



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2020, 10:00 A.M.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:02 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith, Director of Financial Management Tom Martin, and Director of Human Resources Kristen Simkins.

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Budget/Financial Impacts

Administrator Margaret Gray discussed a change of one position in Cooperative Extension from part time to full time. The department said this is the only administrative position and the individual is busier now than ever. Margaret suggested that the position be changed to a part-time furlough. Commissioner Pipe noted that the position is exempt and they would receive the same compensation either way. Director of Human Resources Kristen Simkins noted that a furlough letter was already sent to this individual. They will not be placed on the furlough list and a new letter will be sent. Margaret will contact the department head to further explain the decision.

Following receipt of data from the Department of Health, Director of Emergency Communications Dale Neff has asked that one of his positions not be furloughed. The Board will further discuss this with Dale in Executive Session.

Commissioner Pipe reported that District Attorney Bernie Cantorna has discussed the furlough with his staff and has requested one additional position for furlough in his office.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Pipe, the Board voted 2-1 with Commissioner Dershem opposed to additional temporary furloughs, partial reduction in hours and changes in the personnel listing.

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IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

A. Gary Sinderson

- i. Furlough numbers have changed Tuesday to Thursday. Will the Board continue to review changes moving forward?
- ii. If employees sign up for unemployment does that affect the County's cost savings?
- iii. Governor Wolf issued guidance yesterday about the County Commissioners making guidance on essential businesses. Any comments?

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:13 AM.

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray
Administrator