



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellefonte, 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 Sheriff Bryan Sampsel, Jeff Wharran, Tom Martin and Kristen Simkins.

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 28, 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 28, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

V. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation No. 9 of 2020 -Sheriff Bryan Sampsel joined the Board to proclaim May 10-16, 2020 as National Police Week and May 15, 2020 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in Centre County. Sheriff Sampsel explained that the ceremony will be held virtually this year on local law enforcement Facebook pages and websites. The ceremony will honor 146 men and women who gave their lives in the service and protection of citizens. Commissioner Dershem recognized that last Saturday was the 115th anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation No. 9 of 2020.

VI. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

A. Personnel

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve items i-iv.

- i. Criminal Justice Planning - Consider approval of the reinstatement of Jessica Herren, Executive Secretary, CJP, from full-time furlough to regular full-time status effective May 6, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 306.
- ii. Human Resources - Consider approval of the reinstatement of Samantha Rees, Human Resources Specialist, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective May 6, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 114.

Jessica and Samantha will both be returning to assist in the Elections Office to prepare for the June 2 Primary.

- iii. Planning - Consider approval of the reinstatement of Linda Marshall, Senior Planner 1 – Housing and Community Development, from reduced hours furlough to regular full-time status effective May 11, 2020, pay period 11 – Dept. 151.
- iv. Sheriff - Consider approval of the reduced hours furlough of Richard Bowes, Deputy Sheriff/Airport Security 2, from regular full time status effective May 6, 2020, pay period 10 – Dept. 211.

B. Reopening Centre County

Commissioner Pipe reported that Governor Wolf announced last week that effective Friday, May 8 at midnight, Centre County will move from the red to yellow phase. He encouraged everyone to support local businesses as they reopen, continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. Commissioner Dershem added that a lot of Counties that wish they were in this position, he encouraged everyone to be vigilant and follow the guidelines.

VII. CONTRACTS

- A. Emergency Management – Administrator Margaret Gray introduced an agreement with the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) designating the COG HazMat Team as one of the County's hazardous materials response contractors under Act 165. This agreement shall continue in full force and effect until terminated by either party upon one year's written notice to the other. She reported that Centre County has two HazMat response teams, Penn State since 1993 and Eagle Towing. Penn State University has been in conversation with the Centre Region Council of Governments for nearly a year to transition services over. Commissioner Dershem asked if the County has discretion in who is dispatched to the scene and Margaret explained that the incident commander makes the call from the scene and communicates directly with the County's Director of Emergency Management, Jeff Wharran, who goes to all of the incidents in the County. Commissioner Dershem expressed concern that there could be a conflict of interest with who is dispatching

and which company they report to. Commissioner Pipe said if there were to be any conflict of interest that is uncovered, the County could decide to have Emergency Management be the dispatcher. – Dept. 351.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the agreement with the Centre Region Council of Governments to next week's Consent Agenda.

B. Human Services

- i. Children and Youth - Quarterly reports for the period of July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 – Dept. 511.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to table the CYS quarterly reports.

- ii. Transportation – Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) allocation from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in the amount of \$666,692 for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 – Dept. 531.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2018-2019 MATP allocation from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

VIII. GRANTS

Veterans Affairs – Amendment to the Veterans' Trust Fund grant agreement with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to extend the period of performance for seven months, to terminate on December 31, 2020 – Dept. 523.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the amendment with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to next week's Consent Agenda.

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. 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.
- 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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

PAGE 4

X. LETTER OF SUPPORT

XI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XII. LIQUID FUELS

XIII. FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XV. PERSONNEL ITEMS

Correctional Facility - On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel requisition for full-time Corrections Officer, Correctional Facility, (p.c. #45, non-exempt, replacing B. Lukens), at SG-N10, effective April 21, 2020, pay period 9 – Dept. 333.

XVI. REPORT ON JUDICIAL PERSONNEL ITEMS

President Judge Pamela Ruest has approved the personnel requisition for Magisterial District Court Secretary, MDJ-Hahn, (p.c. #07, non-exempt, replacing B. Ilgen), at SG-N08, effective April 16, 2020, pay period 9 – Dept. 251.

XVII. REPORT ON ROW OFFICE PERSONNEL ITEMS

XVIII. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$ \$1,304,477.09 dated May 1, 2020.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated May 1, 2020.

XIX. C-NET REQUESTS

XX. RECOGNITION

XXI. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Approximately 11,500 ballot applications have been received by the Centre County Election's Office. Commissioner Dershem encourages voters to submit applications as soon as possible to be processed and mailed to voters.

Commissioner Dershem reported 109,220 voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is Potter North #70 with 1,012 registered voters. In the November election there were 432 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 42.69%

B. Announcements

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

PAGE 5

XXII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

There were no executive sessions to report. The Board will meet in executive session at the end of the agenda.

XXIII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

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

Board of Elections Meeting – 11:00 AM – 146WB

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

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

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Prison Board of Inspectors- 8:00 AM

XXIV. BID / PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

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. Does the Board have a message to business owners in Centre County who are not yet permitted to open?

ii. Is there concern when businesses reopen they will not have the same clientele?

B. Gary Sinderson

i. Has the Governor stated what it takes to go from yellow to green?

ii. Are employees eligible for unemployment in the yellow phase?

iii. Can you provide an update on the Centre County Prison?

iv. Any update from last week on volunteers and polling places?

v. If students are enrolled at the University and not living here, where do they vote?

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020

PAGE 6

XXVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:42 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator