



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 1:00 P.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 1:02 PM 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.

Guests present included Marie Librizzi, Joe Hall, Jim Willshirer, Dave Sload, Stephanie Schmidt, Bill Becker, Pat Irwin, Tim Hoy, Colton Weaver, Tyler Hockman, Alan Moose, Kathy Dane, Dave Coudrier, Hersh Stoelton, Gary Thull, Mike Hawbaker, Connor Lewis, Buddy Franklin, Roy Elwing, Todd Farally, Joe Leshe, Logan Wilkinson, Dakota Harpster, Phillip Kennedy, Joe Guenot, Wade Bumgardner, Jeremy Struble, Barry Owens, and Hunter Harter.

Representatives from the news media included Halie Kines and Gary Sinderson.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Logan Wilkinson of Philipsburg gave public comment on being a local construction worker.

Tyler Hockman of Bricklayer of Allied Craftworkers gave public comment on apprenticeships and safety training he has received.

Colton Weaver from Lamar Township gave public comment on the apprenticeship and safety training.

Hunter Harter of Bellefonte, a first-year apprentice of the Local Carpenters Union gave public comment on the advantages of his apprenticeship and the benefits it has provided.

Philip Kennedy of State College gave public comment as a third-year apprentice with the Local Carpenters Union and the benefits and safety aspect of his fellow journeymen.

Dakota Harpster a fourth-year apprentice of 423 gave public comment on what the Union has provided for him and his family.

Marie Librizzi of Ferguson Township gave public comment on the Ordinance and would not like to eliminate any local businesses the opportunity for work with the proposed Ordinance.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023
PAGE 2

Mike Hawbaker from Glenn O. Hawbaker gave public comment on the contractor/subcontractor responsibility certification page, off-site fabrication, as well as Section 10 of the Ordinance.

Dave Sload, President and CEO of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Keystone Chapter gave public comment on the various apprenticeships and trainings as well as the 70% threshold of apprenticeships.

Gary Thull owner of Gary Thull Pools gave public comment on the bid threshold and public works contracting section of the Ordinance.

Joe Guenot gave public comment on non-union versus union workers and would like to keep jobs in the Centre County area.

Marie Librizzi gave public comment on union versus non-union wages on jobs.

Stephanie Schmidt, President of Pool Anderson Construction gave public comment favoring education, safety and apprenticeship programs and the chance of eliminating competition of projects.

Wade Bumgardner of the Carpenter's Union gave public comment on prevailing wage work versus private work jobs of his union contractors.

Jeremy Struble of Clearfield County gave public comment on how safety and training and would like some sort of language put into play to protect our local citizens.

Connor Lewis of State College Borough and President of Seven Mountains Labor Council, AFL-CIO gave public comment on the importance of the Ordinance and how it allows competition between contractors.

Barry Owens, Vice-President of Operations for Penn Installations gave public comment on the importance of apprenticeships.

Joe Lee, Vice-President of McCrossin gave public comment on the importance of apprenticeships to local workers and safety.

Pat Irwin of Leonard S. Fiore gave public comment on training, apprenticeships, and safety programs offered with his company.

Todd Farally of Sheet Metal Workers gave public comment on how the Ordinance defines what a responsible contractor is.

Buddy Franklin gave public comment on pre-fabrication and apprenticeships.

Commissioner Higgins thanked everyone for attending the work session and everyone who spoke. Commissioner Concepcion commented on the 14 day versus 30-day timeframe of submitting a subcontractor list, as well as the language around pre-fabrication reflects our intention would be two main points that the County would like to clean up.

Solicitor Betsy Dupuis stated that she suggests asking contractors in the room how many could meet the 70% requirement. She stated there are so many variations of the Ordinance in different Counties and some are able to pull the contract out when they can't get bids for a project. She would like to see how many smaller municipalities have had to recall the RCO due not receiving bids. There seems to be no statewide statistic on

how many jurisdictions have something like this in place. The pre-fabrication question would be something that could potentially impact the Ordinance.

Pat Irwin gave public comment on pre-fabrication and that it is based on: quality, safety and worker shortage.

Commissioner Dershem questioned about individuals having experience and qualifications versus individuals who need to be in apprenticeships. Commissioner Dershem questioned the 70% threshold and stated it will eliminate potential bidders as well as drive up the cost of future jobs/projects.

Commissioner Higgins stated he would like 70% of workers to be in a registered apprenticeship program. Commissioner Dershem stated it clearly benefits companies that use the Union program and not towards companies that are non-Union, and he would like to look out for all Centre County tax payers.

David Sloan gave public comment on apprenticeships versus trained craftsmen that do not have apprenticeships.

Buddy Franklin gave public comment on apprenticeships.

Commissioner Dershem stated this is an unnecessary effort and there are currently so many questions in these documents.

III. RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTOR ORDINANCE

Commissioner Higgins stated there will need to be some more work on the proposed changes to the Ordinance and a possible informational session in the future to continue to work on the suggested changes.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator