



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 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 Centre County Board of Commissioners was convened at 10:00 AM by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.
- B. County personnel present included Bernie Cantorna, Chad Joyce, Natalie Corman, Jeff Wharran, Mike Bloom, and Sue Hannegan.
- C. Guests present include Patricia Best, Bob Sheaffer, Ernest Greene, Mike Fisher, and Scott Kramer.
- D. Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson, Chris Morelli, and Marley Parish.
- E. CNET staff were present.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

### IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Tuesday, February 25, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, February 25, 2020 Board of Commissioners' meeting.*

### V. PRESENTATION

Administrator Margaret Gray introduced Dr. Patricia Best, Chairperson of the Task Force for Mental Health Crisis Services to provide an update. The Task Force was jointly created by Centre County Government and the State College Borough Council. In mid-November, Chairperson Dr. Billie Willits suddenly passed away and they were forced to reorganize.

The task force is very focused on what are we doing for those in crisis, what are we doing for those who love them, what are we doing for the providers who bear the responsibilities and challenges.

The charge of the task force is to create a map of the current system in a thorough and accurate fashion. What do we learn from it; where can we take it; and how can we approve?

The first part is gathering information. This has involved a series of interviews, with more than 50 being conducted. They are set up to illicit different information from different people. The data is in three categories: Descriptive - Who does what, where, when and why. Statistical - Who is being served; how are they being served, and what areas. Perceptual data - What do people experience as they go through?

The second part is analysis. What successes do we have? Where are the gaps? What are some creative and innovative opportunities? Identifying barriers.

In preparation for the Task Force's recommendation, there will be an opportunity for the public to provide feedback. Thoughts, ideas, and questions on the Task Force can be submitted online at [statecollegepa.us/engage](http://statecollegepa.us/engage).

Dr. Patricia Best stated, "Our task of improving mental health services is both challenging and critically important. To add value to this undertaking, this task force is in itself running neither a sprint nor a marathon, it is in fact a relay. It is incumbent upon us to come off the blocks with a strong steady start, to know the course ahead, to establish our pace, to stay in our lane on both straightaways and curves. If we stumble to right ourselves and go on, and finally to finish with a strong handoff of the baton to the next team member who will carry it forward to the eventual finish line."

Results will be presented in July.

## VI. CONTRACTS

- A. Emergency Management – Director Jeff Wharran presented a client agreement with Michael Baker International, Inc. to perform engineering and technical services to complete the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The contract total is \$50,000, which is funded as follows: Federal \$37,500 and County \$12,500. Since 1995, there have been 57 Presidential disaster and emergency declarations in Pennsylvania, of which 15 have affected Centre County. The purpose of the Plan is to provide a blueprint for reducing property damage and saving lives from the effects of future natural and human disasters in Centre County. A kickoff meeting will be held in April, with a draft plan ready in January of next year and adoption by next May – Dept. 351.

Gary Sinderson requested an update on the Corona Virus. Margaret reported that the County is monitoring CDC guidance and tomorrow will participate in a CCAP conference call with State Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Lavine. The County is looking at the environment, employee support and guidance, and emergency management. If this were to reach a pandemic status, a continuity of operations plan is in place to make sure services are available to the community.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the client agreement with Michael Baker, International, Inc. to next week's Consent Agenda.*

B. Planning – Assistant Director Mike Bloom presented the following items.

- i. Resolution 7 of 2020 –Authorizing the County Administrator Margaret N. Gray signatory authority with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation.

Joining Mike to present the Resolution was Executive Director of Highway Safety Network Bob Sheaffer. Two years ago, the County entered into an agreement with Highway Safety Network (HSN) to leverage funding for a community traffic safety project. The Resolution is a continuation of that effort. HSN needs approval to use a restricted access tool that will allow them to study trends and continue developing a program. Overseeing four of nineteen counties in the Commonwealth, HSN works to educate the public to drive safer and promote pedestrian safety. – Dept. 151.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 7 of 2020 to next week's Consent Agenda.*

- ii. Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant Agreement for highway and bridge projects between the County of Centre (Sponsor) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). The Sponsor shall participate in the preliminary engineering, including environmental studies, final design, utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition and construction for the project consisting of rehabilitation of the Railroad Street Bridge in Bellefonte Borough and the Mill Street Bridge in Howard Borough. The total grant award is \$2,070,000 with a County match of \$500,000 in Act 13 funds, \$400,000 in County Fee for Local Use funds and \$60,000 in municipal funds for a total project cost of \$3.03 million. The Agreement is effective upon execution for a period of three years, during which the Sponsor shall expend the MTF award – Dept. 151.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Grant Agreement with PennDOT.*

C. Human Services – Human Services Administrator Natalie Corman presented the following items:

- i. Aging

1. County acknowledgement of the goals set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging for the Four Year Plan. These goals are reflective of the community in terms of services provided. The goals include
  - a. In response to the growing and diversifying aging demographic in Pennsylvania, Strengthen our capacity and build efficiency for the future.

- b. Enhance efforts to ensure the equitable wellbeing and wellness and sense of community for all older Pennsylvanians.
  - c. Emphasize a citizen-first culture that provides outreach, embraces diversity and honors individual choice.
  - d. Ensure the safety and dignity of older adults by preventing injury, exploitation, violence and neglect.
  - e. Improve our ability to serve older adults by emphasizing a results driven business model, committed to quality, accountability for resources, data integrity, and data driven, evidence-informed planning – Dept. 521.
2. Letter of Commitment to support the Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging (P4A) to bid on Office of Long Term Living Application and Enrollment Program, In Pennsylvania, P4A advocates for the needs of the County aging offices and services to be provided. The Office of Long Term Living is looking to combine assessment and enrollment together. P4A will bid on the program to try and bring both assessment and enrollment back to the County level – Dept. 521.
  3. Letter of Agreement with Community Service Group to establish reciprocity for referrals. There is no cost for this contract for the period of March 10, 2020 through March 9, 2022 – Dept. 521.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add Aging items 1-3 to next week's Consent Agenda.*

ii. MH/ID/EI – D&A

1. Letter of agreement with the State College Area School District for the provision of drug and alcohol and/or mental health services to the school and its students through the contracted Student Assistance Program service provider agreement. There is no cost for this contract for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 – Dept. 561/562.
2. Letter of agreement with the Penns Valley Area School District for the provision of drug and alcohol and/or mental health services to the school and its students through the contracted Student Assistance Program service provider agreement. There is no cost for this contract for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 – Dept. 561/562.

3. Letter of agreement with the Bald Eagle Area School District for the provision of drug and alcohol and/or mental health services to the school and its students through the contracted Student Assistance Program service provider agreement. There is no cost for this contract for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 – Dept. 561/562.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the letters of agreement with State College Area School District, Penns Valley Area School District, and Bald Eagle Area School District to next week's Consent Agenda.*

## VII. GRANTS

Planning – Sue Hannegan asked the Board to consider submission of an application for payment to the Pennsylvania Office of Budget for the Centre County Grange Park Equine Centre project through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). Total payment request is \$1,210,689 for distribution to the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair – Dept. 151.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the RACP application for payment.*

## VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve this week's Consent Agenda.*

- A. Correctional Facility – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Centre on behalf of the Centre County Correctional Facility and CentrePeace, Inc. a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. This agreement establishes the joint responsibility of each party in completing protocols, programming, and work activities to support eligible inmates participating in Project Restore at CentrePeace for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 – Dept. 333.
- B. Human Services - Contract addendum with Skills, Inc. to allow for \$26,500 in additional funds to provide mental health vocational rehabilitation services. This increases the mental health contract total from \$205,000 to \$231,500 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 – Dept. 561.
- C. Emergency Communications
  - i. Grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for 9-1-1 Statewide Interconnectivity Funding. The following projects are outlined in the grant for funding: SAC ESInet Maintenance project \$40,417; Regional ESInet Battery Replacement project \$27,896.91; SAC CHE and ALI Maintenance project \$16,140; and Regional Protocol Software Solution project \$13,098 for a total grant award of \$97,551.91 for the period of

January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 – Dept. 354.

- ii. Proposal from Mission Critical Partners to provide Next Gen consulting services for the Southern Alleghenies 9-1-1 Cooperative grant projects. Mission Critical Partners will provide support related to technology planning, evaluation, procurement, configuration, migration, transition, and implementation support. Total proposal is \$31,815, which is State funded – Dept. 354.

D. Planning

- i. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Centre Regional Planning Agency establishing joint rights and responsibilities of each party in completing transportation and project development activities on behalf of the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO). The County's contribution for the MOU is \$131,322 for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 – Dept. 151.

- IX. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
- X. LIQUID FUELS
- XI. FEE FOR LOCAL USE
- XII. PRESENTATION
- XIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Higgins introduced Mike Fisher and Scott Kramer of SEDA COG.

SEDA COG is a member of the local development district, a special designation through the Appalachian Regional Commission. They are pursuing a grant application on the County's behalf, funding would be used to incentivize internet service providers. The seven local dev districts will be the grantee and SEDA COG would administer the grant on the County's behalf. For Centre County, the project would focus on the Snow Shoe area. They ask that the Commissioners endorse their efforts and provide a letter of support before March 27. Notification from the Appalachian Regional Commission would be expected in August for a grant of approximately \$200,000. SEDA COG would narrow the internet service provider's use of the funding to acquisition of equipment and lease or purchase of ground. There would then be a five to ten year lien to ensure the internet service provider continues to perform in long term. Local match funding will hopefully be provided through a legislative line item in Keystone Program.

Commissioner Pipe said that broadband is a priority for Centre County and if the Board is in agreement will have plenty of time to approve a letter.

- XIV. ABC Appointment/Re-Appointment/Term Expiration/Resignation

XV. CHECK RUN

Check run in the amount of \$960,813.10 dated February 28, 2020.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run dated February 28, 2020.*

XVI. C-NET REQUESTS

XVII. RECOGNITION

XVIII. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Voter Registration Report

Commissioner Dershem reported 109,270 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is #65 Patton North 2 with 2,381 registered voters. In the General election there were 814 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 34.19%.

B. Announcements

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

The Board met in executive session on Thursday, February 27 from 11:00 to 12:30 for a personnel matter. They will meet today following this meeting.

XX. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

BOC Meeting- 10:00 AM - Room 146WB

Thursday, March 5, 2020

BOC/Salary Board - 10:00 AM - 146WB

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

BOC Meeting- 10:00 AM - Room 146WB

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Prison Board of Inspectors - 8:00 AM - CCCF

BOC/Salary Board - 10:00 AM - 146WB

XXI. BID / PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

RFP - Mountain Top Activity Center - Pre-Proposal Meeting

Friday, April 3, 2020

RFP - Mountain Top Activity Center - Responses Due

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

RFP - Mountain Top Activity Center - Opening

Tuesday, April 20, 2020

RFP – Mountain Top Activity Center – Contract Award

XXII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions.

Monday, April 13, 2020

Last day to REGISTER before the primary.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

GENERAL PRIMARY

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots.  
Must be received by 8PM.

XXIII. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Dershem, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 11:05 AM.

ATTEST:

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Margaret N. Gray  
Administrator