



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, June 17, 2021, 11:00 A.M.

Virtual – Zoom

To join the meeting please visit: www.centrecountypa.gov/virtual.

[Register](#) online to receive a notification when meeting agendas are posted. Previously recorded Board of Commissioners meetings can be viewed [here](#).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 11:02 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith, and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Ray Stolinas, and Liz Lose.

Guests present included Corey Troutman, Kim Stank, Mitzi Gallagher-Long, Fritz Smith, and Guest.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

1. Infrastructure

SEDA-Council of Government's Project Coordinator Mitzi Gallagher-Long reported that the County's 2019 Community development block grant (CDBG) project, The Haines-Woodward Water Well Development project, went out to bid in May. All bid proposals received were rejected as they exceeded the engineers estimate and the allocation of CDBG funds by \$160,000. The project is under a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) consent order but cannot move forward until all funding is in place.

The Board discussed funding options for the project. Providing the project with another year of CDBG funding would delay the project by approximately 18 months. The Haines-Woodward Municipal Authority is considering requesting \$180,000 in ARP funds to ensure adequate funding is available to complete the project.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

PAGE 2

Commissioner Pipe asked what the project's total funds are currently. Mitzi reported that project had budgeted \$276,088 in CDBG funding, \$14,000 in State funding, and \$83,987 in local funds.

The Board expressed their interest in having the July 6, 2021 work session be a more comprehensive discussion to evaluate other potential projects before distributing ARP funds.

2. Tourism

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that at the May 25, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board approved a grant to the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau (HVAB) to be used for tourism promotion in Centre County.

CEO Fritz Smith provided a presentation on HVAB and outlined proposals to allocate grant funds for marketing including Expedia, WPSU Radio Advertising, Fullington Bus Wraps, PA Tourism Office, and McClatchy Media. The cost for marketing in 2019 was between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

The Board was in full support and proposed increasing the ARP allocation to HVAB.

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to allocate an additional \$200,000 in ARP funds to HVAB for marketing.

3. Broadband Initiative

Liz Lose gave a presentation on moving broadband initiatives forward and a strategic plan proposal. This included factors to consider when prioritizing areas most in need, applying funding, and assessing infrastructure needs and technological evolution. The next step in the Broadband initiative would be to approach professional broadband consultant firms to assist the County.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 PM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator