



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Belleville, 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. and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Recorder of Deeds Joe Davidson and Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle.

Guests present included Tom Bathgate, Tom Wilson, Rick Jacobs, Brandy Reiter and Julie Harshbarger.

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson.

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 Work Sessions held on October 10, October 16, October 17, 2023 and the Board of Commissioners meeting held on October 17, 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 October 10, 16, 17, 2023.

VI. RESOLUTION

Resolution 20 of 2023 – A Resolution to support projects in the public interest from revenues through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Local Share Account Statewide grants are distributed through the Department of Community and Economic Development. Centre County Board of Commissioners are requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$1,000,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for The Stage at Talleyrand (SAT).

Tom Bathgate, Tom Wilson and Rick Jacobs who are all on the SAT committee stated an

architect is working for the SAT project and they have already received a \$1 million grant towards the project. The SAT will be close to the Pelican's Snoball building in Bellefonte and the stage is projected to face the green of Talleyrand Park. The committee is continuing to raise funds for the project and have a cutoff of May 1st. They would also like to build public restrooms closer to the SAT to be more convenient for the public. The stage will be about 3,000 sq. feet and will be able to accommodate various bands of all sizes. The main structure will be simulations of iron furnaces due to Centre County's history with iron making years ago. Currently there are no full-time outdoor venues in Centre County and the SAT will be the first of its kind in the County. The groundbreaking is slated for October of 2024 for the SAT.

The Commissioners agreed the SAT will bring a lot of visitors to Centre County and are excited to see the project get underway.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 20 of 2023.

VII. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATION

- A. Capital Projects – Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve change Order No. 01 with JG Contracting Company, Inc. for the Centre County Retaining Wall Project. This change order is in the amount of \$25,000 and will be to proceed with surveying, engineering and design drawings to install new security fencing and railings on the north and south sides of the Courthouse. Increasing the contract total from \$2,141,300 to \$2,166,300 – Dept. 971.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Change Order No. 01 with JG Contracting Company, Inc.

Human Services

B. MH/ID EI- D&A

Julia Sprinkle asked the Board to approve the following items:

- i. Contract renewal with Center for Community Resources to provide mental health crisis services including mobile, telephone, walk-in and CMHSBG mobile services. The contract total is \$967,716 funded as follows: State \$923,104 and County Match \$44,612 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- ii. Contract renewal with The ARC of Centre County to provide intellectual disability services including in-home and community supports, supported employment, transportation, respite care, and behavioral support services. The contract total is \$74,500 funded as follows: State \$71,065 and County Match \$3,435 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- iii. Contract Addendum No. 1 with Crossroads Counseling, Inc. to allow for funds to provide additional drug and alcohol outpatient services in the amount of \$82,847. Service provider's contract maximum will increase from \$188,262 to \$271,109. The contract total is \$271,109 funded as follows: State \$258,611 and County Match \$12,498 for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 – Dept 562.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the MH/ID EI- D&A items i-iii to next week's Consent Agenda.

VIII. 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. Planning and Community Development – Consider approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Centre County Housing & Land Trust (CCHLT) to provide general and/or administrative support to Centre County Housing & Land Trust for up to 5 hours per week of work time and coordination with the Centre County Planning & Community Development Office. There is no contract total for the period of November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024 – Dept 151.

Human Services

B. MH/ID EI- D&A

- i. Contract renewal with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to provide mental health services including community residential, targeted case management, and housing support. The contract total is \$1,332,000 funded as follows: State \$1,270,595 and County Match \$61,405 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- ii. Contract renewal with Eagle Valley Personal Care Home to provide mental health services including housing support, community residential services and family support services. The contract total is \$684,000 funded as follows: State \$652,468 and County Match \$31,532 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- iii. Contract renewal with Eagle View Personal Care Home, LLC to provide mental health services including community residential (enhanced support in a community residence). The contract total is \$450,000 funded as follows: State \$429,255 and County Match \$20,745 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- iv. Contract renewal with Skills, Inc to provide mental health services including family based, psychiatric rehabilitation, community employment, and peer support services. Intellectual disability services include community employment, community habilitation, prevocational services and respite. The contract total is \$256,106 funded as follows: State \$244,299 and County Match \$11,807 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.
- v. Contract renewal with The Advocacy Alliance to provide mental health services including social rehabilitation and CFST case management surveys. Intellectual disability services include incident management and transportation services. The contract total is \$30,000 funded as follows: State \$28,617 and County Match \$1,383 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.

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

IX. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$1,850,384.90 dated October 20, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated October 20, 2023.

X. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle stated the County awarded refrigerators and freezers to seven local food pantries. This will allow local food pantries and food banks to store more food in their organizations to distribute to individuals in need. Julia stated the holiday season is quickly approaching and any donations to local food banks and pantries are greatly appreciated.

XI. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported a total of 100,611 registered voters in Centre County. The Precinct of the week is Precinct #32 State College West 2. In the last Election there were 745 registered voters with 351 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 47.11%.

B. Announcements

- i. Deadline to request a mail-in ballot is October 31, 2023 for the 2023 Municipal Election.
- ii. Ballot drop box locations will be closing on November 6th at 9:00 AM for the 2023 Municipal Election.
- iii. Anyone interested in becoming a Poll worker or assisting with the counting of ballots should contact the Elections Office at 814-355-6703.
- iv. Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023 in observance of Veteran's Day.
- v. The Board of Commissioners meeting for Tuesday, November 7, 2023 is cancelled due to the Municipal Election.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XIII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Board of Commissioners Work Session – 11:00 AM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Finance Committee – 9 AM – Willowbank 146

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections – 1:00 PM – Willowbank 146

XIV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.
Administrator