

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2010

Commissioner Chairman Rodney D. Ruddock called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:34 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Rodney D. Ruddock, present Commissioner David S. Frick, present
Commissioner Patricia A. Evanko, present

Also in attendance were Solicitor Jennifer Szalkowski, Chief Clerk Robin Maryai and others. Members of the news media present were John J. Como, Jared Stout and Celeste Gossman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ruddock led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVE MINUTES...JUNE 23, 2010

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of June 23, 2010 meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Larry Spahr, 5725 Lochvale Rd., Rossiter, PA was present to offer comment regarding a property adjacent to his where there continues to be a build up of trash which draws rats and snakes. He called Commissioner Frick and asked him to make a surprise visit but the home owners got notification of the call and cleaned up the property. Mr. Spahr expressed his concerns that the property is lowering the value of his property. Commissioner Ruddock said that the ownership and oversight of the property is through the Indiana County Redevelopment Authority and he should work with his legal council and theirs to make sure that the issues identified are rectified.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS
ASSESSMENT UPDATE

At the request of Thomas Stutzman, EMA Director, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Preparedness Assessment Update for 2009. This is an annual report to PEMA which identifies the funding and financing used under Act 165 for the Hazmat Response Team.

PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM
CONTRACT

At the request of the Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation for conducting business visitations as part of the Pennsylvania Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP). The contract will provide \$6,800.00 to compensate Planning Office personnel for conducting visitations with 34 local businesses through September 2010.

These business visitations afford an opportunity for local businesses to provide feedback to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding their challenges and needs, while facilitating personal

dialog between the local business community and the County's economic development professionals, who are able to help coordinate assistance, if or when it may be warranted. The Planning Office has conducted over 600 such business visitations under this program since its inception in 1998. Indiana County participates in the BREP program in concert with the nine other counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.

Commissioner Ruddock said that this is a valuable piece of being able to connect with the business community and they are disappointed that this budget item for the state has been cutback significantly.

CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER #3 - CORPORATE CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

At the request of the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development and on behalf of the Indiana County Development Corporation (ICDC), a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve Change Order #3 to the construction contract with JMK Concrete Specialists, LLC for excavations and grading on Lots #6 and #18 at the Corporate Campus business park located in Burrell Township near Blairsville, PA. The recommended change order amount of \$27,790.55 is for final quantity adjustments for unclassified excavation and for additional topsoil on slopes, seeding, and mulching. The revised contract total following Change Order #3 will be \$215,390.55.

GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTHWEST INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND INDIANA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

At the request of Bonni Dunlap, Director of Human Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a grant agreement between the Northwest Institute of Research and Indiana County Department of Human Services. The purpose of the grant is to carry out activities of the Early Childhood Community Engagement Grant. The total amount of the grant is \$50,000.00.

RE-APPOINTMENTS/APPOINTMENT...CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the following re-appointments to the Citizen's Advisory Board for Children & Youth Services:

Robert A Jones, Bain Palmer, Debra Faloon, Kathy Armstrong, Amy Citeroni, Larry D. Davis, Jr., June Wyne, Susan Good, Connie L. Hill, Karen King, Stephen Lowman, E. Faye McCroskey, Pamela Ruffner, Judy Woods.

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Tammie J. Shetler to the Citizen's Advisory Board for Children & Youth Services.

The terms will expire August, 2011.

CONTRACT...MICHAEL T. CLARK / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Michael T. Clark, for Guardian ad Litem services for the subjects of abuse and dependency

petitions filed by the Children & Youth Services on an as needed basis at the rate of \$60.00 per hour.

CONTRACT...JOHN P. MERLO / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with John P. Merlo in the amount of \$1,871.86 per month for the services as a retainer for their solicitor with additional legal services not covered under the retainer at the rate of \$80.00 per hour

CONTRACT...THOMAS RIVOSECCHI / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Thomas Rivosecchi, for Guardian ad Litem services for the subjects of abuse and dependency petitions filed by the Children & Youth Services on an as needed basis at the rate of \$60.00 per hour.

CONTRACT...SAMUEL H. CLARK, ESQUIRE / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Samuel H. Clark as Substitute Solicitor at the rate of \$80.00 per hour on an as needed basis.

CONTRACT...MARC-SERVICE, INC. / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Marc-Services, Inc. for maintenance on their Heating and Air Conditioning Unit at the rate of \$669.50 per year.

VEHICLE PURCHASE...TRI-STAR MOTORS / CYS

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a 2011 Ford Econoline E150 XL 8-passenger Van from Tri-Star Motors, Blairsville, PA in the amount of \$21,633.00. This is state contract pricing and will be purchased through the Independent Living Grant.

PRIVATE PROVIDER CONTRACTS FY 2010-2011

At the request of Paula McClure, Director of Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Evnko and unanimously carried to approve the following Private Provider Contracts for FY 2010-2011:

ARIN IU 28, Indiana, PA
Diakon Lutheran Social Services, Allentown, PA
Great Expectations Day Care, Blairsville, PA
Holy Family Social Services, Pittsburg, PA
Indiana University of PA (IUP), Center for Applied Psychology, Indiana, PA
Pamela Ruffner's Family Home Day Care, Indiana, PA

The contracts cover services for Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation and all are on an as needed basis.

AGREEMENT...FINANCING IDEAS INCORPORATED

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Mark Lundquist, Financing Ideas Incorporated in the amount of \$18,000.00. Mr. Lundquist will act as financial advisor and consultant to assist the County in connection with the financial planning required in connection with the development and consideration of projects and capital projects and financial opportunities of the county as needed.

CONTRACT...IRA WEISS / TAX ASSESSMENT STUDY

At the request of Martin Medvetz, Chief Assessor, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Ira Weiss to undertake an analysis of assessment to sales ratios in each taxing authority in Indiana County to reveal any inequities in tax burden in the communities in the amount of \$5,000.00. The study will take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

Mr. Medvetz quoted a 1909 Supreme Court Assessment decision:

“While every tax is a burden, it is more cheerfully borne when the citizen feels that he is only required to bear his proportionate share of that burden measured by the value of his property to that of his neighbor.”

Commissioner Ruddock said one of the major responsibilities of county government is to be fair to the citizens that are burdened by taxes. He said we would be the first to admit that the way taxes are applied for the use of revenue to the county is an unfair system relying heavily solely on property taxes. The County Commissioners Association has looked at some options to bring a fairness formula particularly to those who use our community but don't live here. We want to make sure that the tax burden is fair and this is our way of verifying where we are as a county by examining the tax application as it occurs in one part of the county against the other to make sure that there is a fairness built into the process. The County Solicitor, Mike Clark, recommended the Law Firm of Ira Weiss because of their extensive background with municipalities and school districts.

Ms. Janet Burkhardt from the Office of Ira Weiss was present and said this study will show how the communities in the county compare to each other because over time market values change. While some properties are appreciating and some are depreciating and a system that stays in place for so many years tends to modify and magnify that.

Commissioner Evanko said there is House Resolution 334 of 2009 that directed the House Budget and Finance Committee to have a study done across the State. The study was to be finished by June 30, 2010 and is expected to be released late summer.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...JULY 28, 2010 AT 10:30 A.M.

Chairman Ruddock announced that the next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Ruddock adjourned the meeting at 11:08 p.m.

Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman