



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellefonte, 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 Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Sherry Narehood, Denise Rupert, Richard Killian and Krista Davis.

Guests present included Lisa Dehaas, Bobbi Salvanish, Rich Kelley, David Sexton, Brent Meckley, Cindy Kunes, Kevin Corman, John Tooker, Mike Musser, Sue Rockey, Julie Harshbarger, Deb Berger, Cindy Kocher, Cecil Houser and Sally Houser.

Representatives from the news media included Maria Cade and 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 meeting held on October 31, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 31, 2023.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bellefonte Hometown Hero Program to present donations to:

Sally Houser and Deb Berger with Historic Bellefonte Inc. stated they will be donating \$7,000 of funds to the following organizations:

- i. Rising Hope Therapeutic Riding Center – Lisa Dehaas and Cindy Kocher accepted the donation.
- ii. Logan Fire Company No. 1 – Bobbi Salvanish accepted the donation.

- iii. Undine Fire Company No. 2 – Rich Kelley accepted the donation.
- iv. Bellefonte Union Cemetery Association – Kevin Corman and David Sexton accepted the donation
- v. Bellefonte EMS – Brent Meckley accepted the donation.

Deb Burger stated another round of donations will be made in the year of 2024. The Commissioners thanked all of the groups for attending and Historic Bellefonte Inc. for giving back to our community.

VII. 2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET ADOPTION

Richard Killian presented the 2024 Tentative County Budget to the Board in the amount of \$141,727,824 of which \$113,137,810 is the operating budget and \$28,590,014 is for capital reserve. Final adoption of the 2024 County Budget is scheduled for December 5, 2023 – Dept. 113. – Dept. 113.

Richard stated there is no increase in County real estate taxes for the 14th year in a row. The proposed budget reflects a 1.6 % increase in real estate tax revenue. The total operating budget is \$113.1 million, which is a 6.0% increase from the 2023 budget. The total budget is \$141.7 million. The final budget is scheduled to be adopted on December 5, 2023.

The Commissioners stated the budget has been months of work and appreciated everyone who helped make the budget a success. Commissioner Dershem stated there was a significant increase in health care costs and looks forward to what 2024 will bring.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2024 Tentative County Budget and authorize advertisement for public inspection.

VIII. RESOLUTION

Resolution 22 of 2023- Cindy Kunes and John Tooker 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 \$999,998 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for necessary renovations for Kepler Pool.

Cindy Kunes and John Tooker of the Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority presented a brief history of Kepler Pool. The Kepler Pool was originally constructed in 1971 and in 2018 initial plans for the pool redesign and rebuild of the facility started. Bids were received in December of 2021 that were over budget and no rewards have been made. Additional grants and community donations have since been secured for additional funding. The Project is divided into two phases and is planning to apply for more grants and in-kind support in 2023 and 2024. The Board thanked Cindy and John on their work on this project and look forward to what the future brings.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 22 of 2023.

IX. CONTRACTS – AUTHORIZATION

- A. District Attorney – Denise Rupert asked the Board to approve a Certification Regarding Lobbying form regarding the STOP Grant. The STOP Grant provides funding for prevention, education and prosecution for sexual assault and domestic violence. PCCD’s Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) requires this form to be signed by all subrecipients receiving a federal award of more than \$100,000 – Dept. 221.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board of Commissioners to sign the Certification Regarding Lobbying form.

B. Risk Management

Krista Davis asked the Board to approve the following items:

- i. Consider approval of the Loss Prevention Grant application with Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) to provide electronically swiped doors in the Prothonotary Office. The work will be done by Watkin Security, LLC for a total of \$8,338 for the period of June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024 – Dept. 112.
- ii. Consider approval of a contract renewal with Pennsylvania Manufacturers’ Association Insurance Company, Manufacturers Alliance Insurance Company and Pennsylvania Manufacturers Indemnity Company (PMA) for Centre County’s workers compensation insurance policy. The contract total is \$152,288 for the period of January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025 – Dept. 112.
- iii. Consider approval of the Program Agreement Endorsement with Pennsylvania Manufacturers’ Association Insurance Company, Manufacturers Alliance Insurance Company and Pennsylvania Manufacturers Indemnity Company (PMA). There is no contract total for the time period of January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025 – Dept. 112.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the Risk Management items i-iii to next week’s Consent Agenda.

