



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 11:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
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 11:01 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr., and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Ray Stolinas, Liz Lose, Peter Butler, and Travis Walker.

Guests present included Kim Stank.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Broadband Plan Proposals

Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development Liz Lose reported that at the Board's request, after meeting with Design Nine and CTC Technologies on Thursday, September 30, she had followed up with each consultant.

The Board discussed each vendor, the grant funding they have helped to secure, and projects completed. With remote areas such as the Bald Eagle Valley, Commissioner Dershem asked if there is value in bringing in CTC Technologies. Commissioner Pipe agreed with that perspective, but also noted that Design Nine has successfully secured grant funding. The proposal from CTC is significantly more, but Administrator Margaret Gray feels that CTC Technologies offers a more complete package. Liz has contacted references for both vendors and received positive feedback.

Commissioner Dershem noted that time is of the essence, and requested the Board consider who this will impact in the County; school districts, underserved municipalities, etc. The County should reach out to partners to raise awareness of this initiative. Kim agreed that some entities are still deciding how to allocate their funding or waiting to see what others are doing. Margaret suggested that after approval, the County provide notice and coordinate efforts as soon as possible.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

PAGE 2

Liz will follow up with CTC Technologies again regarding grants they have obtained, projects that were completed, and revisions to the services outlined in their proposal to reduce costs. The selection of a broadband consultant will be included on the Thursday, October 7, 2021 Board of Commissioners agenda.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator