



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 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 called to order at 10:00 AM, by Chair of the Board Michael Pipe.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In attendance were Commissioner Chairman Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Deputy Administrator Bob Jacobs and Staff Assistant Rhonda Kelly.

County personnel present included Dale Neff, Robert Jacobs, Chuck Witmer, Ray Stolinas, Mike Bloom, Natalie Corman, Tom Martin and Dave Lomison

Guests present included Dawn McKee, Laura Gibbons, David Gibbons, Denise Sticha, Missy Schoonover, Executive Director of the Centre County Land Trust and Darren Johnston, Treasurer

Representatives from the news media included Gary Sinderson, Chris Morelli and Marley Parish.

CNET staff were present.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

### IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the Tuesday, September 24, 2019 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, September 24, 2019.*

### V. PRESENTATION

Commissioner Pipe welcomed Dale Neff, Director of Emergency Communications and Dave Gibbons, Founder and Manager of Centre WISP, a local, wireless internet company. Centre County Government and WISP entered into a public/private partnership in 2019 to address the rural broadband crisis in Centre County. Dave expressed that a public/private partnership recognizes that government and private industry each does certain things well. In this particular partnership, a solution was realized to address the rural broadband crisis in Centre County. WISP rents tower space from the County that not only enables the high speed internet service but also generates revenue for the County.

In July 2019 the first equipment was mounted on the Centre Hall tower, bringing broadband high speed internet to more than 100 Centre County rural residences that otherwise may not have been able to receive a signal. The hard-to-reach service areas receive the required line-of-sight signal with micro-cells and redistribution and is not affected by weather degradation.

The community impact of the newly accessible high speed internet service has enabled remote learning, (i.e., Cyber schools), large employers, community centers and healthcare facilities (i.e., telemedicine); and private residents to access entertainment (i.e., Netflix, Hulu, etc.).

The economic impact of WISP's investment (\$150,000) has generated revenue for Centre County government (leased tower space); created one (1) local job (residential service installer); and has provided telecommuting opportunities (saving travel time and bringing high-paying wages to Centre County).

Centre WISP anticipates by the end of 2019 to have completed additional work to the network for even more improved internet service. In 2020, WISP anticipates additional equipment installation on the Willowbank tower as well as on a tower currently being constructed in Rebersburg.

Dale stated the impact / footprint on the towers is very small. He also stated that First Responders in the community have already benefitted from the improved service. They are now able to and have already participated in live video trainings.

The Commissioners expressed thanks for the positive impact WISP has by providing the crucial internet services needed in rural Centre County. It was noted there are only four (4) counties in the State provide some type of internet service through public/ private partnerships. WISP is also looking into a mesh repeater network.

#### VI. PROCLAMATION

Proclamation No. 28 of 2019 – Commissioner Pipe welcomed Dawn McKee from Centre Safe. Dawn explained that their outreach focus this year is on the faith community to reach more people who may be having personal or relationship problems as well as reaching those who are in the more rural areas.

Over 70 packets have been distributed to area churches and faith communities with information on Centre Safe and informative ways the congregations can create and promote safe, supportive and inclusive environments. Centre Safe is happy to offer the faith communities a number of programs, such as support groups and children's Sunday School classes.

The 'Empty Place At The Table' is an exhibit that represents 17 people in the community that lost their lives as the result of domestic violence. This exhibit is currently being displayed on a rotation basis among each YMCA branch. Dawn expressed that Centre Safe is appreciative of the Commissioners' support in proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness month and also of their support of Marsy's Law.

The Commissioners are pleased that Marsy's Law will be on the voting ballot this year to further awareness.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Proclamation No. 29 of 2019 recognizing October 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness month.*

#### VII. INVITATION FOR BID

Capital Project – Commissioner Pipe welcomed Robert Jacobs and Chuck Witmer to open Bids for the High Street/Penn Street Parking Area Paving Project. Three (3) gravel parking lots are located across from the Centre County Courthouse and are utilized by approximately 40 to 43 employees. The intent to pave the parking lots will improve employee safety and efficient parking areas. Three (3) bids were received by the due date of September 27, 2019.

The bid opening results are as follows: Eby Paving and Construction bid \$61,020 and all required documents were submitted; HRI, Inc. bid \$71,740 and the required seven (7) copies were missing; and Glenn O. Hawbaker bid \$67,520 and all required documents were submitted – Dept. 971.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to table the IFB for the High Street/Penn Street Parking Paving Project until the October 8, 2019 Commissioners' meeting.*

#### VIII. CONTRACTS

- A. Emergency Communications – Dale Neff presented an Agreement with Morefield Communications is for phone support services for the Avaya IP Office system components. In addition to 911 emergency calls received by Dispatch, they also receive 78,000 'business' calls each year through the Avaya system. The contract total is \$5,729.72 for the period of October 2019 through October 2022 – Dept. 354.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the agreement with Morefield Communications to next week's Consent Agenda.*

B. Planning

Ray Stolinis presented a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Centre County Housing and Land Trust (CCHLT) to designate up to five (5) work time hours per week of administrative support to CCHLT related to affordable housing projects. The CCHLT is thankful for the supportive partnership from the Centre County government. There are currently 14 permanent affordable homes in Patton Township; and a prospective 200 units in Ferguson Township due to an Ordinance requirement for workforce affordable housing in the approved Master Plan. A brief discussion ensued about the cost of development affecting affordability by the prospective

homeowner and adhering to requirements versus waivers for the developers. The agreement is for the period of November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020 – Dept. 151.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add the memorandum of agreement with Centre County Housing and Land Trust to next week's Consent Agenda.*

- i. Mike Bloom presented a Multimodal Transportation Fund 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. The project consists of the rehabilitation of the Lower Coleville Road Bridge in Spring Township, Front Street Bridge in Curtin Township, and Fox Gap Road Bridge in Miles Township. The total grant award is \$1,365,000 with a County match of \$585,000 in Act 13 funds for a total project cost of \$1,950,000. 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 add the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Agreement to next week's Consent Agenda.*

- ii. Mike Bloom presented a Cooperative Agreement with the Haines-Woodward Municipal Authority to receive a reimbursement in the amount of \$14,000 through the Keystone Communities Grant for testing/development of a secondary water source – Dept. 151.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Haines-Woodward Municipal Authority - Dept. 151.*

- iii. Mike Bloom presented the following:
  1. A Cooperation Agreement between the Centre County Board of Commissioners, the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair and the Centre County Pomona Grange No. 13 of the Patrons of Husbandry for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania , Office of the Budget Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) grant award for the development of a roof to cover an existing outdoor equine arena. This cooperation agreement will enable the County to enter into a contract with the Commonwealth and shall serve in the capacity of a pass-through Economic Development Agency for purposes of receiving and administering the RACP funding for the Project - Dept. 151.

2. A Contract for the \$1.5 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) with the Pennsylvania Office of Budget to support the Centre County Grange Fair's expansion of the Equine Center at Grange Park – Dept. 151.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Cooperative Agreement and Contract - Dept. 151.*

C. Human Services

Natalie Corman, presented the following Human Services items:

Adult Services – Business associate agreement with Helpmates, Inc. as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to gain access to protected health information. There is no cost for this contract for the period of September 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 – Dept. 501.

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

i. MH/ID/EI – D&A

1. Addendum No. 1 with UPMC Home Care Management Services to provide additional funds for early intervention services in the amount of \$20,000. This increases the contract total from \$7,250 to \$27,250, which is funded as follows: State \$24,525 and County \$2,725 for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 – Dept. 561.
2. Addendum No. 1 with Eagle View Personal Care Home, LLC to provide additional funds for Community Residential services in the amount of \$65,155. This increases the contract total from \$437,000 to \$502,155, which is funded as follows: State \$479,006 and County \$23,149 for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 – Dept. 561.
3. Contract renewal with Kimberly Rimmey to provide community mental health services for children. The contract total is \$27,500, which is funded as follows: State \$26,232 and County \$1,268 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 – Dept. 561.

Contract renewal with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau to provide mental health services that include housing support (de-clutter), family support (children/adolescent respite), and mental health community services (SAP, CASSP, and family group decision making). The contract total is \$74,820, which is funded as follows: State \$71,371 and County \$3,449 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 – Dept. 561.

4. Contract renewal with Housing Transitions, Inc. to provide emergency housing assistance for drug and alcohol clients. The contract total is \$10,000, which is funded as follows: State \$9,539 and County \$461 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 – Dept. 562.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to add items 1-5 for MH/ID/EI D&A to next week's Consent Agenda.*

#### IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Margaret Gray, County Administrator gave an update on last week's conversation topic on the Centre County Library and Historical Museum project at the Holt Memorial Library. She explained that folks from the Holt Memorial Library have requested funds from and are awaiting responses from several entities but that if possible the contract needs to move forward while awaiting the numbers so the work can be completed before the very cold weather. Administrator Gray also recognized that the County is donating \$20,000 for this project. She further explained that any shortfall amount between the \$20,000 and grant amount would be made up by the Friends of the Holt Memorial Library.

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

- A. Resolution No. 15 of 2019 – Fair Housing Policy Resolution, making known the County's commitment to the principle of Fair Housing, and describing actions it shall undertake to further fair – Dept. 151
- B. District Attorney's Office – Contract with Thomson Reuters to provide CLEAR for Law Enforcement Plus, an online investigative software for use by the County Detective. The contract total is \$5,192.71 for the period of October 7, 2019 through October 6, 2022 – Dept. 221.
- C. Correctional Facility –
  - i. Contract renewal with LexisNexis to provide inmate electronic legal Library services. The contract total is \$862 per month, a total of \$31,032, for the period of December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2022 – Dept. 333.
  - ii. Contract renewal with Patrick Zirpoli, LLC for completion of the 2020 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit to ensure compliance with the PREA standards for prisons and jails. The contract rate is \$500 per day, not to exceed \$5,000 not including reimbursement for overnight stays at a rate of \$40 per day and mileage at a rate of \$0.57 per mile- Dept. 333.

#### D. Human Services

MH/ID/EI – Contract addendum No. 2 with Strawberry Fields, Inc. to provide additional early intervention services in the amount of \$135,000. This increases the contract total from \$315,000 to \$450,000, which is funded as follows: State \$405,000 and County \$45,000 for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 – Dept. 561.

Transportation – A CPT Grant Agreement from the PA Department of Transportation, Bureau of Public Transportation for the Shared Ride Lottery and Persons with Disability programs for 2019-2020. The total grant award is \$653,000, which is allocated as follows: Shared Ride Lottery \$576,000 and Persons with Disabilities \$77,000 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 – Dept. 531.

E. Planning – Contract with Centre County Library and Historical Museum and Joseph C. Hazel, Inc. to design/replace the HVAC System at the Holt Memorial Library utilizing Keystone grant award funds. The contract total is \$79,700 ending December 31, 2019 – Dept. 151.

Recorder of Deeds –Contract with Kofile to provide preservation and imaging of eleven deed books (G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, &R) for a total cost of \$48,932 – Dept. 133.

X. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

XI. ACT 13

XII. LIQUID FUELS

Tom Martin requested the Board approve an application from Centre Hall Borough to PennDOT for project #19-14402-001 consisting of base repairs and resurfacing of four borough streets. The total project cost is \$70,490 with a County contribution of \$20,000 - Dept. 411.

*Action: On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve submitting the application for Liquid Fuels to PennDot.*

XIII. CHECK RUN

Commissioner Higgins reported the check of the week was to Centre Communications in the amount of \$4,616.22. On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the check run in the amount of \$381,115.88, dated September 27, 2019.

XIV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dave Lomison, Transportation Director provided information for consideration of a lease agreement with Jeff and Trudy Reese for garage space located at 488 Old Curtin Road, Milesburg. This space would provide a number of opportunities, such working on the County's vehicles during inclement weather and additional office space. The rent is in the amount of \$2,000 per month, for a total of \$48,000 for a lease period of November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2021. The County would also assume the utility costs. There was consensus to place this item on a future agenda to get it finalized – Dept. 532.

XV. RECOGNITION

Boy Scout Troop 31 of State College held a Court of Honor for Eagle Scout Zachary Brezovec on Sunday, September 29, 2019. Important to note that this was the 200<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout ceremony held of Troop 31.

XVI. REPORTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Voter Registration Report - Commissioner Dershem reported 108,586 registered voters in Centre County. The precinct of the week is Ferguson East #51 with 1,366 registered voters. In the Primary Election they had 495 ballots cast for a voter turnout of 34.98%.

Announcement - A Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be held at the Centre County Public Safety Training Center on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Margaret Gray stated there was no Executive Session to report.

XVIII. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 1, 2019  
BOC Meeting- 10:00 AM - Room 146WB

Thursday, October 3, 2019  
BOC/Salary Board - 10:00 AM - Room 146WB

XIX. BID / PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 1, 2019  
Opening of Bids - IFB High and Penn Street Parking Area Paving

Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
Contract Award - IFB High and Penn Street Parking Area Paving

Tuesday, October 15, 2019  
Contract Award - RFP Card Access Control System Upgrade

XX. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 7, 2019  
Last day to REGISTER before the November election.

Tuesday, October 29, 2019  
Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot.

XXI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 AM.

ATTEST:

---

Margaret N. Gray  
Administrator