



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 1:30 P.M.

Virtual – BlueJeans

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 1:40 PM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Administrator Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator John Franek Jr., Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith, and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Human Services Administrator Natalie Corman, Kristen Simkins, and Travis Walker.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received from the public.

### III. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

#### A. COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) Grants

Commissioner Higgins reported that three counties, including Centre County, awarded the remainder of the CHIRP funds during the second round of applications. Checks are scheduled to be mailed tomorrow to the first round grant recipients. The program will no longer be accepting applications for Centre County.

Commissioner Higgins hopes to have a finalized list of recipients to announce at the Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday.

#### B. COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (Draft)

Director of Human Resources Kristen Simkins reported that several employees have reached out to ask if a copy of their vaccine cards should be provided to Human Resources as proof that they have been vaccinated.

The Board determined that employees wishing to use COVID Medical Leave for vaccine related reasons will need to provide Human Resources with a copy of their vaccination card for verification. Employees not wishing to use COVID Medical Leave will not need to provide proof of vaccination but may provide a copy of their

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vaccine card to Human Resources if they so choose. Vaccine data collected by Human Resources will be kept confidential and may be used in general terms to aid in decisions regarding reopening County buildings to the public.

It was the consensus of the Board that while Centre County employees are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID vaccine, it will not be required. An educational campaign will be designed to provide information to employees on the vaccines available.

**C. Work from Home Policy (Draft)**

The Board discussed the need for a Work from Home Policy to establish how, when and under what conditions employees will be able to work from home once the County returns fully to work. The policy has been reviewed by Human Resources, Risk Management, IT and the County Administrator, with the intention of presenting the policy for approval before the County fully returns to work.

**D. Bellefonte Senior Center Update**

Human Service Administrator Natalie Corman introduced a proposal to move the Bellefonte Senior Center from North Spring Street to the Titan Energy Park on Axemann Road. Once a manufacturing facility, the building was acquired by Navitus, LLC and is being rehabilitated to become a multi-use, multi-purpose space across four buildings. Employees and visitors to the Center on North Spring Street often struggle with the limited availability of parking. Titan Energy Park is easily accessible via I-99 and I-80, offers ample parking and is in proximity to the present Bellefonte location. The growing number of tenants at Titan currently include Bolton Metal Products, Titan Indoor Market, Mad Mack, Axemann Brewery and the Blonde Bistro with an additional 500,000 square feet available for office, industrial and manufacturing use.

The existing lease with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau totals \$77,544, for a five year period, which remains in effect through June 30, 2025 and is equally paid for using Federal and State funding. The current lease allows sufficient time to coordinate rehabilitation/design and relocation to the proposed site at Titan Energy Park.

It was the consensus of the Board to further investigate current county owned property and not accept the current Titan Energy Park lease. With upcoming capital projects on county owned buildings, it should be further explored if space is available for the Senior Center within those buildings.

**E. AMI Testing Site – May**

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that the Department of Health (DOH) has agreed to keep the AMI testing site operational for an additional five weeks. A new location for the site is being sourced as the Patton township building is not available for the addition five weeks.

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IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Pipe, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 PM.

ATTEST:

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Margaret N. Gray  
Administrator