



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 11:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 144
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 11:38 AM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

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

County personnel present included Richard Killian, Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, and Quentin Burchfield.

Guests present included Bobbi Jo Powell and Janine Sejuitt-Gnall (Zoom).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions made to the Agenda.

IV. 2024 COUNTY BUDGET

A. Aging

Richard Killian stated the Human Services departments are all special revenue funds which means there is a mismatch between the Commonwealth and the State budget which makes it difficult to predict what the transfer is going to be.

Quentin Burchfield stated there has been a significant increase in client services in 2023. The State allocations have not been received yet and Quentin is going off of last year's allocation amounts to help formulate his 2024 budget until those numbers are received from the State. Quentin will be requesting additional funding for the Caregiver's Program and has a meeting scheduled this month with the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Aging.

Quentin stated there is an increase in the number of individuals who are receiving the meals on wheels in 2023. Inflation costs for the food and the cost of the containers have also increased, which is why the cost has gone up for 2024. Quentin stated the Family Care Giver Support Program is another program that is currently in high demand. The program reimburses individuals up to \$600 per caregiver per month. The program is primarily for older adults who are taking care of loved ones.

Quentin stated the OPTIONS Program, which helps older adults with bathing, dressing and other personal care services, there is currently a waiting list due to the low demand in providers. Assessments are still being made to those individuals on the waiting list and other programs are offered in the meantime. The waiting list is based on the individuals' needs.

The proposed 2024 budget has increased due to indirect cost expenses that have increased as well as the demand of various services. Commissioner Dershem asked if the State allocation amounts will be similar to what was received in 2023 for the upcoming year. Quentin and Bobbi Jo with SAM Inc. stated that the amounts should be similar to what was received in the previous year. Quentin stated he will be advocating for more State funds due to the high demand in services and the increase of costs when he meets with the Deputy Secretary of Aging this month. Quentin stated there has also been a 10-20% annual increase in protective services and associated legal fees with those services.

Quentin will report back to the Board after his meeting on October 23rd with the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Aging. He will be requesting more State allocation funds to help with the increase in the demand of services, increase of costs of food, etc. associated with the programs as well as to help diminish the waiting list of the programs.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS – UPDATES

VI. BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, October 9, 2023

PSU Cooperative Extension– 1:30 PM – Willowbank 144

ITS/ Records – 2:00 PM – Willowbank 144

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Sheriff – 1:30 PM – Willowbank 146

CCCF – 2:30 PM – Willowbank 146

Monday, October 16, 2023

CYS – 1:00 PM – Willowbank 144

MH/ID D&A – 1:30 PM – Willowbank 144

911 Emergency Communications – 2:30 PM – Willowbank 144

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Adult Services – 2:30 PM – Willowbank 144

Transportation – 3:30 PM – Willowbank 144

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Court Administration – 2:00 PM – Willowbank 146

VII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023
PAGE 3

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator