



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, February 2, 2023 10:00 A.M.

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

[Register](#) online to receive a notification when meeting agendas are posted.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:00 AM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator John Franek Jr., Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel included Deputy Administrator Natalie Corman, Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle, Liz Lose, Recorder of Deeds Joe Davidson, and Sheriff Bryan Sampsel.

Guests present included State Representative Kerry Benninghoff, Stephanie Larkin, Jill Willshier, William Becker, Colton Weaver, Joe Hall, Allison Kurtz, Joe Hall, Kris Anderson, Buddy Franklin, Mike Igly, Kaitlin Myers, Lucas Grodis, Jacob Zupor, Bernie Kephala, Steve Kuncelman, Wade Baumgartner, Larry Giesh, Ben Steinmeyer, Mike Hawbaker, Jeff Lamb, Scott Good, Steve Consolmen, and Mike Danaker.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

William Becker and Colton Weaver from Lamar Township gave public comment on the BAC program and various trainings that he has received while being in the Union as a bricklayer.

Stephanie Larkin the Vice-President of Education, Safety and Workforce Development for ABC in the Keystone Chapter gave public comment on trainings and safety apprenticeships.

Joe Hall, Business Agent for Local 520 Plumbers and Pipeline Fitters Union out of Harrisburg, gave public comment on skilled apprenticeship programs and other benefits/training on pipe-fitting welding.

Allison Kurtz of College Township, President of Ameron Construction Co Inc. gave public comment on the safety and training programs and prevailing wages.

Mike Hawbaker with Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. gave public comment on safety and offsite fabrication.

State Representative Kerry Benninghoff gave public comment on economic models.

Steve Consolmen of Local Union 126 international Brotherhood of Electric Workers of Cambria County gave public comment on qualified workers with the organized apprenticeship program.

Larry Giesh from Upper Union Township, Training Coordinator for the Carpenters Union gave public comment on apprenticeship and education.

Mike Igly, Business Agent for Sheetmetal Workers from Schuylkill County gave public comment on training programs.

Wade Baumgartner, Council Representative from the Carpenters Union gave public comment on apprenticeships for the program and outside contractors.

Chris Andersen from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers gave public comment on apprenticeship and training programs.

Scott Burk from State College who owns a local landscaping company gave public comment on all the training that he offers to his employees and how this could negatively affect his company.

Jill Willshier with ABC gave public comment on pipeline shortage of workers.

Mike Danaker of Spring Township gave public comment on reducing the local workers and the impact of other municipalities.

Buddy Franklin of Snow Shoe Township gave public comment on prevailing wages and apprenticeships.

III. Responsible Contractor Ordinance

Commissioner Higgins stated that the Board will work more on the proposed Ordinance and specifically look at the training aspect of the Ordinance, which is section 3c 10.

Commissioner Concepcion stated it will be helpful to understand the labor and industry certification process and criteria.

Solicitor Betsy Dupuis stated the CPI and State College programs are not through the Labor and Industry Program it is through the Department of Education which is a totally different analysis.

Commissioner Dershem stated the Ordinance needs more work on the language and he is not in favor of the Ordinance that would disqualify workers for Government projects.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins seconded by Commissioner Concepcion, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 AM.

ATTEST:

John Franek Jr.
Administrator