



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:00 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, and Administrator Margaret Gray.

County personnel present included Tom Martin and Joyce McKinley.

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson and Evan Hinkley.

CNET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Tuesday, April 21, 2020 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 April 21, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

V. PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Proclamation No. 7 of 2020 – Proclaiming May 15, 2020 as Bike to Work Day and May 2020 as Bicycle Awareness Month in Centre County.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation No. 7 of 2020.

- B. Proclamation No. 8 of 2020 – Proclaiming May 3 – 9, 2020 as Corrections Employee Week. The Correctional Facility is the largest department within Centre County Government. There are also two State correctional facilities and a youth detention center within the county.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation No. 8 of 2020.

VI. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

A. Personnel

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that Centre County Government is into its second week with employees on furlough or part time furlough status. This continues until April 30 for Court related offices and May 15 for non-Court related offices. The following requests were received for employee re-instatement.

i. Controller

1. Jeremy Beck, Accounting Clerk 3, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective April 29, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 125.
2. Xochi Confer, Payroll and Pension Coordinator,, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective April 29, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 125.
3. Wendy Davidson, Fiscal Technician, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective April 29, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 125.
4. Travis Walker, Auditor/Accountant, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective April 29, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 125.

ii. Emergency Communications - Barbara Berenty, Addressing Specialist, from full time furlough to regular full-time status effective May 1, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 354

iii. Tax Claim/Collection - LeeAnn Repasky, Second Deputy Treasurer from full time furlough to regular full-time status effective April 29, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 122.

iv. Treasurer - Mechel Houser, Second Deputy Treasurer, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective April 29, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 124.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve personnel requests from elected officials and department heads.

B. 2020 County Budget

Director of Financial Management Tom Martin joined Administrator Margaret Gray to introduce proposed 2020 Budget revisions. He suggested freezing Courses, Seminars and Travel with approvals only granted in agreement with the Controller on an as needed basis.

REVENUES

Department 124 Treasurer Account 43301 Commissions
Budgeted \$217,050 Revised Budget \$121,050 (\$96,000)

EXPENDITURES

General Funds Departments Account 65430 Courses/Seminar (\$85,444.05)
General Fund Departments Account 66410-66415 Travel (\$79,647.77)

Department 380 Public Safety Account 67110 Unrestricted Grants
Budgeted \$41,800 Revised Budget \$6,800 (\$35,000) 84% Reduction

Department 880
Conservation & Development Account 67110 Unrestricted Grants
Budgeted \$381,355 Revised Budget \$311,385 (\$70,000) 18% Reduction

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve revisions to the 2020 County Budget.

C. Presentation

Beginning the Process to Reopen Centre County - A Marathon Not a Sprint

Commissioner Pipe provided an overview of the current status of Centre County and the path to reopening our economy.

Numerous companies that collect and provide cell phone location data have been tracking the populations' movement. They rank a county's travel based on distance, a map and graph were presented showing the amount of travel within a county. On Sunday, Centre County was reported with 54% of the population staying home. The data has a noticeable upward trend on the weekend when individuals are suspected to be home and not commuting to work.

Governor Wolf announced that the construction industry will resume work on May 1, 2020. Guidance created by the General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania provides protocols for all construction activity.

Outdoor recreation including golf courses, marinas, fishing trips and privately owned campgrounds may also reopen on May 1, 2020.

Governor Wolf has targeted the reopening of Northcentral Pennsylvania, including Centre County, for May 8. The reopening will be done in phases, with the current phase being red. This restricts work to life sustaining business only, restrictions in place for congregate care and prisons, and the continued closure of schools and most child care facilities. The stay at home order remains in place with large gatherings prohibited and restaurants are limited to carry out and delivery service.

Once the county is able to move into the yellow phase, telework must continue where feasible. Businesses with in-person operations must follow business and building safety orders, some child care will open, restrictions continue for congregate care and prisons, and schools remain closed. Social restrictions begin to

relax with stay at home orders lifted. Large gatherings of less than 25 are permitted, in person retail is allowable, with indoor recreation remaining closed; restaurants would still be limited to carry out and delivery service.

Finally the green phase lifts work and social restrictions with all businesses following CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines.

The State used Centre County as an example on social media. A target goal for reopening has been set at having fewer than 50 new confirmed cases per 100,000 population reported to the Department of Health in the previous 14 days. Centre County has a population of 162,385 with 16 cases reported in the previous 14 days. If the County would meet additional reopening criteria, it may be able to move from the red to yellow phase on May 8.

Commissioner Pipe outlined critical items to reopen the County, including reduction/leveling of cases, testing, contact tracing, and safeguards for high risk settings including personal protective equipment. Mount Nittany Medical Center and Penn State University have partnered to do contact tracing.

The Board has expressed concern for public health, business closures, and the consequences of long term unemployment.

Commissioner Higgins encouraged citizens to follow protocol, practice social distancing and continue to wear masks.

Centre County is very connected and reliant on tourism. Commissioner Dershem stressed the importance of taking precautions to keep the area safe and increase confidence that people can eventually return to Centre County.

VII. CONTRACTS

- A. Correctional Facility – Contract renewal with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to provide qualified individual advisors to offer observations, training, and recommendations related to the prison, and conduct K-9 searches. There is no cost for this contract which shall commence upon the date last signed and remain in effect until terminated – Dept. 333.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract renewal with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to next week's Consent Agenda.

- B. Planning – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the final land development plan – University Park Airport – Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Building; CCPCDO File No. 39-20. This proposal constitutes a final plan submission showing the proposed development of an approximately 8,400 square foot Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Building and corresponding infrastructure located at the University Park Airport in Benner Township – Dept. 151.

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

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VIII. GRANTS

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve this week's Consent Agenda.

A. Human Services

i. MH/ID

1. Addendum No 1 to the Letter of Agreement with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to provide additional early intervention services in the amount of \$100,000. This increases the contract maximum from \$345,000 to \$445,000, which is funded as follows: State \$400,500 and County \$44,500 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 – Dept. 561.
2. Letter of Agreement with the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District to provide drug and alcohol and/or mental health services to the school and its students through the contracted Student Assistance Program service provider agreement. There is no cost for this contract for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 – Dept. 561/562.
3. Agreement with the Bedford County Board of Commissioners to provide legal representation for mental health hearings. Bedford County shall be responsible for legal rates set by Centre County held in the Centre County Court of Common Pleas. This agreement shall be in effect until terminated by providing a 30-day notice – Dept. 561.

X. LETTER OF SUPPORT

XI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XII. LIQUID FUELS

XIII. FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XV. PERSONNEL ITEMS

XVI. REPORT ON JUDICIAL PERSONNEL ITEMS

XVII. REPORT ON ROW OFFICE PERSONNEL ITEMS

Sheriff – Sheriff Bryan Sampsel has approved the personnel requisition for full-time Security Officer, Sheriff, (p.c. #40, non-exempt, replacing J. Muss), at SG-N08, effective April 20, 2020, pay period 9 – Dept. 211.

XVIII. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$5,868,392.11 dated April 24, 2020.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated April 24, 2020.

XIX. C-NET REQUESTS

XX. RECOGNITION

XXI. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem stressed the need for volunteers to be poll workers at Centre County's precincts on June 2.

He reported 109,206 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is #69 Penn Township with 622 registered voters. In the November election there were 271 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 43.57%.

B. Announcements

XXII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

There were no executive sessions to report.

XXIII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

BOC/Salary Board Meeting- 10:00 AM - 146WB

Retirement Board - 12:00 PM - 146WB

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

BOC/Salary Board Meeting- 10:00 AM - 146WB

XXIV. BID / PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

RFP - Mountain Top Activity Center - Contract Award

XXV. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, May 18, 2020

Last day to REGISTER before the primary.

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020
GENERAL PRIMARY

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots.
Must be received by 8PM.

XXVI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

A. Evan Hinkley

- i. Is there an estimate of how many poll workers are still needed?
- ii. Does the Board prefer to be treated as a region or an individual county for reopening?
- iii. Any updates for citizens who are having difficulty applying for unemployment?

B. Gary Sinderson

- i. Will volunteers be working their own precinct?
- ii. State College School Board discussed reliance on Penn State returning in the fall. Does the County rely on this for the budget?
- iii. Is the Court closure Centre County or Supreme Court?

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator