



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

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

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the 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, Administrator John Franek Jr. and Staff Assistant Erin Good.

County personnel present included Human Service Administrator Natalie Corman, Sheriff Bryan Sampsell, Chad Joyce, Joni MacIntyre, Krista Davis, Todd Weaver, Tonya Hofford and Chris Schnure.

Guests present included Kimberly Luse, Linda Marshall, Ralph Stewart, Rob Brawley, Willard Jackson and Officer Bechenball.

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sindersen.

C-NET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Luse representing Spring Mills offered public comment regarding Rising Tide Women's Resource Center to be utilized at the old Centre Crest Building. (See attached proposal)

There were no additions to the agenda.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Meeting held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from May 10, 2022.*

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ORDINANCE

Ordinance 1 of 2022 – Establishing a real estate tax abatement schedule for rehabilitation of commercial property in the Borough of Bellefonte pursuant to the improvement of deteriorating real property or areas of tax exemption act 72, P.S. §§ 4711-101, ET SEQ – Dept. 111.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 1 of 2022.*

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VII. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 20 of 2022 – Proclaiming **May 15-21, 2022** as **National Police Week** and **May 18, 2022** as **Peace Officers’ Memorial Day** in Centre County. Sheriff Bryan Sampsel, Todd Weaver and Officer Bechenball joined the Board to speak about the Police Memorial event that will be held at the Courthouse tomorrow to honor the men and woman whose lives were lost in duty.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 20 of 2022.*

Proclamation 21 of 2022 – Proclaiming **June 4, 2022** as **National Trails Day®** in Centre County. Rob Brawley, Willard Jackson and Linda Marshall with Nittany Mountain Biking Association spoke about the organization. They spend many volunteer hours maintaining the quality of the trails and work closely with DCNR.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 21 of 2022.*

VIII. BIDS AND PROPOSALS

IX. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

X. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATIONS

- A. Aging –Krista Davis asked the Board to consider renewal for the Centre Hall Senior Center in the Centre Hall Fire Company. The lease total is \$13,500 from the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 – Dept. 521.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the lease renewal for the Centre Hall Senior Center to next week’s Consent Agenda.*

- B. Planning and Community Development – Chris Schnure presented to the Board a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Final Land Development Plan for Land of Andrew G. Kotzur – M & D Storage Phase 2; CCPCDO File No. 149-21. This proposal represents the second phase of M & D Storage showing three proposed self-storage buildings and stormwater management upgrades to account for the additional improvements. This proposal is located along the northern boundary of West Sycamore Road (State Route 0144) and the western boundary of West Nectarine Street (T-712), approximately 350 feet west of the municipal boundary line with Snow Shoe Borough, located in Snow Show Township – Dept. 151.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the MOU for the Final Land Development Plan for Land of Andrew G. Kotzur – M & D Storage Phase 2; CCPCDO File No. 149-21 to next week’s Consent Agenda.*

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Human Services

- C. Children and Youth – Human Service Administrator Natalie Corman asked the Board to consider the approval of the contract with Service Access and Management, INC. (SAM) to serve as a financial consultant to review policies and procedures, segregation of duties, division of workload between the fiscal/program departments and evaluation of current contract procedures. The contract total is \$28,000 with the funding as follows: State: \$22,400 and County: \$5,600 for the period of May 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 511.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the contract with Service Access and Management, INC.*

XI. 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. Emergency Communications

- i. Contract with Centre Communications, Inc. to provide multi-purpose Internet Protocol (IP) connect services to Centre County on private microwave equipment that is owned and maintained by Centre Communications, Inc. The contract is effective for one, three-year terms and shall be renewed automatically for succeeding terms of three years unless either Party gives written notice. The contract total is \$12,732 for 2022, \$13,114 for 2023 and \$13,507 for 2024 – Dept. 354.
- ii. Contract with Centre Communications, Inc. to provide Microwave battery maintenance at Centre Hall, Ford Building, Pine Hill, Purdue and Rattlesnake sites. Each site consists of 28 batteries that will be replaced for a total of \$93,850 for the period of April 27, 2022 to May 27, 2022 – Dept. 354.

- B. Risk Management – Consider renewal to lease ten parking spaces from the Borough of Bellefonte. Seven spaces in the North lot and three in the South Municipal lot for a total of \$6,000 for the period of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 – Dept. 271.

XII. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

XIII. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XIV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$6,920,323.92 dated May 13, 2022.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated May 13, 2022.*

XV. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XVI. C-NET REQUESTS

XVII. LETTER OF SUPPORT

XVIII. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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A. Voter Registration Report

B. Announcements

Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XX. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Board of Elections – 6 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections – 2 PM – Willowbank 146

Friday, May 20, 2022

Board of Elections – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Monday, May 23, 2022

Board of Elections – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

XXI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:44 AM.

ATTEST:

John Franek Jr.

Administrator

Proposal for Rising Tide Women's Resource Center provided by Kimberly Luse.

Not a handout, but a HAND UP! A Rising Tide lifts all boats!

Utilize the old Centre Crest Building.

Center for women in crisis.

Not Just a place where they can come and stay until they get their life together, but rather a place that helps counsel them, grow them, educate them, and get them back into the world, stronger, smarter, and better equipped to handle life on their own. One that teaches them not to be a victim. An environment where they can learn not just a way to survive, but hopefully a vocation to support them and their children as well as relationship skills and boundary setting so as to not repeat their pattern of attracting partners that cause the culture to perpetuate itself.

The Center can definitely act as an emergency shelter (preferably no longer than 72 hours if they are not going to take advantage of what the facility has to offer as far as getting their life back on track). Preferably, women would fill out an application understanding that they will no longer be the same person when they leave this facility. They will have the understanding that they will undergo a transformation that will set them up for success in their life. Not just another strategy to cope with a downward spiraling sflation. This isn't just a break from a dysfunctional or abusive relationship. This is where these women will make the decision to break ties with their previous self, the one that set them up to attract such relationships and embrace a new future for themselves and their children if they have them. The length of time that any one woman or woman with children can stay within the program will be something the program team will have to determine before the project begins. Six months to a year seems to be reasonable at this writing. The time necessary to receive some focused counseling, education and direction for a successful future is the goal here. Separate units for women with children and women without.

No one will be exempt from pulling their own weight at the facility. All will contribute to the community of women working to better themselves and their situation. If a woman is physically unable to perform one of the "jobs" within the facility that will contribute to its success as well as her own, this isn't the program for her.

Within the center, single women will share a room with another single woman. Ideally, they will share with someone that has been in the program for a while. The senior program member will act as mentor to the new inductee.

Women with children will have a room with their children. If one room isn't sufficient size, adjoining rooms can be arranged for the family to stay together.

Our purpose is not to make this a comfy place where a resident may just choose to stay forever. It is a temporary stopping off point where they can gather their strength, improve their self-image and self-worth, while learning the skills necessary to live a happy, successful life upon graduation from our program. They will understand before signing on that there is a time limit for their stay. They will forge lifelong relationships with other woman that are following the same path to self-reliance forming a stronger community inside and out of the facility.

NO MEN WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE PREMESIS FOR ANY REASON.

Child visitation will need to take place off campus. If a supervised visit is required, that can be arranged with child services after the appropriate case has been established with them.

The facilities at Centre Crest will be ideal for this project as there are already resident rooms with shared bathrooms as well as shower facilities that can be utilized in dorm fashion. There are already kitchen and dining facilities. There are community rooms and activity rooms that can act as childcare

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facilities as well as social gathering spaces. This will be a non-smoking environment and assistance can be provided to help those that may be smoking now to quit. No alcohol will be permitted on the campus at any time.

Instead of hiring people to run the kitchen, keep the place clean, do the grounds work, etc., each resident would need to agree to one of these positions as part of her contribution to the community. Such positions would include,

1. Childcare worker. (Childcare will be provided for those that have jobs outside the facility or want to participate in one of the vocational programs we have established. This is for children not in school or ones that can no longer remain in a situation outside the facility. This position could be a woman who doesn't have a job but does have children and may be interested in starting her own daycare when she is discharged from our program. Or it could be a woman without children that wants to learn more about child rearing and perhaps childcare as a business. In either case, skills will be gleaned that put the woman in a better and more marketable position outside the facility when she re-enters the workforce. This program will also focus on creating a safe space for the children where they can also learn coping skills, relationship skills and other critical skills necessary to function in society without falling into the same patterns as their parents.

2. Kitchen help. Preparing food and serving to the resident population will be a necessary part of the process. However, this program could be an educational one that could help these women prepare themselves for a position in a commercial kitchen of some sort, or even just teaching them the basic cooking skills they may need to provide healthy meals for their children once they are no longer in our program.

3. Cleaning the facility. Each woman will be expected to keep their respective personal space clean, but we will need those that will keep the common space clean such as showers, lounges, childcare area, kitchen/dining facility. This position will prepare them to become a part of the "service to the community" portion of our program. A "business" can be developed that provides housecleaning to families in the community who qualify. After a resident has passed all of the training internally to the satisfaction of the supervisor of this program, she can be a part of the "business" and actually earn some money. The "business" would be designed to assist the resident as well as the community. Families where both parents work, or perhaps a single parent household under a certain income threshold, would qualify for our teams to clean their homes for a reasonable price to take that burden off the parent/parents. This will provide some relief for the parents, allowing them to spend more quality/less stressed time with their children and provide the entire family with a cleaner environment in which to live.

4. Lawn care. The facility campus will require maintenance, lawn mowing, edging, trash removal, garden tending, etc. Residents can choose this position to serve the facility as a whole, but also to learn this vocation. Assistance/guidance can be offered to help them start their own landscape business when they have completed the program if that is a desire. This is also a service "business" that can be offered to the community if there are enough residents involved to be able to create a force for the project. Practical experience dealing with customers, keeping books, maintaining equipment, etc. would benefit those that would look to a future in this type of business. Creating a space where we could have gardens and perhaps a greenhouse would be an incredible asset as well. Growing some of our own food would be very empowering.

5. Each woman will have to agree to undergo counseling and "therapy", individual and group, in order to find that person within each of themselves that can function in a productive and empowering way in the community when they are no longer a resident with us.

Relationships with the Va-Tech school can also be forged to get those women who aspire for more

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enrolled in classes for nursing, dental assisting, esthetician, or whatever meets their interest and skill set levels on scholarships to ensure they have a trade with which they can re-enter the working world.

Fundraising will be an essential part of what we do so as to provide the scholarship funds as well as maintaining the facility as a whole. Utilities will still need to be paid, etc. Grants, endowments, gifts, and fundraising events will all be entertained as ways to fund the project. Volunteers can be utilized for a lot of this process, but there will most likely need to be a paid position in charge of this portion of the program.

There will obviously need to be some professional positions available within the facility for those that will lead/spearhead each of the teaching programs.

1. We will need a social worker for intake purposes as well as assistance for each program participants re-entry into society and the workforce. This person will need resources at their disposal that will benefit creating new positive environments for these women to become a part of. In addition to the staff social worker, there can also be an internship opportunity for anyone in the social services area of study at PSU or any other college for that matter.

2. Counselors as well as therapists will be necessary to conduct the programs necessary for the resident's reintroduction to successful independent living. With a staff of professionals as the core of this initiative, intern possibilities would also exist.

3. There will need to be someone in the kitchen structure that is versed in proper procedure, nutrition, etc. to teach those that want to be a part of that program. This could also be an internship opportunity for those that may be in a food service program at PSU or the Vo Tech.

4. Childcare specialist will also be a must. Again, possible internship possibilities for those in child studies fields at PSU.

5. Lawn care/green house specialist. Teaching these women to grow their own food and care for their own lawns, etc. will be an empowering step for many of them. The mindset that they must depend on a man for any facet of their life is one we must correct. We are not man bashers. Good quality interpersonal relationships are actually our goal here. But a woman's mindset that she must have a man to survive puts many of them in dangerous and abusive situations and makes them too afraid to do what is necessary to break free of that chain of destructive behavior.

6. A grant writer/fundraising professional that can guide us to the financial assistance we will need to get the program off the ground. They would be key if the facility is to become non-dependent on county or government funds for this program.

A rigorous screening/hiring process would need to take place so that the absolute right combination of team members is achieved to attain excellent communication and team synergy. United vision will provide the absolute best possibility for these women to come out on the other side of this program with a brand-new lease on life for themselves and their family members.

Each of these leaders will be an integral part of creating the programs for their respective area of expertise.

The eventual goal is to make the facility self-sustaining through businesses we can create that will give the women an opportunity to earn their keep, grow their self-esteem and self-reliance, as well as give them new skills to sustain themselves when they have graduated from our program.