



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 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 Mark Higgins.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator John Franek Jr., Solicitor Betsy Dupuis and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Ray Stolinas and Treasurer Colleen Kennedy.

Guests present included Mitzi Long, Kevin Sidells, Jessica O'Hara, Brandy Reiter, Margie Swoboda, Brian Pomeroy, Walt Krzyzanowski, Jim Enders, Jim Willshir, Bill Dorward, Connor Lewis, David Sload, Greg Scott, Hilary Caldwell, Pat Irwin, Jennifer Dellantonio, Michelle Schellberg, Jesse Bartle, Zack Womer, Ken Layng, Michael Krewson, Alison Kurtz, Daniel McIntyre, Michael Black, Michael Ford, Buddy Franklin, Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Alans Kryg, Eli Ace, Terri Confer, Debbie Krzyzanowski, Cindy DeWire, Jackie Hook, Kathy Cramer, Mary Bellman, Ed Maxwell, Julie Maxwell, Debbie Lintal, Nancy Robbins, Chuck O'Connor, Peter Buch, Russell Brooks, Jeremy Struble, Tyler Maines, Aaron Heffner, Adam Lemin, Marie Librizzi, Alan Moose, James Kunz, Andrew Croll, Timothy Hickes, Clint Breon, Anlemo Casagrande, Dylan Roberts, Bill Frantz, Sue Smith, Joseph Hughes, Daniel Carter, Max Neidlinger, Dion Barnard, Nanci Rommel, Allen Coffman, Brock Scott, Keri Oshea Daniel Smith, Monica Cade, Matt Turner, Christa Gallagher, Bill Wojichowski, Ron Beverly, Brad Hockenberry, Brad Ross, Greg Rougeux, Juliet Harshburger, Janet Irons, Brandon Musser, Wes Miller, David Asencio, Phyllis Austin, Fred Gay, Laura Shadle, James Sengle, Cindy Kunes, Nicholes Taylor, Tom Songer, Mike Guigley, Joe Hall, Bill Beard, Cody Shaner, Anthony Marcon, Jared Ernico, Mike Hawbaker, Brust Mqucil, Charles Fuller, Clara Strausser

Representatives from the media included Gary Sinderson, Halie Kines, Abby Prey, Breanna Hanley and Maria Cade.

C-NET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

V. MEETING MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the Board of Commissioners meeting and the Work Session held on June 20, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the meetings held on June 20, 2023.

VI. RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTOR ORDINANCE HEARING

Commissioner Higgins opened the Responsible Contractor Ordinance Hearing at 10:01 AM.

Commissioner Dershem stated the certification form under item number 6 we will need to add an "n" to make the word bonding.

Administrator John Franek Jr. gave a brief background of the Responsible Contractor Ordinance. John stated if the Ordinance was enacted today, it would go into effect 30 days of adoption on July 27, 2023. The Ordinance only applies to projects undertaken by Centre County Government costing \$250,000 or more that are subject to competitive bid. The RCO can be waived by the County if no bids have been received or if a single bid has been received that is over the County's budget.

John went over the guidelines for the hearing and the public comment, once the public hearing is closed the Board of Commissioners will entertain the motion for the Ordinance adoption.

Commissioner Higgins opened the floor for public comments at 10:09 AM.

Jessica O'Hara from College Township gave public comment on how the RCO will benefit our taxpayers and ensure that appropriate training and safety standards are enforced.

Brandy Reiter from Senator Chris Dush's office gave public comment on how the RCO will benefit Union contractors out of Centre County's borders and how the Ordinance is currently written, Senator Dush is not in supportive of.

Margie Swoboda of Huston Township gave public comment on how the RCO will benefit the safety of workers.

Brian Pomeroy of Dauphin County gave public comment on apprenticeships and what a responsible contractor means to him.

Walt Krzyzanowski gave public comment on the bidding process, prevailing wage projects and how Responsible Contractor Ordinances support quality workmanship.

Jim Enders of Jefferson Township and President of the Central Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council out of Harrisburg as well as the Business Manager of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, and HVAC Service Technicians Local Unions 520 in Harrisburg gave public comment on the benefits of apprenticeship programs that protects the workers, the contractors and the customer.

Jim Willshir with the Associated Builders and Contractors Keystone chapter gave public comment on the prefabricated goods section in the Ordinance and the unanswered questions and transparency of the Ordinance how it is currently written.

Bill Dorward of Berks County and President of Berks County Building Trades gave public comment on the importance of trained workers on the job and how the Ordinance will enforce the safety and training of workers.

Connor Lewis of State College Borough and President of Seven Mountains AFLCIO gave public comment on apprenticeships and the benefits of the Responsible Contractor Ordinance that will help protect taxpayers and workers on the job.

David Sload President/CEO of ABC Keystone Chapter gave public comment on safety aspects of the Ordinance but disagrees with the 70% threshold requirement of the apprenticeship program in the Ordinance and requests the Board table the Ordinance.

Greg Scott President and CEO of CBICC gave public comment on the RCO requirements of the 70% threshold of apprenticeship & prefabrication work.

Mary Bellmen of Patton Township gave public comment on the importance of trained workers for our workforce and how she favors the RCO.

Hilary Caldwell of State College Borough gave public comment on how a RCO will define what a responsible contractor means and the importance of the safety of workers.

Pat Irwin gave public comment on the training requirements listed in the Ordinance and other questions he has with the Ordinance how it is currently written.

Jennifer Dellantonio of Rush Township gave public comment on a petition of Centre County residents she started who are against the RCO.

Ed Maxwell owner of Maxwell Trucking and Excavating gave public comment on how apprenticeship programs of nonunion workers would not benefit from the RCO.

Michelle Schellberg read comments directly from the RCO petition that was circulated through Centre County residents that oppose the Ordinance.

Marie Librizzi gave public comment on how the venue should have been offered at a larger location for the RCO Hearing.

Jesse Barlow of State College gave public comment on his favor of the Ordinance adoption.

Zach Womer of Philipsburg gave public comment on the physical toll of being a construction worker, mainly due to past construction jobs not looking out for the safety of their workers and how he is in favor of the Ordinance.

Ken Layng gave public comment on how the Ordinance is currently written will have negative impacts to the County.

Michael Krewson of State College Borough and works with Central PA United gave public comment on how taxpayers' money should be applied to the safety of its workers.

Alison Kurtz President of Ameron Construction gave public comment on how the Ordinance would negatively impact her workers since they are not enrolled in an apprenticeship program and requested the Ordinance be tabled.

Treasurer Colleen Kennedy of Patton Township gave public comment on how the Ordinance would protect workers' safety and ensure fair wages paid to the workers.

Daniel McIntyre of Harris Township gave public comment on various questions that are not clear in the Ordinance and certification page as they are currently written.

Michael Black of State College Borough gave public comment on the cost and safety thresholds of the Ordinance.

Michael Ford gave public comment on how he is in favor of the Ordinance.

Buddy Franklin of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Snow Shoe Township gave public comment on the 70% threshold of apprenticeship requirement and the importance of quality work received by responsible bidders on projects.

Joanne Tosti-Vasey of Bellefonte Borough gave public comment on her support of the Ordinance and the importance of quality work and apprenticeships.

Alan Kryg gave public comment on quality work from individuals who are not enrolled in an apprenticeship program and how the Ordinance will only restrict entry into trade fields and increase the cost of projects.

Commissioner Higgins closed the public hearing at 11:58 AM.

VII. ORDINANCE

Ordinance 1 of 2023 – Responsible Contractor Ordinance – An Ordinance providing for the adoption of certain procedures related to the solicitation and award of Centre County Government public construction contracts valued at \$250,000 or more.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted 2:1 Commissioner Dershem opposed to adopt Ordinance 1 of 2023.

Commissioner Concepcion stated that evidence-based policy is the best bet for bettering outcomes for constituents. She stated that Responsible Contractor Ordinances protect taxpayers by ensuring that the contractors meet local qualifications and safety standards, help promote higher quality service, increase competition amongst high quality contractors, reduce turnover rates among workers on projects, reduce cost related mistakes and reduce delays on project completion timelines.

Commissioner Dershem stated the initial version of the Ordinance stated the EMR as a metric of how things are to occur.

Commissioner Dershem stated the Ordinance would eliminate fairness to potential bidders and shut out a lot of local contractors. The 70% threshold for apprenticeships will create a lot of issues and the Ordinance will benefit contractors out of Centre County. Commissioner Dershem stated he feels it is a restricted Ordinance and it is not fair to all contractors in the County, which is why he is opposed to its adoption.

Commissioner Higgins stated the RCO will protect taxpayers' dollars and strengthen our communities. It will allow the Board to weed out low and irresponsible bidders from future projects that the RCO falls under for County projects. It levels the playing field for in state smaller bidders therefore supporting local workers' wages and benefits. The RCO encourages workforce development by using over 1,500 certified training programs from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. The RCO will also improve on the job safety for workers.

The Commissioners voted to recess the meeting at 12:15 PM.

The meeting was reconvened by Chair of the Board Commissioner Higgins at 12:24 PM.

VIII. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATION

- A. Planning and Community Development – Ray Stolinias stated Mitzi Long with SEDA-COG will describe the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2023 Project Review – Dept. 151.

Mitzi Long presented to the Board the 2023 CDBG projects for review.

1. Haines-Woodward Water Authority for the Mountain Avenue Waterline Replacement Project with a project cost of \$215,700. It is to replace approximately 700 linear feet of deteriorated and leaking water main along Mountain Avenue.
2. The Haines-Aaronsburg Municipal Authority for the replacement of water distribution lines throughout the HAMA System with an approximate estimate of \$368,700.
3. Gregg Township Community Center gymnasium phase 2 with an approximate project cost of \$189,900. This is will replace heat pumps, storage room windows, stage floors and access and electrical upgrades to the gym.
4. The Union County Housing Authority Housing Rehab Pilot Program with an approximate project cost of \$79,000.

Mitzi stated more than one project can be selected and funded through multiple years if needed from the projects that were presented to the Board.

Joanne Tosti-Vasey of Bellefonte gave public comment and stated Bellefonte is a sub-contractor under the County and plans to make changes to Talleyrand Park's suspension bridge by removing both sets of steps and replacing with a ramp as well as other additions to make the park more ADA accessible in the near future.

Sue Smith gave public comment on Housing rehab projects and would like to have support from the local government.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. 9-1-1 Emergency Communications – Consider approval of a contract with Watkins Security, LLC to provide a security monitoring system to maintain security for the outside and inside in the 9-1-1 facility as well as door access points. The project will include the installation and labor of eight new cameras, software and hardware. The contract total is \$14,837.20 for the period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 – Dept 354.
- B. Criminal Justice Planning – Contract renewal with Tracy Small as an independent contractor in the capacity of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator. Funds to support this contract consist of local contributions from the six area Municipal police departments and Human Services Block Grant Funds. The contract total is \$36,396.96 funded as follows: State \$16,012.96 and Local Contribution \$20,384 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 306.

Human Services

- C. Transportation – Consider approval of the Grant Agreement with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Shared Ride Services for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. The total amount of the grant is \$688,000 with \$600,000 for Share Ride Lottery and \$88,000 for Persons with Disabilities. This will allow the Transportation

Department to continue to provide these important services for the residents in Centre County who qualify under the said programs. The grant total is \$688,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept. 531.

D. Aging

- i. Contract renewal with Aging Well PA, LLC to complete Functional Eligibility Determinations (FEDs) and participate in hearings when FEDs are appealed. The Department of Aging will be paid a fee per FED and a fee for each hearing that is completed. Funding for the service is paid through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. The contract total is estimated at \$464,895 funded as follows: State \$464,895 for the period of February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2026 – Dept 521.
- ii. Contract renewal with Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania to provide Lock Haven University students the opportunity to complete internships at the Centre County Office of Aging until the end date of the agreement. There is no contract total for the period of June 6, 2023 to June 6, 2028 – Dept 521.

E. Adult Services

- i. Letter of Agreement with Strawberry Fields, Inc to act as a referral source for Centre County Government's Office of Adult Services various human service programs. There is no cost for the agreement for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- ii. Contract renewal with Centre Helps for the Basic Needs Case Management Program. The contract total is \$23,290 funded as follows: State \$23,290 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- iii. Contract renewal with Centre Helps for the Information & Referral Hotline. The contract total is \$70,000 funded as follows: State \$70,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept. 501.
- iv. Contract renewal with Centre Volunteers in Medicine for the Basic Needs Medical Case Management Program. The contract total is \$11,665 funded as follows: State \$11,665 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- v. Contract renewal with Centre Safe for the Bridge (Transitional) Housing Program. The contract total is \$73,545 funded as follows: State \$73,545 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- vi. Contract renewal with Housing Transitions for the Bridge (Transitional) Housing Program. The contract total is \$59,924 funded as follows: State \$59,924 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- vii. Contract renewal with Housing Transitions for the Homemaker Services Case Management Program. The contract total is \$19,529 funded as follows State: \$19,529 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- viii. Contract renewal with Housing Transitions for the Coordinated Entry Walk-In Center. The contract total is \$61,059 funded as follow: State \$61,059 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.
- ix. Contract renewal with Housing Transitions for the Rapid Re-Housing Program. The contract total is \$385,415 funded as follows: State \$385,415 for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 – Dept 501.

F. MH/ID/EI- D&A

- i. Letter of Agreement with Bauer's All About Kids, LLC to provide early intervention services including occupational and physical therapy, special instruction, and speech pathology. The contract total is \$50,000 funded as follows: State \$45,000 and County Match \$5,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- ii. Letter of Agreement with Pennsylvania State Constable, Clinton Ripka, LLC, to provide mental health services including emergency transportation. The contract total is \$25,000 funded as follows: State \$23,848 and County Match \$1,152 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- iii. Letter of Agreement with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to provide early intervention services including occupational and physical therapy, special instruction, speech pathology, IFSP teaming and interpretation. The contract total is \$375,000 funded as follows: State \$337,500 and County Match \$37,500 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 521.

-----END OF CONSENT-----

X. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$2,328,461.93 dated June 23, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated June 23, 2023.

XI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XII. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

B. Announcements

- i. Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in observance of Independence Day.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Administrator John Franek Jr. stated the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session on June 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 10:48 AM to discuss personnel matters.

XIV. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 29, 2023

Finance Committee – 9 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Thursday July 6, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

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XV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 12:40 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator