



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, May 25, 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 10:00 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 Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr., Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith, and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Controller Jason Moser, Human Services Administrator Natalie Corman, David Lomison, Jim Coslo, Krista Davis, Geri Sorgen, Cris Norris, Allyson Ulsh, and Travis Walker.

Guest present included Denise Sticha, temartin, Lesley Kistner, Edward Stoddard, and Happy Valley Adventure Bureau.

Representatives from the news media included Chris Morelli and Peyton Kennedy.

C-Net Staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the May 11, 2021 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 May 11, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting.*

V. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

A. County Office Protocols

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that in early May the County transitioned from a full remote work status to a rotational work status through May 28. The number of COVID-19 cases in the community and the County workforce have declined, while the number of vaccinated individuals has increased over the last few weeks. It was

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recommended that the County transition to full return to office on Tuesday, July 6. Commissioner Dershem suggested that employees return sooner and the Board agreed that employees return to offices a full-time basis on Monday, June 28.

The Board discussed dates to return to in-person meetings and open the County buildings to the public, as well as new policies needed for employees who may need to remain mostly remote due to child or elderly care needs.

It was the consensus of the Board to follow guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in regard to masking requirements for the public when visiting County buildings.

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to transition the County workforce to a full return to office work status effective Monday, June 28. Effective Tuesday, July 6, County offices will open to the public.

Margaret asked the Board to consider allowing employees to travel together for County business, effective Monday, June 28. The Board was in agreement with this.

B. American Rescue Plan

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that earlier this year the United States Congress and President signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act which establishes a segment of funding entitled The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Centre County will be receiving an excess of \$31 million in funds. Submission of an interim report is due August 31, 2021; however, obligation of funds is not due until December 31, 2024, and funds must be expended by December 2026.

Counties are able to invest the funds in their communities in five primary ways, including, supporting public health response, addressing negative economic impacts, replacing public sector revenue loss, paying premiums for essential workers, and water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

i. Vaccine Providers

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that the Board has started to discuss using the ARP funds to make payments to vaccine providers. A formula will be designed to determine allocations. The Department of Health will be consulted to ensure all vaccine providers in Centre County, as well as the amount of vaccines they have administered in Centre County, are considered.

ii. Tourism

Commissioner Higgins proposed using the ARP funds for a \$49,000 grant to the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau to promote tourism in Centre County.

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve a \$49,000 grant to the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, effective in June, with the possibility of additional grants contingent on the success of the program.

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VI. PROCLAMATION

VII. CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS

A. Human Services

- i. MH/ID/EI – Human Services Administrator Natalie Corman introduced an annual plan renewal between the County of Centre and Odyssey Software for the continued maintenance and upgrade releases of the Microsoft Dynamics GP Software. The plan total is estimated at \$23,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 – Dept. 561.

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

- ii. Transportation – Director David Lomison presented a Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) final allocation in the amount of \$562,424 for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 – Dept. 531.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the MATP final allocation.*

- B. Risk Management – Chief Risk Officer and Director of Workplace Operations Krista Davis presented a property/casualty insurance renewal with Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) in the amount of \$399,487 for the period of June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022. This is a 3.6% increase from last year – Dept. 112.

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

VIII. GRANTS

- A. Commissioners – Director of the Conservation District Jim Coslo and County Solicitor Betsy Dupuis introduced a Sub Recipient Agreement between the County of Centre and the Conservation District for administration of the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) – Dept. 111.

Centre County has received funds from the Chesapeake Bay Program through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the amount of \$400,000. The grant is intended to assist certain water quality projects throughout Centre County to achieve specific nutrient and sediment reduction goals as part of the three phase Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The Conservation District has received funds from the Conservation Excellence grant program (CEG) through the State Conservation Commission. This agreement will allow the Conservation District to administer funds from both programs.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the sub recipient agreement.*

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IX. 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. Tax Claim & Collections – Contract renewal with Palmetto Posting, Inc. for posting properties in preparation for the 2021 Upset Tax Sale and the 2020 unclaimed Return and Claim Notices. These postings are in accordance with the requirements of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law. The contract total is estimated at \$20,000 for the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 – Dept. 123.

B. GRANTS

- i. Emergency Communications 911 – Letter of engagement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Centre County, for the provision of Next Generation 911 (NG911) Services. There is no cost for this agreement for the period of May 25, 2021 through February 6, 2027 – Dept. 354.

X. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

XI. LETTER OF SUPPORT

Letter of Support for an application submitted by The Pennsylvania State University on behalf of the Happy Valley LaunchBox/Invent Penn State for Community Project Funding.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the letter of support for The Pennsylvania State University.*

XII. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

XIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$442,676.05 dated May 21, 2021.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated May 21, 2021.*

XVI. C-NET REQUESTS

XVII. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem did not have a voter registration report for today. He noted that the Board has almost completed the ballot count for the Primary Election. The Board preformed a count in excess of 10% by selecting seven precincts from each school district.

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B. Announcements

Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XIX. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Finance Committee – 9 AM – Virtual

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Virtual

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Board of Commissioners Work Session– 11 AM – Virtual

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Board of Commissioners/Salary Board – 10 AM – Virtual

XX. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on May 17)

Military/Overseas Ballots & Certification of Unofficial Results – 4 PM to 4:30 PM - WB 146 and Virtual

Monday, June 7, 2021

Certification of Official Results - Time TBD – WB 146 and Virtual

XXI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator