



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellevue, 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, Diana Griffith, Dave Lomison, Brian Querry, Lee Sheaffer, Faith Ryan, Sheriff Bryan Sampsel, Karri Hull

Guests present included Mark Keller, Eugene McFeely, Zack Moore, Todd Taylor, Cindy Kunes, and Julie Harshbarger

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson and Maria Cade.

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 18 and October 24, 2023 and the Board of Commissioners meeting held on October 24, 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 18 and October 24, 2023.

VI. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 46 of 2023 – Eugene McFeely and Brian Querry joined the Board in proclaiming November 2023 as “Military Appreciation Month” in Centre County.

Eugene McFeely with Penn State stated the theme this year for Penn State’s Military Appreciation Month is “Military Family” and on November 3rd, the Military banners will be unveiled in downtown State College. The themed movie of the week that will be showed is Top Gun Maverick. Brian Querry with the Veterans Affairs Department, stated the annual Veterans’ Day celebration will be at Talleyrand Park on Saturday, November 11th at

11:00 AM. The Pack Act for Vets is still open, and they should contact the County's VA Office to submit a claim.

Zack Moore stated that he is so proud to be part of the Penn State Military Appreciation event and thanked the Board for acknowledging this special event.

The Board thanked all the Military personnel that have served or continue to serve for our Country. Commissioner Dershem thanked our VA Office and Penn State for everything that they have done for our local Veterans and families in Centre County.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation 46 of 2023 proclaiming November 2023 as "Military Appreciation Month" in Centre County.

VII. RESOLUTION

Resolution 21 of 2023 – Mark Keller asked the Board to approve 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 Centre County Public Safety Training Center.

Mark Keller of the Centre County Public Safety Training Center and Todd Taylor of CPI stated in the last five years there has been a confined space prop, a hazardous materials training and the fire station added to the building. Todd stated between Fire and EMS Personnel, their training center is serving 18 Counties. From 2018, the Center has grown from 50 classes to 130 classes. In 2023, they will be at 235 classes between Fire and EMS. The proposed training center building will have five classrooms, two shower/locker rooms, a hands-on law enforcement room for various trainings, administrative offices, a computer lab and a garage to house various vehicles and ambulances. Todd Taylor stated the partnership with CPI and Centre County has been great over the years.

The Board thanked Mark and Todd for coming today and speaking in detail about the proposed training center building. The center will not only bring individuals from other Counties but also ensure our EMS and Fire Personnel receive the necessary training across the region. Commissioner Dershem thanked Mark Keller for all of his time and effort that he has put in over the years at the facility and at CPI.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 21 of 2023.

VIII. PRESENTATION

Financing of Purchased Agricultural Conservation Easements History

Diana Griffith gave a brief presentation to the Board about the history and financing of purchased agricultural conservation easements. Diana stated the program started in 1991. The three Municipal partners for 2023 are Ferguson, Halfmoon and Potter Townships. Diana stated the program is on track to have 10,000 preserved acres by 2024.

The Board thanked all of the partners, farmers, Diana, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board and everyone else that has a part in helping this Program to be successful over the years in preserving the farms in Centre County.

IX. BIDS AND PROPOSALS

Snow Removal Services – Lee Sheaffer asked the Board to approve the request for Proposals for snow removal services for County-operated facilities – Dept. 161.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve advertisement of the RFP – Snow Removal Services.

X. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATION

Human Services

A. Transportation

Dave Lomison asked the Board to approve the following items:

- i. Approve the In-Kind purchase of three vehicles from Penn State University using In-Kind funds. The three vehicles will allow the fleet to be upgraded and remove vehicles that have met their useful life. The total cost to obtain the vehicles listed would be \$45,870, which includes the 10% fee that Penn State charges – Dept 531/532.

Vehicle	Price
2016 Dodge Caravan Mini-Van	\$11,775.00
2018 Dodge Caravan Mini-Van	\$13,025.00
2018 Ford Explorer 4X4	\$16,900

- ii. Approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4X4 truck from Stuckey Ford through the State contract system to be used by the Humane Officer through the Sheriff's Department. The total cost of the vehicle is \$51,617 – Dept. 532.

Sheriff Bryan Sampsel stated the F250 truck was requested in case a trailer is needed to be towed for rescuing larger animals. The Humane Officer training is offered once a year in May. The Board thanked Sheriff Sampsel, Dave and Karri for all of their hard work for helping this position to continue to move forward.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Transportation items i-ii.

- B. Adult Services – Faith Ryan asked the Board to approve the FY23 PHARE Grant Application with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) for the continuation of the Housing Navigation Program. The grant total is \$30,000 funded as follows: State \$30,000 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 – Dept 501.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the grant application for the FY23 PHARE Grant to next week's Consent Agenda.

- C. MH/ID EI- D&A – Faith Ryan asked the Board to approve a letter of Agreement with Tiffany Zygmunt to provide early intervention services including IFSP Teaming and speech therapy. The contract total is \$14,000 funded as follows: State \$12,600 and County Match \$1,400 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 561.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the contract with Tiffany Zygmunt to next week's Consent Agenda.

XI. 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. MH/ID EI- D&A

- 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.

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

XII. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARD	NAME	ACTION	TERM
Children and Youth Services Advisory Board	David Sexton Jr.	Appointment	October 31, 2023 – October 30, 2025

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

XIII. CNET REQUEST

Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve a sponsorship for the Centre County Historical Society 2023 John H. Ziegler Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Pennsylvania Match Factory.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve sponsorship of the C-NET request from the Centre County Historical Society.

XIV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$1,874,221.38 dated October 27, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated October 27,

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XV. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XVI. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported a total of 100,732 registered voters in Centre County. The Precinct of the week is Precinct #34 State College WC2. In the last Election there were 1,022 registered voters with 59 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 5.77%.

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.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XVIII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Board of Elections – 1:00 PM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections Public test of equipment to tabulate votes cast – 1 PM– Willowbank 146

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Board of Elections – 6 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146 – CANCELLED DUE TO MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Board of Elections – 2 PM – Willowbank 146

XIX. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

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XX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 11:03 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator