

any such documents or take such actions required to execute the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant contract and to implement same.

The purpose of the Challenger Learning Center is to provide a regional science learning facility for students K-12, with a focus on middle school students, hands on, experimental activities that will relate their traditional classroom work efforts to simulate real world applications in science and math. The Challenger Learning Center has two primary goals: 1) to increase the number of courses in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) that students will take during their secondary and post-secondary educations; and 2) to provide students entering the workforce the necessary skill sets to pursue successful STEM-related careers. A Cooperation Agreement between a non-profit entity to be established to develop and govern the Challenger Learning Center and the Indiana County Commissioners is also requested to administer the project through the Office of Planning & Development. This request does not constitute an obligation of the County with all interim and project financing to be secured by the entity/owner(s) of the proposed Challenger Learning Center facility.

Mr. Tom Harley, President of the Indiana Area School District said "It's taken on a very regional aspect. It is getting very broad support from the districts and the surrounding counties."

RACP GRANT BUSINESS PLAN & APPLICATION SUBMISSION – DOWNTOWN INDIANA BOUTIQUE HOTEL PROJECT

On behalf of the proposed Downtown Indiana Boutique Hotel project, Byron Stauffer, Director of the Office of Planning and Development requested authorization to submit a business plan and upon invitation to submit a full grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) in the amount of up to \$4,000,000 for costs associated with the development of a downtown boutique hotel at the former Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company Building located on Church Street, Indiana. The request also includes for Commissioner Ruddock and/or any appropriate officials, as necessary, to be granted authorization to execute any such documents or take such actions required to execute the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant contract and to implement same.

The building is owned by Grettler & Bruns, LLC. Current plans and preliminary designs call for approximately 47 guest rooms, with some meeting space as well as light dining. The current project schedule calls for the opening of the new boutique hotel in April 2014. It is projected this project will create 27 full-time and 33 part-time jobs. A Cooperation Agreement between an entity to be established to develop the proposed boutique hotel and the Indiana County Commissioners is also requested to administer the project through the Office of Planning & Development. This request does not constitute an obligation of the County with all interim and project financing to be secured by the entity/owner(s) of the proposed boutique hotel.

Commissioner Evanko said this is a worthwhile project as this is the county seat and some people like to go to a hotel and just walk to the all the attractions of downtown.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT...AFSCME

At the request of Melissa Miller, Human Resources Director, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract amendment with AFSCME to increase the starting pay rate for certified nurse's aides and licensed practical nurses to be competitive with other facilities in the area.

BIDS...PINE RIDGE PARK SEAL COATING 040813 / PARKS

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the low bid received from Quaker Sales Corporation, Johnstown, PA in the amount of \$19,298.25 to seal coat all roads at Pine Ridge Park. This project will be funded through Liquid Fuels.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to authorize the sale of surplus vehicles. They include: 1998 Ford Taurus, 2004 Chevrolet Impala and a 2004 Ford Expedition. Bids will be received until 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013.

BOARD APPOINTMENT...PLANNING COMMISSION

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Mr. John Somonick, Indiana, PA to the Indiana County Planning Commission; term to expire January, 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...APRIL 24, 2013 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 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 10:57 p.m.

Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman