

### **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES APRIL 9, 2014**

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 Michael A. Baker, 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, Greg Reinbold and Josh Widdowson.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **APPROVE MINUTES... MARCH 26, 2014**

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 26, 2014 as submitted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Ruddock said there was an Executive Session on March 31, 2014 regarding the former Blairsville Borough Tax Collector. Direction was given to Solicitor Clark to do what is required to move forward to connect with Blairsville Borough and Blairsville-Saltsburg School District.

### **VEHICLE PURCHASE...TRI STAR MOTORS / INDIANA COUNTY PARKS & TRAILS**

At the request of Ed Patterson, Director of Parks & Trails, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the purchase a 2015 Ford F-250 from Tri Star Motors, Blairsville, PA in the amount of \$23,215.00. This purchase is being made under state contract pricing and will be paid from Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund dollars. It is also noted that a 2001 Ford F150 will be traded in at a trade in value of \$2,500.00.

### **CONSENT FOR RIGHT OF ENTRY / INDIANA PARKS & TRAILS**

Mr. Darryl Audia from the Department of Environmental Protection was present and explained that there is an abandoned vertical mine shaft approximately 170 feet deep located in Homer City Borough. The shaft is presently filled with water and residential garbage and has been a safety hazard for many years. This shaft will be permanently backfilled with stone or concrete and a fence will be installed to eliminate the hazard. Mr. Audia explained in order to access the mine shaft, it will be necessary to cross over the Hoodlebug Trail. He said DEP will leave the trail in as good or better condition that it presently is in and the Department will not unreasonably interfere with the trail, and will take appropriate safety measures to insure the public's safety in using the trail. A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the Consent for Right of Entry to DEP to cross Hoodlebug Trail to close the mine shaft located in Homer City Borough.

### **CONTRACT...DATABASE SHARING / HUMAN SERVICES**

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Family Promise of Indiana County to participate in Project Share which is a sharing of database among agencies and churches. This brings the total number of participant entities to 22. They have collaboratively served almost 1,000 individuals since November.

#### **PRIVATE PROVIDER CONTRACTS FY 2013-14**

At the request of Holly Moyer-George, Fiscal Technician II at Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Family Acts, Ford City, PA for FY 2013-2014 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. Family Acts is asking for a 3% increase on all their rates and they have not had an increase in their rates since FY09-10. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Holly Moyer-George, Fiscal Technician II at Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Playhouse Children's Center, Punxsutawney, PA for FY 2013-2014 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. Playhouse Children's Center provides day care services for newborns to school aged children.

At the request of Holly Moyer-George, Fiscal Technician II at Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a Private Provider Contract with Family Care for Children & Youth, Milton, PA for FY 2013-2014 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide placement services.

**RESOLUTION RECERTIFYING THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) / PLANNING** At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to adopt a resolution re-certifying that the Indiana County Revolving Loan Fund is being operated consistent with the existing Economic Development Strategy and is being operated in accordance with the policies and procedures contained in the administrative plan. This is a housekeeping item required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Our Economic Development Strategy is embodied within the 2040 Transportation and Development Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania, which was submitted by SPC and endorsed by EDA.

#### **RESOLUTION — AUTHORIZATION TO FILE AN APPLICATION — DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR) APPLICATION — COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM / PLANNING**

At the request of Zack Norwood, Office of Planning & Development requests that the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of a grant application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program for engineering and design of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge over the Route 22 and Route 119 Intersection in Burrell Township. The motion also includes approval to have Commissioner Ruddock sign all required application forms. The application is requesting \$180,000.00 of State grant funds, contingent upon matching funds from other State and local agencies, to provide design services, specifications and bid documents. Gibson-Thomas Engineers has agreed to provide preliminary engineering services and prepare the application. Michelle Girolami from Gibson Thomas Engineering was present and commented that they are in the very early stages of this project.

Commissioner Evanko asked if the bridge is part of the bundling that the state is trying to implement for bridges with a similar design. Byron Stauffer, Director of Planning & Development said no that only pertains to vehicular bridges.

Laura Hawkins from the Allegheny Ridge Corporation was present and commented that a funding source through Act 13 could not be used to match DCNR money for this project. The policy has been changed and this year it is allowable.

### **RESOLUTION — RECOGNITION OF THE KISKI-CONEMAUGH WATER TRAIL / PLANNING**

At the request of Zach Norwood, Office of Planning & Development on behalf of the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to adopt a Resolution recognizing the importance of the Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail as an environmental and recreational asset in Indiana County. Recreational amenities, such as the Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail, improve the quality of life for County residents, attract recreational tourism, as well as connect historic, cultural, and environmental assets to communities.

Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation, said they received the National Recreation Trail Designation from the Department of Interior. She said that Conemaugh Valley Conservancy is celebrating their 20th anniversary and are one of many organizations that really helped bring the river back to healthier point so that it is a pleasant and enjoyable paddle. The 15th anniversary of the Kiski Conemaugh Sojourn will be June 5th — 8th. On May 10th Conemaugh Valley Conservancy is sponsoring a trip through one of Indiana County's premier recreation destinations which is Pack Saddle Gap which is between Robinson and Blairsville.

### **LIQUID FUELS ADMINISTRATION / PLANNING**

Byron Stauffer, Director of the Office of Planning & Development requested that the Board of Commissioners approve the following actions for the administration of the County Liquid Fuels funding:

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve authorization be submitted to PennDOT District-10 for a (-)\$600,000.00 Application for Encumbrance of Liquid Fuels Funding for eligible road and bridge projects.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a \$26,232.70 application to PennDOT District-10 from Liquid Fuels for County Aid on behalf of Montgomery Township to partially offset eligible project costs for work on Cush Creek Road. The total estimated project costs are \$35,000.00. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 75% of the total project costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a \$33,766.96 application to PennDOT District -10 from Liquid Fuels for County Aid on behalf of Brush Valley Township to partially offset eligible project costs for paving work on Longs Road. The total estimated project costs are \$64,367.44. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 52% of the total project costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a \$7,381.81 application to PennDOT District-10 from Liquid Fuels for County Aid on behalf of Saltsburg Borough to partially offset eligible project costs for drainage repair and material purchases in 2014. The total estimated project costs are \$8,000.00. The proposed County Aid allocation represents approximately 92% of the total project costs.

Commissioner Ruddock said the municipalities receive funds from the State including Act 13, 44 and 89. They will receive this year from the county dollars to assist with township and borough projects. The County is unencumbering money and will be distributing it to the municipalities in the amount of \$1.1 million. He said there will be a lot of work that will get done this summer on area roads through Liquid

Fuels Funds. Commissioner Evanko said the distribution is based on a formula of population and road miles.

### **CONTRACT AWARD — INDIANA COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY DISTRICT (ICUD) PLANNING**

At the request of Jeff Raykes, Office of Planning & Development and the Indiana Community University District (ICUD) Plan Steering Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to enter into a contract with SmithGroup JJR for the completion of the ICUD Plan. The contract award is \$47,400.00 for professional planning services necessary to complete the project. Funding for the project includes Department of Community and Economic Development and Local Government Academy grant funds in addition to in-kind and local cash contributions from project partners. This award is the result of a Request for Proposal (RFP) and extensive consultant selection process overseen by the project Steering Committee and County Planning Staff.

The ICUD Plan is a highly focused planning initiative for the areas immediately adjacent to the IUP campus. The product will be a highly graphic planning document designed to represent a shared vision for these areas and a strategic plan designed to advance the vision through coordinated land-use planning and regulatory policy. Project partners include Indiana Borough, White Township, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Indiana County.

Representatives from IUP, Indiana Borough and White Township were present and said they are excited about the project and thanked the Board for their support.

**CREATION OF COUNTY TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM) TEAM** Commissioner Baker announced the creation of a Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team in Indiana County. It is designed to improve responses to incidents that impact traffic flow on regional roadways. Traffic incidents are the leading cause of death for emergency responders and a key cause of unexpected traffic congestion. Americans burn more than 2.8 billion gallons of gasoline each year as a result of being stuck in incident-related traffic congestion. He also said that for every minute that a primary crash continues to be a hazard, the risk of secondary crashes increases by almost 3%.

The primary goals of the TIM Team include ensuring the safety of first responders, clearing the roadways quickly in order to reduce traffic congestion and minimize the potential for secondary crashes, and having reliable interoperable communications between responding agencies whether they are on or off scene.

The TIM Team project is being overseen by planner Doug Smith who is a project engineer with Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission but also includes important partnerships in Indiana County with PennDOT District 10, IUP Highway Safety Center, Indiana County Emergency Management Agency and the Office of Planning & Development. The first official meeting will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Armagh Fire Department from 7:00 — 8:30 p.m. Additional trainings will be discussed with the first training being held May 5<sup>th</sup> at PennDOT District 10.

Melvin Benamati, President of the Fire Chiefs Association, was present and echoed Commissioner Baker's comments regarding the traffic congestion. He said it takes a lot of time to clear the roadways after incidents and they need additional help. He hopes the team can come up with a system to eliminate the congestion, remove it safely and eliminate other accidents.

Commissioner Baker said those who attended a meeting in January identified problems they saw with congestion, traffic control, etc. He said the first responders are on the roadway for many hours long after an accident because of ongoing problems with investigation, reconstruction and opening of the roadway because

of hazards that need mitigated. This TIM Team hopefully will help to alleviate and take some responsibility off of them, return the roadways to service much more quickly and get the guys out of harm's way.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve the creation of the Traffic Incident Management Team in Indiana County.

**CHANGE ORDER...911 PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO PROJECT / SALSGIVER, LLC.**

Commissioner Ruddock said 911 Public Safety Radio Project is near completion but one of the hiccups we are having is some optic fiber installation along a critical route which gives us redundancy in public safety operations along Route 119. Motorola has been working with Penelec to finalize the final piece of fiber optic installation.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Evanko and unanimously carried to approve a change order with Salsgiver, LLC in the amount of \$102,000.00 and also for Salsgiver to challenge the costs associated with the change order under the guidance of the FCC. This fee is to cover an invoice from Penelec so the fiber optic can be attached to the utility poles owned by Penelec.

Melvin Benamati on behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association thanked the Board for what they are doing for the Public Radio Safety Project.

**COURTHOUSE CLOSED... FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2014 GOOD FRIDAY**

Commissioner Ruddock announced that the courthouse will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2014 in observance of the Good Friday Holiday.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Evanko said she was in attendance at the Pennsylvania State Borough's Association meeting in Harrisburg. She said while she was there she came across Jeff Raykes from the Office of Planning & Development. He was teaching a class for the Association and she was pleased to see the expertise we have here in Indiana County reaching across the state.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING...APRIL 23, 2014 AT 10:30 A.M.**

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 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 11:20 a.m.

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Patricia A. Evanko, Secretary

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Rodney D. Ruddock, Chairman