Human Services

C. Children and Youth Services

Julia Sprinkle asked the Board to approve the following items:

- i. Contract renewal with Adelphoi Village, Inc. to provide foster care/residential services for dependent and delinquent youth. The contract total is \$240,000 funded as follows: State \$192,000 and County \$48,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 511.
- ii. Contract renewal with Children’s Aid Home Programs of Somerset County, Inc. to provide foster care/residential services for dependent/delinquent youth. The contract total is \$30,000 funded as follows: State \$24,000 and County \$6,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 511.
- iii. Contract with Little Bears Daycare to provide childcare services for children in foster care. The contract total is \$10,000 funded as follows: State: \$8,000 and County \$2,000 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 511.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the Children & Youth Services contracts i-iii to next week's Consent Agenda.

- D. Aging – Julia Sprinkle asked the Board to approve a contract renewal with Philipsburg Towers Affordable, LLC to lease the space for the Philipsburg Senior Center. The annual rent will be as follows: Year 1: \$4,800, Year 2: \$4,900 and Year 3: \$5,000. Increase cost of rent will be budgeted into the 2024 fiscal year. The contract total is \$14,700 for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026 – Dept 521.

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

- E. MH/ID EI- D&A – Julia Sprinkle asked the Board to approve a contract renewal with Crossroads Counseling, Inc to provide drug and alcohol services including case management, outpatient, intensive outpatient, recovery support, intervention, MAT, and recovery housing. The contract total is \$205,000 funded as follows: State \$64,488; Federal \$135,124 and County Match \$5,388 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 – Dept 562.

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

X. LIQUID FUELS – FEE FOR LOCAL USE

- i. Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve a Liquid Fuels check to Rush Township in the amount of \$50,000 for the reconstruction of McCord Road, Casanova Road, Chestnut street, and Casanova Spur for road improvements – Dept. 412.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the liquid fuels check for Rush Township.

XI. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARD	NAME	ACTION	TERM
Aging Advisory Board	Connie Cousins	Appointment	November 14, 2023 - November 13, 2026
Aging Advisory Board	Judy Geschwindner	Resignation	January 1, 2021 – November 14, 2023
Children & Youth Services Advisory Board	Hillary Haris	Re-appointment	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025
Children & Youth Services Advisory Board	Cheryl Speakman	Re-appointment	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025
Children & Youth Services Advisory Board	Bill Speakman	Re-appointment	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025
Children & Youth Services Advisory Board	Judith Machon	Resignation	July 1, 2021- November 14, 2023

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

XII. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$738,333.64 dated November 9, 2023.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated November 9, 2023.

XIII. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator John Franek Jr. asked the Board to approve the 2024 County Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Dershem suggested adding Friday as an additional day for work sessions to be held.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024 County Meeting Schedule with the addition of Fridays as a potential day for Work Sessions.

XIV. REPORTS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

B. Announcements

i. The Board of Commissioners meeting on November 21st has been cancelled to allow the Board to attend the CCAP Fall Conference.

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- ii. Centre County Government Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XVI. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Board of Elections – 3:00 PM – Willowbank 146

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Salary Board – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Board of Commissioners – 10 AM – Willowbank 146 – CANCELLED DUE TO CCAP CONFERENCE

Board of Commissioners Work Session – 11 AM – Willowbank 146 - CANCELLED DUE TO CCAP CONFERENCE

Board of Elections – 3 PM – Willowbank 146

XVII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 11:00 AM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator