



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellefonte, PA 16823

[Register](#) online to receive a notification when meeting agendas are posted.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:02 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. and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Ray Stolin, Karri Hull, Dave Crowley, Chad Joyce, Tanya Hofford, Recorder of Deeds Joe Davidson, and Sheriff Bryan Sampsel.

Guests present included Medora Ebersole, Lauren Smith, Haley Smith and Alison Smith.

Representatives from the news media included Marley Parish.

C-NET staff were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Higgins read a brief remark on the recent anti-semitic letters that were distributed to State College homes.

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 Work Session held on September 26, 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 September 26, 2023.

VI. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 42 of 2023 – Chad Joyce and Tanya Hofford joined the Board in proclaiming October 2023 as “Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Centre County.

Chad stated this is the 20th year that CISCO has hosted October as Cybersecurity Month. The County will have a series of newsletters and educational material for County staff as well as an annual cybersecurity awareness training for employees will be offered through LinkedIn.

Commissioner Concepcion stated Schlow Library offers small cybersecurity courses if anyone from the public is interested in attending.

The Board thanked Chad and Tanya for keeping the County safe from cyber-attacks not only in October but throughout the entire year.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 42 of 2023 proclaiming October 2023 as “Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Centre County.

Proclamation 43 of 2023 – Medora Ebersole and Haley Smith joined the Board in proclaiming October 2023 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Centre County.

Medora who is on the Board of Centre Region Down Syndrome Society stated she was honored to speak at today’s meeting and that this proclamation inspires people with down syndrome to contribute their special gifts and make Centre County a better place for all.

Haley is a recent graduate of Penn State Certificate Program. Haley thanked the Board for recognizing October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Centre County once again. Medora stated Saturday, October 7th at Mt. Nittany Middle School starting at 1:00 PM there will be the annual fundraiser “Buddy Walk” to help raise awareness for Down Syndrome Awareness.

The Board thanked Haley and Medora for speaking today and helping to raise awareness for Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 43 of 2023 proclaiming October 2023 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Centre County.

VII. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATION

- A. Public Defenders – Dave Crowley asked the Board to approve a contract Addendum with Thomson Reuters to upgrade the current internet platform Westlaw Edge to its newest platform Westlaw Precision and reduce the monthly bill by \$16.73. The new contract total is \$2,521.19 per month with a 3% annual increase for the period of October 3, 2023 to March 31, 2025 – Dept 132.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the contract addendum with Thomson Reuters.

- B. Criminal Justice Planning – Karri Hull asked the Board to approve a contract with Undine Fire Company No. 2 to provide the venue at Lambert Hall to hold the Reentry Simulation event scheduled for October 24, 2023. The contract total is \$300 – Dept 306.

Karri stated the Reentry Simulation will be partnered with Penn State Restorative Justice Program. It is an exercise to give a perspective on what individuals who were once incarcerated are facing reentering into the community. Karri stated the event is open to the public and individuals are still able to sign up for the event.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the contract with Undine Fire Company No. 2.

- C. Planning and Community Development – Ray Stolinas asked the Board to approve the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Payment Request Submission #1 for the Centre Volunteers in Medicine Clinic construction as the grantee’s authorized representative. The work includes construction, architectural/engineering and permitting. The payment request total is \$3,572,114.03 – Dept 151.

Ray stated the construction is winding down for the Centre Volunteers in Medicine clinic. They have other cost sharers such as the capital campaign funds, and a federal grant with the Health Resources and Administration Fund totaling \$1,125,000.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Payment Request Submission #1 for the Centre Volunteers in Medicine Clinic construction.

VIII. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

- i. Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve a fee for local use funds check in the amount of \$15,000 to Centre Hall Borough for paving and sealing of the Borough streets Hoffer Ave, Grandview Road, Logan Alley, Cherry Alley and Miles Alley – Dept. 412.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fee for local use funds check in the amount of \$15,000 to Centre Hall Borough.

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.

Human Services

A. Adult Services

- i. Contract Addendum with Builders Association of Central PA for the workforce development programming and services through the Whole Home Repair Program. There was a recalculation in the allocation to include \$7,157.62 in administrative costs; increasing the contract from \$178,940.46 to \$186,098.08. The contract total is \$186,098.08 funded as follows: Federal \$186,098.08 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 501.

B. Children & Youth Services

- i. Consider approval of a contract with SUMMIT for Early Learning, Inc. to provide childcare services. The contract total is \$5,000 funded as follows: State \$4,000 and County \$1,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 511.
- ii. Consider approval of a contract with Bennett Family Center at Penn State to provide childcare services. The contract total is \$10,000 funded as follows: State \$8,000 and County \$2,000 for the period of September 11, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 511.

C. MH/ID EI- D&A

- i. Consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Fourth Quarter Drug and Alcohol Fiscal Report for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept. 562.
- ii. Contract renewal with Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. to provide drug and alcohol services including case management, outpatient, intensive outpatient, individual and group intervention, and medication assisted treatment. The contract total is \$40,000 funded as follows: State \$38,156 and County Match \$1,844 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 562.
- iii. Consider approval of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Bureau of Financial Operations Early Intervention County Report for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 – Dept 561.
- iv. Contract renewal with Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. to provide mental health services including psychiatric evaluation and medication visits, group and individual psychotherapy, psychology testing and neuro-psych testing. The contract total is \$32,500 funded as follows: State \$31,002 and County Match \$1,498 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept. 561.
- v. Contract renewal with Penn State Psychological Clinic to provide mental health services including outpatient, peer support and family-based services. The contract total is \$10,000 funded as follows: State \$9,539 and County Match \$461 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- vi. Contract Addendum No.1 with Eagle Valley Personal Care Home to provide additional housing support services in the amount of \$132,385. The service provider's contract maximum will increase from \$600,000 to \$732,385 funded as follows: Federal \$351,187 State \$363,625 and County match \$17,573 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 561.
- vii. Contract Addendum No.1 with Eagle View Personal Care Home, LLC to provide additional funds for mental health community residential services in the amount of \$82,511. The service provider's contract maximum will increase from \$450,000 to \$532,511. The contact total is \$532,511 funded as follows: State \$507,962 and County Match \$ 24,549 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 561.
- viii. Contract Addendum No. 1 with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to allow additional funds to provide mental health community residential services in the amount of \$90,000. The service provider's contract maximum will increase from \$1,323,319 to \$1,413,319. The contract total is \$1,413,319 funded as follows: Federal \$112,742 State \$1,240,620 and County match \$59,957 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 561.
- ix. Letter of Agreement with Sunny Days Adult Daily Living to provide services including community participation services and transportation. The contract total is \$18,000 funded as follows: \$17,170 and County Match \$830 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561

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

X. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARD	NAME	ACTION	TERM
Children and Youth Services Advisory Board	Darion Shawley	Resignation	January 1, 2023 – October 3, 2023
Children and Youth Services Advisory Board	Corie McCall	Appointment	October 3, 2023 – October 2, 2024

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ABC term resignation and appointment.

XI. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$400,186.18 dated September 29, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated September 29, 2023.

XII. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator John Franek Jr. introduced the Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle to go over the Human Services Block Grant and she described it as the State’s allocation for Mental Health, Intellectual Disabilities, Drug & Alcohol and Adult Services. This funding source is from the State and the State determines the amount for each category while the County’s Match is 4.61% of that allocation that comes from the General Funds. Funding is allocated from contracts, agreements, and purchase orders. Julia stated the benefit that the HSBG provides to Centre County is the flexibility that it provides to the individuals that are in need of these services. Some of the services that mental health has to provide are outpatient therapy, emergency services delegate, crisis services, inpatient, psychiatric appointments, as well as residential services. Intellectual disabilities provide programs like SKILLS, as well as allowing for home modification. Drug and Alcohol provides inpatient/outpatient services, case management, medication supported services as well as prevention services. Homeless Assistance programs look for ways to prevent homelessness and ways to support those experiencing homelessness. The County is required to formulate a plan in addressing a set of questions that the State sets up for them. They also hold public hearings to hear the needs of those in the communities.

XIII. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported a total of 100,077 registered voters in Centre County. The Precinct of the week is Precinct #29 State College East Central 2. In the last Election there were 1,014 registered voters with 49 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 4.83%.

B. Announcements

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023
PAGE 6

XV. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session – 11:00 AM – Willowbank 144

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections – 1:00 PM – Willowbank 146

Monday, October 9, 2023

Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session – 1:30 PM & 2:00 PM– Willowbank 144

XVI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session from 10:48 AM to 11:31 AM and adjourn the meeting at 11:32 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator