

**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 15, 2013**

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 Clark, Chief Clerk Robin Maryai and others. Members of the news media present were Randy Wells, Nick Ruffner, and Greg Reinbold.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Ruddock led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. He also asked those present to remember fallen officers.

**APPROVE MINUTES...APRIL 24, 2013**

A motion was made by Ms. Evanko, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 24, 2013 as submitted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENT...COP-IN-A-BOX**

District Attorney Patrick Dougherty announced that The Safe Surfin' Foundation in coordination with the Indiana Moose Lodge chose the Indiana County District Attorney's Office and their Internet Crimes Against Children Task force as the recipient of COP-IN-A-BOX. This is a \$5,000 computer system that will assist law enforcement to hunt down and track internet predators. He said we are fortunate to have Rob Erdley who is a computer forensic specialist and applied for the grant. Indiana County is one of three groups in the state to receive this program. He also explained that 93% of all children use the internet and there is a 100% chance that a child will encounter a sexual predator on the internet. One in five teens will receive a sexual solicitation online so these statistics show how important it is that we dedicate resources to this cause.

**PROCLAMATION...FOSTER CARE MONTH**

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Frick a motion was made, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to proclaim the Month of May 2013 to be Foster Care Month in Indiana County and to also recognize the valuable contribution foster families make to the welfare and happiness of our children. Ed Stancombe from Children & Youth Services was present to accept the proclamation.

**PROCLAMATION...RIVERS' MONTH**

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Evanko a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to declare May 2013 as Rivers' Month in Indiana County and urged all citizens to join together to conserve and protect the Kiskiminetas River, the Conemaugh River and Mahoning Creek as wonderful resources and to discover the beauty and opportunities they

have to offer for recreational and educational adventure by becoming involved with river enhancement and promotional activities.

### **PROCLAMATION...NATIONAL BIKE MONTH**

After a proclamation was read by Mr. Frick a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to proclaim May 2013 as National Bike and Walk Month in Indiana County. Chris Townley from the Office of Planning & Development was present and explained that this is in association with the League of American Bicyclists which as declared May to be National Bike Month for each of the last 56 years and again in the year 2013. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike to school Challenge will be held Thursday, May 23, 2013. All Indiana County residents are encouraged to walk or ride their bicycle to work or school on Thursday, May 23, 2013. Indiana County's annual event is being held to promote walking and bicycling to increase safety, awareness and respect for people walking or bicycling, and to have fun.

### **PROCLAMATION...MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

After a proclamation was read by Ms. Evanko a motion was made, seconded by Mr. Frick and unanimously carried to proclaim May 2013 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Indiana County and to call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and school to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses to promote recover. Dr. Ralph May was present to accept the proclamation and thanked the board for their continued support.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENT...ARMSTRONG INDIANA BEHAVIORAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD**

At the request of Tammy Calderone, Director of the Armstrong Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Irene Mergen, Indiana, PA to the Armstrong Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program Advisory Board; term to expire on December 31, 2015.

### **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION AND THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT / DRO**

At the request of Amy Dougherty, Director of the Domestic Relations Office, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Cooperative Agreement between Domestic Relations Section and the Sheriff's Department to provide security at their offices at 665 Philadelphia Street. The DRS will pay the salary of the two lowest paid deputies and will also reimburse the cost of one single and one family healthcare coverage plan.

### **AGREEMENT...URBASH PROFESSIONAL REPORTING / DRO**

At the request of Amy Dougherty, Director of the Domestic Relations Office, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with Urbash Professional Reporting to provide court reporting services when necessary for DRS hearings at rates of \$160.00 per ½ day, \$310.00 per full day and transcripts at \$3.45 per page for original transcripts on exceptions requested.

### **AGREEMENT FOR SUBSTITUTE HEARING OFFICER / DRO**

At the request of Amy Dougherty, Director of the Domestic Relations Office, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a blank agreement for substitute hearing officer when their current officers Mathew Budash and Anthony Sotile have a conflict with the case presented. Solicitor Clark said this agreement will allow Ms. Dougherty to choose an attorney to perform the duties and have the Commissioners then sign the agreement as needed. The rate is at \$85.00 per hour.

### **AGREEMENT...SSC, LLC / EMA**

At the request of John Luko, Director of Information Services, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement with SSC, LLC to purchase a software package which will allow the county to download the entire inventory onto a server stored database for the equipment that is being purchase for the 911 Communications Project. This data will be accessible to our programming platforms for the initial startup phase and into the future as radios are upgraded or replaced. This program will also provide the county with a complete inventory of the fixes assets we have placed in the service for the microwave backhaul network, tower facilities and fiber connectivity in one location. Currently the county does not have any program like this in use and can build onto this system to track and manage other technological assets into the future. The cost of the program is \$31,742.60 for the software and years 2-5 maintenance at \$11,686.88.

### **AGREEMENT...DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY / LEPC**

At the request of Danny Sacco, Chairman of LEPC, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve an agreement between the County of Indiana and the Department of Labor & Industry to manage the reporting & data for the industries and businesses in Indiana County that have chemicals that have to be reported and tracked. Mr. Sacco said his reservation is that they are being told it is at no cost now but he has a concern that in a year or two as the volumes increase they will come back and say they can't do it for free anymore. At that point he will tell them will go back to doing this reporting and tracking on our own. The motion was amended that the agreement is subject to review by the county solicitor for verification of the terms of the contract and if the county can cancel the contract at anytime.

### **\$250,000.00 RLF LOAN TO FABIN BROTHERS FARMS, LLC AND FABIN BROTHERS HOLDINGS, LLC**

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a \$250,000.00 term load from the Indiana County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Fabin Brothers Farms, LLC and Fabin Brothers Holdings, LLC. The borrower is a multi-generational diversified farm specializing in soybean processing, crop production cow-calf operations, as well as commodity buying and marketing. The loan proceeds will be used to partially fund equipment for the corn complex expansion in order to increase current corn storage capacity. The interest rate will be fixed at 2.75% for a term of 84 months. The RLF funds will be leveraged by funds from the Southwestern PA Catalyst Connection and Equity. The borrower will retain 2 and create 8 full-time jobs as a result of this project. The RLF loan application has been reviewed and approved by the Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

Mr. Rick Fabin from Fabin Brothers Farms was present and thanked the Board and the RLF Loan Review Committee for their support in helping them with this loan. They previously

received a smaller loan that helped them get established as a soybean processor and the growth they have achieved. Mr. Fabin said he will be traveling to Harrisburg because they were nominated as a finalist for the Governor's Impact Award. He said he will use the loans to help their business and the industry and the region. Commissioner Ruddock said there will be three businesses that are going to be finalist for the Impact Awards for the Governors Office on May 23, 2013. The Fabin Brothers will be recognized for their Small Business impact. The Jobs First Award will be Diamond Drugs and the Community Award will be Environmental Services. Mr. Ruddock said those are slices of Indiana County that talk about economic development.

#### **CONTRACT AWARD...INDIANA COUNTY HOUSING PLAN**

At the request of Luann Zak, Office of Planning & Development, and the Indiana County Housing Consortium, a motion was made Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to enter into a contract agreement with Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA to undertake the Indiana County Housing Plan. The contract amount is for \$49,620.00. The term of the contract will be June 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. The goal of this Plan is to describe any gaps between housing supply and demand, and identify trends that will form a foundation for strategic planning to address multiple housing issues. The Indiana County Comprehensive Plan identified the undertaking of the County Housing Plan as one of the action items required to meet the Plan's goals and objectives for housing. The Indiana County Housing Plan will be funded by multiple sources including Indiana County CDBG and Act 137 Housing Funds. Two additional funding sources for the Housing Plan are pending final commitments. Ms. Zak recognized Alyse Scheuermann for her assistance in helping write the Indiana County Housing Plan and also to Dr. Bonni Dunlap for her assistance in interviewing the consultants being considered for the plan.

#### **CONTRACT...HOOME PROGRAM.**

At the request of Luann Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve entering into a contract agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development for \$550,000.00 of HOME Program Funds. \$550,000.00 of the funds are allocated to assist with construction and administration costs for the Indiana County Homeless Veterans Housing Project.

\$50,000.00 of the contract award are HOME CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization) operating funds designated for NCCDC (Northern Cambria County Development Corporation). The CHDO funds will be utilized by NCCDC for operational expenses at the conclusion of the construction phase of the Veteran's housing project.

The Indiana County Homeless Veterans Housing Project will provide six permanent affordable rental housing units for homeless veterans. Five units will be one-bedroom and one unit will be a two bedroom unit. The HOME Program contract finalizes the financial package required to acquire the land, design and begin construction on the project. A total funding package of \$1,456,945.00 has been allocated to the project from multiple sources. Funds contracted to Indiana County included CDBG and PHFA PHARE funds. The HUD – Supportive Housing Funds are contracted to NCCDC.

**RESOLUTION...AUTHORIZATION TO FILE 2013 PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENHANCEMENT (PHARE) APPLICATION**

At the request of the Housing Authority of Indiana County and Summa Development, LLC, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a 2013 PHARE application. The application will request \$400,000.00 of PHARE funds for the construction of the proposed White Township Senior Housing Project. The project proposes to construct 40 one-bedroom apartments for income qualified residents that are age 62 and over. The total cost of the proposed project is \$6,298,696.00. Multiple funding sources have been identified to complete the financial package in addition to the PHARE funds. The other funding sources include the PHFA Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIGTC) Program and the PHFA Penn HOMES funds. The approval of the PHARE application submission includes a review by the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development on behalf of the Board of Commissioners prior to submittal to PHFA.

**RESOLUTION...AUTHORIZATION TO FILE 2013 PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENHANCEMENT (PHARE) APPLICATION**

At the request of the Office of Planning & Development and the Indiana County Housing Consortium, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a 2013 PHARE application. The application will request \$650,000.00 of PHARE funds for the construction of the proposed Oak Street Senior Apartments Project. The project proposes to construct fifty-three (53) one and two bedroom units for income qualified residents ages 62 and over. The total cost of the proposed project is \$9,686,418.00. Multiple funding sources have been identified to complete the financial package in addition to the PHARE funds. The other funding sources include the PHFA Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program, PHFA Penn Homes funds, PA Department of Community and Economic Development funds and deferred developer fees. The approval of the PHARE application submission includes a review by the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development on behalf of the Board of Commissioners prior to submittal to PHFA. It is noted that S&A Homes is the developer of the project.

Commissioner Ruddock asked if we are only requesting not endorsing these applications. Ms. Zak said yes and the county is the governing body that has to approve their submission. Mr. Ruddock said these two applications are competing but it is the prioritization that is critical to Indiana County based on the Comprehensive Plan.

**CONTRACT AWARD...WINDY RIDGE LOT 5 UTILITIES EXTENSION, ROADWAY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

At the request of the Office of Planning & Development, Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc. and the Indiana County Development Corporation request that the Indiana County Board of Commissioners enter into a contract agreement with Murin and Murn, Inc., Glassport, PA for the Windy Ridge Lot 5 Utilities Extension, Roadway and Stormwater Management Improvement Project. The contract award request in the amount of \$282,187.50 is for the extension of sanitary sewer, water stormwater drainage, natural gas, electric and communication utility services. Extension of access roadway and construction of cul-de-sac. Improvements and modifications to existing Stormwater Management Basin. Installation of landscaping (seeding, mulching, shrubs,

trees), and associated clearing, grubbing and erosion controls. This project is being funded through a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant and federal EDA funds.

### **CONTRACT...PSSU COURT EMPLOYEES**

At the request of Melissa Miller, Assistant Chief Clerk and Human Services Director, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the contract for PSSU court employees. There are 22 current members and is a four year contract. The healthcare would continue at a 10% contribution rate. Wage increases will be 2% - 2013; 2.5% - 2014 and 2015; 3% for 2016. This contract is similar to previously approved contracts.

### **COUNTY RETURN BOARD...MAY 21, 2013 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

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 following members to the County Return Board for the May 21, 2014 Municipal Primary Election:

Republican: Darla Coble, Phyllis Spicher, Stacy Golinsky and Mary E. Haberl

Democratic: Margaret Preite, Margaret J. Karp, Margaret E. Karp and Kimberly Fatula.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT ADJUSTMENT C FOR DIXON RUN BRIDGE T-562**

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement Adjustment C for Dixon Run Bridge T-562. The adjustment is moving \$10,000.00 from engineering costs to utilities costs.

### **INDIANA COUNTY REASSESSMENT PROJECT**

Commissioner Ruddock said the board made a statement back in December 2012 of their intent from both a budgetary and economic development plan for Indiana County the necessity that making sure that our reassessment process is done according to the scope and sequence projected to begin in 2016. The process to identify a team to do the reassessment began under the leadership of Chief Assessor Frank Sisko.

Frank Sisko said he has a recommendation from the selection committee. The committee met several times to review those responses to the RFP for the reassessment. The committee did extensive research and met with representatives from other counties and is prepared to recommend to the commissioners that Evaluators Services and Technology also known as EST. Their recommendation is based on consideration of several factors including the ability to provide a CAMA system that the county employees would be able to operate in the future, the ability to implement a Clean and Green Program, the vendors familiarity with Pennsylvania Law, willingness to employ local workers and bottom line the cost. The review committee consisted of Martin Medvetz, Karen Beatty, Mysti Henry, John Luko, Jim Giesey, Dominic Gambino and Janet Burkardt.

Commissioner Ruddock said the county hired the firm of Ira Weiss to assist the county in moving forward. Janet Burkardt from Ira Weiss commented that it was a very difficult decision and a long and involved process that the team undertook not knowing where they would end up in the end. We did the RFP, we received proposals from vendors, we studied the proposals, we knew the budget that the county was working and they constantly stride to improve the numbers. The cost of the reassessment came in under budget that the county has anticipated. It was

difficult to make this decision. There was a big focus on Pennsylvania Law and they chose a local vendor rather than a national vendor (Tyler Technologies) because they felt their needs would be served better in that way.

Dominick Gambino commended the staff as this was a long, tedious and compassionate process for the past two months. He said the staff did more due diligence than any county staff has ever done in this type of reassessment vendor. He said they learned a lot and took control of the product.

Commissioner Ruddock is very proud of the team. This is an important decision for the people of Indiana County and we want to do it right and this board of commissioners is committed to doing it right. It is because we have the right people out there helping us. He said monies have been set aside over the next number of years for the project. We are under the budgeted number and that is because of the due diligence of this team and making sure the vendors were respectable in what they were asking for and the fact that they were able to deliver what they said they would deliver. The team went out on visitation to different counties and talked to them about what went right and what went wrong as part of the assessment process. He said we are very pleased to find that EST had very favorable responses in the counties visited. He said that at the last CCAP conference that he and Patty spoke with the Chief Assessor, Randy Wagoner, from Cumberland County and he said how well this organization operated. What made the difference for him was the Clean and Green aspect of moving in a reassessment is an important part of this rural community. We need to protect those agricultural land owners to make sure they are treated fairly in this reassessment process through the Clean and Green Program. This company brings this as a strength to the table and that was highly considered in this decisionary process. The other part is we want to make sure what we do over the next couple years to 2016 is that the process will continue to serve Indiana County over the next and five and ten years as a plan to do ongoing reassessment so that you don't have to wait 46 years until you get back and recalibrate what is good about Indiana County.

Commissioner Evanko said she really appreciates the team's support because they know what we wanted going into it, knew the budget, knew Clean and Green was important, knew the aspects of Pennsylvania Laws, and we wanted someone who knew what they were doing and would do it right because this will affect all property owners of Indiana County. We want the laws adhered to, we want them to treat the agriculture community correctly and we know that a lot of time was spent in the process.

Commissioner Frick said it amazes him that this has not been done in over 40 years. What that means is that over those 40 years of no reassessment any number of things could be out of whack as far as fairness is concerned to the tax payers. Of all of the things that has impressed him with reassessment is the fact that this will bring everybody's tax paying expense into an area of fairness that we haven't had in a long time. You can imagine in 40 years how drastically values have changed and properties have been bought and sold. He said this means a lot to him that we are taking initiative and spending approximately \$3 million to bring fairness to the tax payers of Indiana County.

A motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve Evaluators Services and Technology to conduct the Reassessment for Indiana County in the amount of \$2,499,990.00. It is noted that the last reassessment for Indiana County was 1968.

**AGREEMENT...WALTER STANLEY REALTY / TAX ASSESSMENT**

Chief Assessor, Frank Sisko said the Reassessment Team has looked into several potential site locations for the temporary office space for the vendor to conduct the Countywide Reassessment Project which will commence on June 1, 2013.

At the request of Mr. Sisko and his team, a motion was made by Mr. Frick, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to secure with Walter Stanley Realty, Townplace Victoria, 9 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street for the Reassessment Project at the cost of \$5,322.00 per month.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Ruddock said that there is a Transportation Improvement Plan that needs updated and there will be a meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Career Link between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. for the Public Participation Panel. The TIP is a four year program and is reviewed every two years so that we able to make sure whatever is support through transportation for our region we do so knowing what the priorities are. This is down through the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission.

Commissioner Evanko wanted to alert veterans that across Pennsylvania are being taken advantage of. The County Commissioners Association has provided a press release and provided that to the news media. What is happening is a scam and they are asking veterans to pay for services and that should not be happening. PA Veterans should never pay for help to apply for benefits.

Commissioner Evanko announced that Indiana County Day at Idlewilde Park is July 26, 2013.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING...MAY 29, 2013 10:30 A.M.**

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 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 11:44 a.m.

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Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

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Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman