,000.

As of March 2021, project allocations total \$1,555,649 which includes proposed funding for the Snow Shoe Township project (\$56,195). Total Fee for Local Use funding received is \$1,751,020.38 less project allocations provides a remaining balance of \$206,371.38.

1. Resolution 4 of 2021 – Amending Resolution 9 of 2019 to establish a reserve fund to sustain the 2018 Bridge Bundle that will hold Fee for Local Use funds to be used only for the purpose of anticipated cost increases for this project – Dept. 151.
2. Resolution 5 of 2021 – Amending Resolution 10 of 2019 to establish a reserve fund to sustain the 2019 Bridge Bundle that will hold Fee for Local Use funds to be used only for the purpose of anticipated cost increases for this project – Dept. 151.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add Resolution 4 and Resolution 5 of 2021 to next week's Consent Agenda.*

iii. 2018 Multimodal Transportation fund (MTF) Bridge Bundle Projects leveraging \$1.365 million dollars from the MTF program with \$585,000 from

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the County's Act 13 At Risk Local Bridge fund to complete major rehabilitation work on three locally owned bridges in Miles, Curtin and Spring Townships.

1. Cooperation agreement with Miles Township for the 2018 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program Bridge Bundle Project to complete rehabilitation on the T-526 Fox Gap Road Bridge over Elk Creek. The total project cost is \$300,000 – Dept. 151.
2. Cooperation agreement with Curtin Township for the 2018 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program Bridge Bundle Project to complete rehabilitation on the T-489 Front Street Bridge over Beech Creek. The total project cost is \$700,000 – Dept. 151.
3. Cooperation agreement with Spring Township for the 2018 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program Bridge Bundle Project to complete rehabilitation on the T-942 Lower Coleville Road Bridge over Buffalo Run. The total project cost is \$700,000 – Dept. 151.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the cooperation agreements with Miles, Curtin and Spring Townships to next week's Consent Agenda.*

iv. 2019 Multimodal Transportation fund (MTF) Bridge Bundle Projects leveraging \$2.07 million dollars from the MTF program with \$500,000 from the County's Act 13 At Risk Local Bridge fund to replace two locally owned bridges in Bellefonte and Howard Boroughs.

1. Cooperation agreement with Bellefonte Borough for the 2019 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program Bridge Bundle Project to complete rehabilitation on the Railroad Street Bridge over Buffalo Run. The total project cost is \$1,500,000 and includes \$400,000 in Fee for Local Use funding and a municipal contribution of \$30,000 – Dept. 151.
2. Cooperation agreement with Howard Borough for the 2019 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Program Bridge Bundle Project to complete rehabilitation on the Mill Street Bridge over Lick Run. The total project cost is \$1,500,000 and includes \$400,000 in Fee for Local Use funding and a municipal contribution of \$30,000 – Dept. 151.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the cooperation agreements with Bellefonte and Howard Boroughs to next week's Consent Agenda.*

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

VIII. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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ABC	Name	Action	Term
Industrial Development Authority	Adrienne Eichenlaub	Re-Appointment	January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2025
General Authority	Adrienne Eichenlaub	Re-Appointment	January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2025
Planning Commission	Andrea Pandolfi	Appointment	March 1, 2021 – February 28, 2025
Agricultural Land Preservation Board	Ralph Wheland	Appointment	March 1, 2021 – August 31, 2023

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

IX. LETTER OF SUPPORT

X. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XI. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

XII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planning - Director Ray Stolinas and Betsy Barndt, Housing and Community Development Coordinator asked the Board to consider the development of a Notice of Funding Availability Program for the Centre County Housing Trust Fund (Act 137 of 1992). This program intends to assist housing projects that serve eligible individuals with gross household income of below 100% the Area Median Income (AMI) for Centre County.

Act 137 of 1992 (S.B. 962) authorized certain counties to increase the recording fees of deeds and mortgages to support or enhance local affordable housing efforts. In 1993, the Centre County Board of Commissioners authorized Ordinance 2 authorizing fees generated through the recording of deeds and mortgages. This is currently \$11.50 per transaction, of which 85% of the funds are to be used for programs and 15% retained for administrative costs. In 2020, Recorder of Deeds Act 137 receipts totaled \$110,802.50.

The First Time Home Buyer Program is funded through this fund. A total of \$1,254,591 was expended from 2006 through 2020 through the processing of 114 mortgages. Since 2007, approximately \$825,000 in Act 137 funds have assisted various housing entities within Centre County.

Ray provided an overview of the Notice of Funding Availability Program including project eligibility, the application process, review criteria and ineligible costs. The program would utilize Act 137 funding to assist new and rehabilitated housing or land acquisition for proposed housing to serve eligible individuals with a gross household income below 100% of the Area Median Income for Centre County. Eligible projects include construction of new rental and owner-occupied housing, acquisition and rehabilitation of housing units for re-sale or to rent; or land acquisition for a

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proposed project to be completed within a two-year time frame. Ineligible costs include administrative expenses and soft costs (architectural, engineering, financing, legal fees and other pre and post construction expenses) and project requests serving households with a gross income at or above 100% AMI, as adjusted by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Commissioner Pipe asked Ray for recommendations regarding the further program considerations. Ray and Betsy will look at other counties to see what they are doing with regard to maximum funding request per project, recurrence of funding frequency, timeline for the process and establishment of a grant agreement between the County and successful applicants.

Commissioner Dershem asked the Board for further consideration of County use of those funds and Commissioner Pipe agreed. The Board would not be looking to draw down all of the fund. Ray and Betsy will look at other County's models and provide further recommendation at a future meeting – Dept. 815.

XIII. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$224,528.52 dated February 26, 2021.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated February 26, 2021.*

XIV. C-NET REQUESTS

Request to transfer sponsorship of five programs for The Central Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table from 2020 to 2021.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request to transfer sponsorship for The Central Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table.*

XV. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported 105,174 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is #13 Port Matilda Borough with 374 registered voters. In the last election there were 301 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 80.48%.

B. Announcements

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

There were no executive sessions to report.

XVII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

Board of Elections – 11 AM – Virtual

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Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

XVIII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator