



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 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 Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator John Franek Jr., and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Human Services Administrator Natalie Corman, Kristen Simkins, Ray Stolinas, and Betsy Barndt.

Guests present included Keith Bierly, Bucky Quici, Ron Pifer, Mitzi Gallagher-Long, Tibben Zarby, Stephanie Fost, Kim Stank, Anna Kochersperger, Tracy Ridenour, Cheryl White, Don Gaetano, Tom Charles, Allison Brown, Bethany Mount, Heather Gillin, and Colleen Williams.

Representatives from the news media included Halie Kines and Gary Sinderson.

C-Net Staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the following Board of Commissioners meeting and work sessions:

- i. August 31, 2021 meeting
- ii. August 24, 2021 work session
- iii. June 17, 2021 work session

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners meeting and work sessions.*

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V. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 26 of 2021 – Proclaiming November 7, 2021 as “Sports Hall of Fame Day” in Centre County. Centre County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Board members Ron Pifer, Keith Bierly, and current president Bucky Quici spoke on the importance of preserving Centre County’s unique history in sports, and the 2021 induction banquet to be held November 7, 2021 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 26 of 2021.*

VI. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) – GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Commissioner Pipe presented the following items:

- A. Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the County of Centre and Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) to allocate County ARPA funds for the purpose of assisting with CVIM’s unreimbursed costs related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution. The allocation total is \$100,000 for the period of March 3, 2021 to March 31, 2022 – Dept. 120.

Executive Director Cheryl White, and Board of Directors member Don Gaetano thanked the Board for the allocation. CVIM’s free vaccine clinic has provided 30,000 vaccines through mobilized vaccine distribution.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the subrecipient grant agreement between the County of Centre and CVIM.*

- B. Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the County of Centre and Mount Nittany Health to allocate County ARPA funds for the purpose of assisting with Mount Nittany Health’s unreimbursed costs related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution. The allocation total is \$400,000 for the period of March 3, 2021 to March 31, 2022 – Dept. 120.

Executive Vice President System Development, Chief Strategy Officer Tom Charles, Allison Brown, Bethany Mount, and Heather Gillin thanked the Board for this funding and provided an overview of Mount Nittany Health’s vaccine distribution.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the subrecipient grant agreement between the County of Centre and Mount Nittany Health.*

- C. Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the County of Centre and Haines-Woodward Municipal Authority to allocate County ARPA funds for the purpose of assisting with necessary repairs and upgrades to the water tanks and systems. The allocation total is \$160,000 – Dept. 120.

Secretary Treasurer Tracy Ridenour and Tibben Zarby expressed their thanks to the Board for providing this funding to the Municipal Authority.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the subrecipient grant agreement between the County of Centre and Haines-Woodward Municipal Authority.*

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- D. Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the County of Centre and the Borough of Unionville to allocate County ARPA funds for the Cover Water Tank Replacement project. The allocation total is \$34,500 – Dept. 120.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the subrecipient grant agreement between the County of Centre and the Borough of Unionville.*

VII. CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS

A. Planning & Community Development

Director Ray Stolinas and Betsy Barndt presented the following items:

- i. Construction and Acquisition/Rehabilitation for Sustainable Housing (CASH) Program Applications – Project Selection in the total amount of \$75,000 – Dept. 815.

The Centre County Planning & Community Development Office solicited applications for affordable housing project activities through the pilot CASH Program on June 29, 2021. The following projects have been selected for the Board of Commissioners consideration:

1. State College Community Land Trust Housing Rehabilitation Project at 1505 University Drive \$10,000.
2. State College Community Land Trust Housing Rehabilitation Project at 1507 University Drive \$10,000.
3. State College Community Land Trust Housing Rehabilitation Project at 1140 Old Boalsburg Road \$10,000.
4. State College Community Land Trust Housing Rehabilitation Project at 1360 Old Boalsburg Road \$10,000.
5. State College Community Land Trust Housing Rehabilitation Project at 1021 South Atherton Street \$10,000.
6. Habitat for Humanity for Greater Centre County/Centre County Housing & Land Trust project at 401 North 7th Street \$25,000.

Habitat for Humanity, and Centre County Housing & Land Trust representative Stephanie Fost, and State College Community Land Trust representative Anna Kochersperger spoke on the importance of the availability of safe, stable and affordable housing.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the CASH program project selections to next week's Consent Agenda.*

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- ii. Request for Professional Services to develop a “Solutions-Based Affordable Housing Study” to assess Centre County’s housing needs, stock, and barriers, and provide recommendations to develop strategies, policy, and priorities.

In 2005, Diana T. Myers & Associates, Inc. completed the last Centre County Housing Needs Assessment. Many area agencies and municipalities have used this as a guiding document, however with growing changes to the population and housing trends an updated Housing Needs Assessment is needed.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the release of the Request for Professional Services.*

B. Facilities Management

Administrator Margaret Gray presented the following items:

- i. Quote from Johnson Controls to replace the master controller for the Centre County Correctional Facility’s fire alarm system. The quote total is \$57,126.54 – Dept. 333.

Margaret stated that while the master controller is in need of replacement, the rest of the system is in working order.

- ii. Quote from Tremco Incorporated to preform weatherization and sealing of the roof systems at the Willowbank Building. The quote total is not to exceed \$19,500 – Dept. 161.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve Facilities Management items i-ii.*

- C. **Human Resources** – Director Kristen Simkins introduced a contract renewal with PowerDMS to provide comprehensive compliance and content management for county polices and online trainings. The contract total is \$13,035.25 for the period of September 4, 2021 through September 3, 2022 – Dept. 114.

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

D. Human Services

MH/ID/EI – Drug & Alcohol

Human Services Administrator Natalie Corman presented the following items:

- 1. Fiscal Year 2020/2021 reports for the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Total funds expended total \$1,745,135 for a variety of services including increased case management, and prevention services – Dept. 562.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2020/2021 reports.*

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2. Contract renewal with Hear, Inc. to provide drug and alcohol services including clinically managed low intensity residential for males and females, and case management. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
3. Contract renewal with Twin Lakes Center to provide drug and alcohol services including medically monitored inpatient withdrawal management, clinically managed high intensity residential, and case management. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
4. Letters of agreement with the following entities to provide drug and alcohol and/or mental health services to schools and their students through the contracted Student Assistance Program service providers:
 - a. Bald Eagle Area School District (BEASD)
 - b. Penns Valley Area School District
 - c. Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District
 - d. State College Area School District (SCASD)
 - e. Sugar Valley Rural Charter School
 - f. Young Scholars Program Charter School

There is no cost for these agreements for the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2022 – Dept. 561/562.

5. Letter of agreement with Mary Ann Kresen, Esquire to provide legal services for MH/ID commitment hearings. The agreement total is \$10,000, which is funded as follows: State \$9,539, and County Match \$461, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 561.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add MH/ID/EI – Drug and Alcohol items 2-5 to next week’s Consent Agenda.*

VIII. GRANTS

IX. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

COVID-19 Pandemic Policy on Universal Masking – Update Consideration

Administrator Margaret Gray reported that several weeks ago when the Board considered reinstating the masking policy for Centre County Government buildings for all vaccination statuses the Board asked to revisit this policy at the beginning of September. Centre County has now moved to a high transmission category as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It is recommended that the Board continue with the masking policy. All staff and all visitors in county buildings will be required to mask regardless of vaccine status.

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Director of Human Resources Kristen Simkins requested the Board consider revisions to the policy including the addition of wording to indicate that the policy applies to county employees and the public entering county offices and buildings, and travelling within a county vehicle. Additional language stating that, for compliance, if a member of the public is unable or does not wish to wear a mask, they can contact the office to try to make other arrangements to meet with them outside of the County building. Members of the public will be offered and provided masks should they not have one upon arriving.

The Board agreed and asked for a review of the policy changes at the Thursday, September 9, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. The policy will be reconsidered in four weeks.

X. 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 911 – Payment to Tyler Technologies for the CAD Maintenance Agreement. The payment total is \$70,090.51 for the period of July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 – Dept. 354.

B. Human Services

MH/ID/EI – Drug & Alcohol

1. Contract renewal with Crossroads Counseling, Inc. to provide additional drug and alcohol services including case management, outpatient, intensive outpatient, recovery support, intervention and MAT. The contract total is \$140,000, which is funded as follows: Federal \$91,841, State \$41,355 and County Match \$6,804, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
2. Contract renewal with Allegiance Rehabilitation Center to provide drug and alcohol services including medically monitored inpatient withdrawal management, clinically managed high intensity residential, case management, and MAT services. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is Federally funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
3. Contract renewal with Bowling Green Brandywine to provide drug and alcohol services including high intensity residential, co-occurring residential, inpatient withdrawal management, case management, and MAT. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
4. Contract renewal with Bradford Recovery Center to provide drug and alcohol services including medically monitored inpatient withdrawal management, high intensity residential, case management, and MAT. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.

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5. Contract renewal with Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Services, Inc. to provide drug and alcohol services including non-hospital-based rehabilitation. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is Federally funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
6. Contract renewal with Gaudenzia, Inc. to provide drug and alcohol services including low intensity residential, high intensity residential, and case management. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
7. Contract renewal with Treatment Trends, Inc. - Keenan House to provide drug and alcohol services including high intensity residential, low intensity residential, case management, and MAT. The contract total is estimated at \$5,000, which is State funded for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 562.
8. Contract renewal with Strawberry Fields to provide mental health services including community residential services, case management and housing support. The contract total is \$1,169,584, which is funded as follows: State \$1,115,666 and County Match \$53,918, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 561.
9. Contract renewal with Sunny Days Adult Daily Living Center to provide intellectual disability services including community-based services. The contract total is \$6,250, which is funded as follows: State \$5,962 and County Match \$288, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 – Dept. 561.
10. Letter of Agreement with Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania, and Community Care Behavioral Health for the Mutual Cooperation and Coordination Agreement. This allows for the administration of the Behavioral Health HealthChoices managed care program through the Department of Human Services. There is no cost for this agreement for the period of July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2026 – Dept. 561.

C. Records Management – Security Microfilm Program Disposition Form and Security Microfilm Program Release Form submission to the Pennsylvania State Archives to allow 2,039 rolls of microfilm to be moved from Iron Mountain to the PA State Archives in Harrisburg – Dept. 143.

- XI. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
- XII. LETTER OF SUPPORT
- XIII. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE
- XIV. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Margaret Gray announced that the Department of Health (DOH) has extended the Free AMI COVID Testing Site through October 31, 2021. The Site has moved to the former Sears automotive building, 183 Shiloh Road, State College, PA, 16801, behind the Nittany Mall. For more information please visit <https://centrecountypa.gov>.

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XV. DISCUSSION ITEMS/UPDATES

Tax Upset Sale Update

Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr. announced that House Bill 264 went into effect this month. This amends Pennsylvania Real Estate Tax Sale Law by requiring potential bidders at a scheduled upset sale or judicial sale to pre-register with the Tax Claim Bureau no less than 10 days prior to the sale at which they intend to bid. This is to assist municipalities in identifying the owners of blighted properties in a timely manner. Owners of blighted properties are oftentimes difficult to find when ownership is associated with a corporate entity. Registration requires providing contact information and a signed affidavit stating the bidder is not delinquent on any taxes or municipal utility bills or engaged in any unsafe property management activity. The Tax Claim Bureau then provides the list of applicants to the respective municipalities prior to the sale. In order to register, an application must be submitted based upon the type of entity that intends to bid, such as a limited liability company a corporate entity or an individual who wishes to bid.

The 2021 Centre County Tax Upset Sale is scheduled for Tuesday September 21st at 10:00 AM on the Willowbank Building front lawn. Anyone who wishes to participate in the sale must pre-register with the tax claim Bureau by close of business on Monday, September 13. Pre-registration forms can be found at <https://centrecountypa.gov/427/Tax-Collection-Tax-Claim>.

XVI. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$715,509.23 dated September 3, 2021.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated September 3, 2021.*

XVII. C-NET REQUESTS

XVIII. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported 104,938 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is precinct # 37 Benner South with 1897 registered voters. In the last election there were 692 ballots cast, for a turnout of 36.48%.

B. Announcements

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XX. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Prison Board of Inspectors – 8 AM - [Virtual](#)

Salary Board/Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

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XXI. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 18, 2021

Last day to REGISTER before the November election

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

XXII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

A. Gary Sinderson – WJAC

- i. How is the allocation for vaccination calculated?
- ii. Has the County reserved funds to support vaccines again?
- iii. Are you getting a better idea on how ARP funds can be used?
- iv. Is work being done on the roof because it needs repaired or because of the vultures?

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator