



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Virtual – Zoom

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

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 Natalie Corman, Jason Moser, Norm Spackman and Travis Walker.

Guests included Jennifer Dellantonio, Bill Jester, Maureen Casey, Mike Fisher, Max Henning, Patricia Mauk, Harry Mathias, Tate Geiger, Marybeth E Rader Allegar, Jordan Anderson, Jess Pflugfelder, Lesley Kistner and Christian Kurpiel-Wakamiya,

Representatives from the news media included Peyton Kennedy, 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 February 17 Board of Commissioners Work Session and March 2 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 17 Work Session and March 2 Board of Commissioners meeting.*

V. PROCLAMATION

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Proclamation 3 of 2021 – Proclaiming the week of March 14-21, 2021 as Pennsylvania 4-H Week.

Commissioner Pipe welcomed 4-H Extension Educator Jess Pflugfelder and Client Relationship Manager for Penn State Extension Area 5 Maureen Casey, Club Leader for Centre County 4-H Robotics Bill Jester, Club Leader Patti Mauk, 11th grade FRC Team President Tate Geiger, fifth grade CoderZ member Max Henning, and twelfth grade Centre County 4-H Teen Council member Jordan Anderson.

Maureen thanked the Commissioners for their continued support for not only 4-H but Extension in general. Jess stated that while COVID disrupted in-person learning activities, high-quality positive youth development experiences were still provided to members. Throughout 2020 Centre County youth engaged in a variety of ways including regular club meetings, and Camp-in-a-Box. Statewide, many webinars, trainings, conferences, and miniature club experiences. Non-internet learning was also made available by offering at home project kits as part of the 4-H Unplug Program.

Sixteen clubs have received approval to meet in person. Following all safety guidelines, these clubs have held a variety of programs including hands-on skill-a-thons, presentations, guest speakers, and new projects. Jess expressed her thanks to the community who has been instrumental in providing large meeting spaces that make these programs possible.

The Penn State Extension 4-H animal science program engages scientists, educators, staff and volunteers in the development and teaching of science based information, and project support for the youth involved in animal projects. They are designed to teach agricultural best practices including animal husbandry, record keeping and marketing. These programs also teach positive youth development traits including positivity, leadership and compassion. Last year animal shows and livestock sales were canceled due to mitigation efforts. Centre County's local sale barn coordinated an alternative sale opportunity for the youth involved. Once permitted, 4-H will be partnering with the local fair board, FFA chapters, volunteers, and others to conduct animal shows and a market livestock sale.

Jess recognized Patti Mauk, a long time 4-H volunteer, she recently retired from Penn State Extension. Patti will continue to provide leadership to the Gold Bullets 4-H Club, and Centre County Cluckers and Clackers.

Jordan Anderson thanked the Board and 4-H staff for support. She expressed that 4-H has had a huge impact on her life. Tate Geiger, and Max Henning agreed with Jordan.

Commissioner Dershem expressed how important all aspects of 4-H are for the people involved. Centre County is lucky to have such a strong program, and strong community support.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 3 of 2021.*

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A. Consideration of full remote work status.

Administrator Margret Gray reported that Centre County Government offices are working under full remote work status through March 12. Across the county the amount of COVID hospitalizations are stabilizing and positivity rates have declined. This is also the case within Centre County government employees. It is recommended that full remote work status be extended through Friday, April 2 and returning to a rotating schedule on Monday, April 5. This can be reevaluated on March 31, to ensure the current trend has stabilized. At this time the Governor has not changed guidance regarding telework.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve of an extension of the full remote work status through Friday, April 2.*

B. COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP)

SEDA COG Presentation

Michael Fisher of SEDA COG stated that ten of the eleven counties requested SEDA COG's assistance for administration of the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP). Three additional senior staff members, who worked on the County Relief Block Grant, have been added to the team for this program as well as an outside contractor, Harry Mathias. Over the last three weeks standard guidelines have been produced to ensure all counties are operating under the same process.

Harry Mathias explained that Act 1 of 2021 provides a number of COVID-related relief grants. CHIRP is an appropriation to counties, based on population, to provide relief to Accommodation and Food Service sectors of the economy. By the legislation, counties are to utilize Certified Economic Development Organizations (CEDO's) to administer the grant.

The electronic grant application is set to open in a rolling application process on March 15, and close June 15 or earlier if all funds are allocated. Grants are to be in \$5,000 increments with no grant being larger than \$50,000. A grant may not be awarded to pay for the same eligible operating expenses for which an applicant received previous COVID-related funds. Eligible applicants must have less than 300 full-time employees, \$15,000,00 or less of tangible net worth, not owe federal or state taxes, intend to be in business for at least another year and must show a 25% reduction in gross receipts. Within the legislation there are six options, with variations, to measure 25% reduction in gross receipts, including comparing 2020 to 2019. These will be listed in the grant application for the applicant to choose which option is best. Once an option is chosen there will be boxes for baseline gross receipts, and comparable gross receipts, with supporting documentation. Comparable gross receipts should be 25% less than baseline gross receipts.

Priority will be given to applicants who have not received previous COVID relief, were affected by the Governor's closure proclamations, or can demonstrate a

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reduction in revenue of at least 50%. Four application windows have been designed to incorporate this priority system into the rolling application system. The first window for applications will open from March 15 through March 28. March 29 through April 2 the SEDA COG team will determine who is eligible and who is priority from these applications. A draft list of grantees and grants will be sent to the Board to review for any discrepancies. On April 12, approved grantees will receive an email confirming their grant award. The remaining application windows will be March 29 through April 18, April 19 through May 16, and May 17 through June 15, provided funding is still available. It is preferred that many smaller grants are distributed instead of few large grants.

An applicant's grant basis will determine their grant award amount. The grant basis is determined by subtracting other COVID related relief for the same expenses that was provided through other assistance programs from the total eligible expenses.

Grant Basis	Grant
Amount	Amount
\$5,000-\$40,000	\$5,000
\$40,001-\$80,000	\$10,000
\$80,001-\$120,000	\$15,000
\$120,001-\$160,000	\$20,000
\$160,001-\$400,000	\$25,000
\$400,001-\$800,000	\$30,000
\$800,001-\$1,200,000	\$35,000
\$1,200,001-\$2,000,000	\$40,000
\$2,000,001-\$4,000,000	\$45,000
>\$4,000,000	\$50,000

The grant application will be available online at www.csgiving.org/CHIRP on March 15. Csgiving.org is the website for the Community Giving Foundation, a regional organization that has a software used by non-profits to distribute disaster relief funds. This software will be used to process the CHIRP applications.

Commissioner Pipe asked for an overview of the NAICS code that a business need. Harry stated, per the legislation, a business needs to be a NAICS 721 or a NAICS 722. A link will be provided on the application to the NAICS website. This will be strictly followed, and exceptions will not be made.

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Commissioner Pipe asked if the PA Department of Agriculture has a list of all businesses within Centre County to contact announcing availability of the program. Michael Fisher was unaware of such a list but will look into it. Yesterday, using SEDA COG's internal list of businesses, an extensive outreach was done to local partners including chambers of commerce, tourism bureaus, and IDAs.

VII. CONTRACTS

- A. Controller – Controller Jason Moser introduced a Letter of Engagement with Baker Tilly US, LLP for the audit year 2020. The contract total is \$78,000 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The contract for audit year 2019 was \$76,500 – Dept. 125.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the letter of engagement with Baker Tilly US, LLP to next week's Consent Agenda.*

- B. Emergency Communications – Director of Emergency Communications Norm Spackman introduced an agreement with ComPros, Inc. to provide CPE maintenance and support for the VESTA phone system hardware and software. The contract total is \$328,980.01, which is State funded through the PEMA Southern Alleghenies Cooperative Grant for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2024 – Dept. 354.

Norm reported that the one-year warranty period for system refresh has ended. This agreement is for years two through five. The total cost for 2021 is \$78,635.12, with annual increases for the following years. 2021 is State funded through the 2021 PEMA Regional Grant.

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

VIII. 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. Planning and Community Development
- i. Amendment to the Professional and Administrative Services Agreement with the SEDA Council of Governments (SEDA COG) to remove Bellefonte Borough and compensation relative to Bellefonte Borough. This decreases compensation to SEDA COG from \$125,500 to \$91,600 Dept. 151.
 - ii. Transportation Funding Update

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

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IX. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ABC	Name	Action	Term
Planning Commission	Andrea Pandolfi	Term Adjustment	March 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024
Aging Advisory Council	Mary Hart	Appointment	March 1, 2021 – February 29, 2024

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ABC appointment and term adjustment.*

X. LETTER OF SUPPORT

MH/ID/EI – Director of Adult Services Natalie Corman introduced a letter of support for the Certification of Local Government Approval for CentreSafe’s application through the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence for homelessness prevention – Dept. 561.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Letter of Support for the certification for CentreSafe.*

XI. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XII. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

XIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Pipe spoke on the American Rescue Plan. It is estimated the County would receive \$31 million for county use. This could be used to augment the \$700,000 administered last year and the \$10 million currently being administered. This plan will also support small businesses and compliment the CHIRP. He encourages local Representatives, Senators, and Congress members to support the passage of this plan. Commissioner Higgins concurred. Commissioner Dershem expressed concern that a large amount of money is not COVID crisis related. He emphasized that the money will need to be spent wisely to get the most value.

XIV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$704,470.53 dated March 5, 2021.

***Action:** on a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated March 5, 2021.*

XV. C-NET REQUESTS

XVI. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

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Commissioner Dershem reported 105,171 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is precinct #14 Snow Shoe Borough with 455 registered voters in the last election with 392 ballots cast, for a turnout of 86.15%.

B. Announcements

The Centre County Board of Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 is cancelled for the Board's attendance at the virtual CCAP Conference.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XVIII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Prison Board of Inspectors – 8 AM - Virtual

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

EBT Meeting – 11 AM - Virtual

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

Records Improvement Committee – 2 PM - Virtual

XIX. 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.

XX. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator