

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
JULY 27, 2011

Commissioner Chairman Rodney D. Ruddock called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:30 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 Michael T. Clark, Chief Clerk Robin Maryai and others. Members of the news media present were Randy Wells, Ashley Pribicko and Jared Stout.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES...JULY 13, 2011

A motion was made by Ms. Evanko, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to approve the minutes July 13, 2011 as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENT...FEDERAL FORECLOSURE HELP AVAILABLE

Susan Sapko from the United Way was present to announce Federal funds are available to assist homeowners at risk of imminent foreclosure in Indiana County.

The Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program (EHLA), administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, currently has nearly \$80 million of an original \$105 million program available for residents of Pennsylvania. The funds are intended to help families in danger of losing their homes due to involuntary unemployment, underemployment or for medical reasons.

Indiana County residents can dial 2-1-1 or 800-552-4171 for details on how to apply for the funding or by calling ICCAP to schedule an appointment with a mortgage counselor at 724-465-2657. All applications must be submitted and approved by Sept. 30, 2011.

The EHLA will offer homeowners who meet certain criteria a declining balance, deferred payment "bridge loan" for up to \$50,000 for payment of past due amounts, plus up to 24 months of monthly payments on their mortgage principal, interest, mortgage insurance premiums, taxes, and hazard insurance. If the homeowner stays in the home for at least five years, each year 20 percent of the amount used to stop the foreclosure is forgiven. After five years, no repayment is required.

To qualify for a loan, homeowners need to meet HUD requirements, including: current gross income must be at least 15 percent lower than prior to unemployment, underemployment or medical emergency; must be at least three payments delinquent on their mortgage; property must

be owner-occupied and the homeowner's primary residence; and property must be a single-family residence – either a one-to-four unit structure or a condominium.

Sandy Harber from ICCAP was also present and said there were about 140 home foreclosures in Indiana County in 2010 and the EHLP loans could help prevent an increase in the number of homeless families, displaced children and residents going off tax rolls.

Commissioner Ruddock commented that they should link with the local banks to alert them of this program.

RESOLUTION...INDIANA COUNTY TAX CLAIM BUREAU

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 resolution authorizing the Tax Claim Bureau to appoint constables to make all personal services for owner occupied properties and property postings as is required by Section 601 (a)(3) of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law of 1947. Fees for the services shall be \$10.00 for each parcel posted and \$25.00 for personal service done in accordance with the Act.

AGREEMENT...AIDAN IZZO / TAX CLAIM

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 Aidan Izzo to do posting of properties for the Tax Claim Bureau upset sale in the amount of \$10.00 per parcel plus \$25.00 per personal service. This is a pass through cost that is added to property.

AGREEMENT...ADAM LIGHTCAP / TAX CLAIM

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 Adam Lightcap to do posting of properties for the Tax Claim Bureau upset sale in the amount of \$10.00 per parcel plus \$25.00 per personal service. This is a pass through cost that is added to property.

AGREEMENT...MICHAEL MULGREW / TAX CLAIM

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 Michael Mulgrew to do posting of properties for the Tax Claim Bureau upset sale in the amount of \$10.00 per parcel plus \$25.00 per personal service. This is a pass through cost that is added to property.

ADULT PROBATION GRANT-IN-AID FY 2011/2012

At the request of Denise M. Delancey, Chief Probation Officer, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the Adult Probation Grant-In-Aid for FY 2011-2012. This is the last year of a five-year contract between Indiana County and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and Indiana County. For FY 2010-2011 Indiana County received \$113,198. This also includes the renewal of the State Offender Supervision Fees where Indiana County collects supervision fees from adult offenders at a rate of \$30.00 per month and half of this money is kept by Indiana County and the other half is submitted to the State. The money sent to the State is then returned to the County through the State Offender Supervision Fund Agreement. During the last fiscal year, \$131,732.25 was returned to Indiana County. This also includes Commissioner Ruddock as Chairperson to sign the Financial Statement for the grant.

REJECTION...AIRPORT BIDS

At the request of Dr. Bill Lauer, Vice-Chairman of the Indiana County Airport Authority, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to reject the bids received on May 31, 2011 for Phase IV of the Indiana County Jimmy Stewart Airport Runway Improvement and to move forward to rebid. Seven bids were received and the lowest was \$7.3 million which was about \$1.8 million more than was in the six year budget plan. Dr. Lauer said the authority members will meet in a special session on Monday August 1, 2011 with the project's engineers to look for ways to revise the project before the work is rebid possibly in October. One possible cost reduction step will be to specify a 2-inch base rather than a 4-inch base of asphalt for the runway which would save about \$600,000.00.

CHANGE ORDER...BLAIRSVILLE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION / PENN WORKS

The Office of Planning & Development, the Blairsville Municipal Authority and Bankson Engineers, Inc. recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the following three change orders for Contract 09-4 Electrical with Bronder Technical Services at the Blairsville Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion Project:

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve Change Order #11: The change order will increase the contract amount by \$5,977.00. The additional costs are to provide electrical service to the RAS Pump No. 4 Plug Valve Actuator and to replace the flow division box slide gates No.1 and No. 2 disconnect switches. The change order will increase the contract amount from \$1,474,349.11.00 to \$1,480,326.11.

A motion was made by Ms. Evanko, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to approve Change Order #12: The change order will increase the contract amount by \$6,083.00 for the replacement of Ethernet Hubs with switches and the addition of eight (8) emergency stop buttons for the primary settling tanks, oxidation ditches and secondary clarifiers. The change order revises the contract amount to \$1,486,409.11.

A motion was made by Ms. Evanko, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to approve Change Order #13: The change order will increase the contract amount by \$5,884.00 for modifications to the digester mixer motor circuits. The change order revises the contract amount to \$1,492,293.11.

The additional costs will be funded by the Penn Vest loan with the Blairsville Municipal Authority as all funds from the Penn Works contract have been expended.

CLOSING OUT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROJECT

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 Resolution to close out the Community Conservation Partnerships Grant Project. This resolution confirms that Indiana County has prepared a trail feasibility study for the Indiana County Regional Trail area. The purpose of the Plan is to identify a feasible connection between Indiana County Regional Trail Network and the West Penn Trail system in Blairsville Borough.

Laura Hawkins, Project Manager for the study, reviewed the study. She said Kimball Engineering was the firm chosen by the municipal leaders to provide technical services on the study. They evaluated several different alternatives for trail routes to connect a regional trail system into the Blairsville Borough. Also a part of the process was public input, public meetings, key person interviews and some on line survey to get feedback as they were evaluating the routes.

According to the study Blairsville could serve as a major hub for users of the Ghost Town and Hoodlebug trails to the east and the West Penn and Westmoreland Heritage trails to the west, along with a local Loop Trail within the borough. The 70-mile trail system is separated by roughly 5-mile gap through a more densely developed area with Blairsville Borough in the middle. The recommended alignment for the connector to the west of Blairsville is a 1.5 mile stretch on Route 217 along Norfolk Southern railroad tracks with the recreation trail separated from the rail line by a fence.

Thy study recommends linking the West Penn and Hoodlebug trails with a mix of on-street connectors and new off-road corridors through the commercial and undeveloped segments. The route will include the Blairsville School District and WyoTech campuses, the Excelsa Health site and the rear of the Walmart. There is a proposed pedestrian-bicycling bridge over Route 22 which would cost \$1.2 million. It would serve many purposes such as a safe route for WyoTech students to cross over into businesses along Route 22. The proposed cost for the trail completion would be \$2.1 for the east side and \$750,000 for the west side.

Ms. Hawkins suggested that advocacy groups help the partners on either side of this who are interest in seeing this happen and move the project along. Local business and residents need to steward the project as it moves forward. They are talking with the municipalities to establish those groups and preparing memorandums of agreement that will need to be signed particularly along the bike pedestrian bridge area and along the Route 119 and 22 interchange. Those groups could also help pursue funding for the link and help with trail maintenance.

Ms. Hawkins said 200 bicyclists from several states toured Indiana County trials last week as part of an annual sojourn. They selected Hoodlebug, Ghost Town and West Penn as their annual bike sojourn and came from as far as California, Utah and Arizona to participate. The started in Ebensburg, came into Saltsburg, and then traveled to Indiana. However, they could not get into Blairsville because there are no links connecting the borough to the nearby trials was a disappointment. It was a missed opportunity because Blairsville is a premier community showcasing what trail users want to see.

CONTRACT...CANTEEN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES / JAIL

At the request of Warden Carol Hummel, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract amendment with Canteen Correctional Services. The current contract allows the cost of the meals to be based on and not exceed the CPI-U Food Away From Home All Urban Consumers Index. This will increase the cost of the jail meals by 4 cents or .0269% each effective July 1, 2011.

GRANT AGREEMENT...LOCAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE NETWORK (LEARN) / 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 for the Local Education and Resource Network (LEARN) in the amount of \$50,000.00 effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The purpose of the grant is to assist parents in preparing and transitioning their children into kindergarten.

ANNUAL SUPPORT & LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR MUNIS SOFTWARE

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the Annual Support License Agreement with Tyler Technologies in the amount of \$29,922.90. This contract covers maintenance, customer service questions, new updates and training manuals associated with the Munis Software.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AGREEMENT FY 2011

At the request of Tom Stutzman, Director of EMA, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the Emergency Management Program Grant for 2011 in the amount of \$64,393.00. The purpose of the grant is to offset the cost of the director and deputy director's salary and benefits up to 50%.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...AUGUST 10, 2011

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Ruddock adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman