

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2016

Commissioner Chairman Michael A. Baker called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:31 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Michael A. Baker, present
Commissioner Sherene Hess, present

Commissioner Rodney D. Ruddock, present

Also in attendance were Solicitor Michael Clark and Chief Clerk Robin Maryai and others. Members of the news media present were Randy Wells, Greg Reinbold and Josh Widdowson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES...JANUARY 13, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of January 13, 2016 as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Curry, Sally Kalanavich, Richard Wilhelm, Stan Buggey and Tom Short were present and made public comment regarding tax reassessment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Baker announced that there was an Executive Session held on January 21, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss legal issues:

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT / TAX CLAIM

At the request of Frank Sisko, Chief Assessor, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Indiana Title Abstract Corp. to do title searches in conjunction with the Tax Claim/ Judicial Tax Sale in the amount of \$135.00 per parcel and is a pass through cost as part of the sale.

At the request of Frank Sisko, Chief Assessor, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a contract with Schillinger & Keith to do title searches in conjunction with the Tax Claim/ Judicial Tax Sale in the amount of \$135.00 per parcel and is a pass through cost as part of the sale.

LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT...NEW WORLD CAD SOFTWARE / EMA

At the request of Jolene Burkhardt, 911 Coordinator, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Mr. Ruddock and unanimously carried to approve a Lease/Purchase of the New World CAD Software in the amount of \$690,250.00. The annual payment will be \$150,702.03 with an annual interest rate of 2.996%. The first annual payment will be due January 2017 and it is a five-year agreement with no penalty for early payoff with possible funding from PEMA. This is a computer assisted dispatch software for 911 and is replacing a 10-year-old system that no longer has support. The new system will have new map integration and texting to 911.

BUDGET REVISION – 2014 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT / PLANNING

At the request of Luann Zak, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve budget revision #1 to the County's 2014 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) contract. The motion all includes approval for Commissioner Baker to sign the required forms for the final approval. The requested revision decreases the Rapid Re-Housing component by \$800.00 and increases the Essential Services Shelter component by the same. The revision adjusts the Rapid Re-Housing line from \$194,485.00 to \$193,685.00 and the Essential Services Shelter line from \$8,000.00 to \$8,800.00. No other contract changes are requested and the total contract amount remains at \$375,264.00. Upon approval by the Commissioners, all necessary paperwork will be submitted to DCED for final approval.

\$250,000.00 REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) LOAN TO INDIANA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION / PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a \$250,000.00 term loan from the Indiana County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to the Indiana County Development Corporation. We also request the Board certify that the ICDC is recognized as an official economic development organization operating within the County and eligible to receive RLF funding. The loan proceeds will specifically be used to partially fund costs associated with construction and grading of development area 2 of the Windy Ridge Business & Technology Park. The total project not only includes development area 2, but the start of development area 3 consisting of on-site roadway, stormwater management, utility infrastructure, related permitting, design, engineering, inspection and miscellaneous expenses, as well as pre-engineering costs. The interest rate is 2.75% fixed for a term of 24 months of interest only; then, 240 months principal and interest. The RLF funds will be leveraged by funds from CNB Bank, company equity, the Greater Indiana Enterprise Zone Loan Fund, and other public funds. The application was reviewed and approved by the Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee.

\$1,000,000 GREATER INDIANA ENTERPRISE ZONE LOAN FUND (EZLF) LOAN TO INDIANA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION / PLANNING

At the request of Angela Campisano, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a \$1,000,000.00 term loan from the Greater Indiana Enterprise Zone Loan Fund (EZLF) to the Indiana County Development Corporation. The loan proceeds will be used to partially fund costs associated with development area 2 and the start of development area 3 of the Windy Ridge Business & Technology Park. The costs consist of on-site roadway, stormwater management, utility infrastructure, related permitting, design, engineering, inspection and miscellaneous expenses, as well as pre-engineering costs. The interest rate is 2.00% fixed for a term of 24 months of interest only; then 300 months principal and interest. The EZLF funds will be leveraged by funds from CNB Bank, company equity, the Indiana County Revolving Loan Fund, and other public funds. The application was reviewed and approved by the Greater Indiana Enterprise Zone Loan Board.

INDIANA COUNTY ACT 13 IMPACT FEE DISTRIBUTION – 2012 / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the following modification to a previously authorized Act 13 expenditure for the 2012 fiscal year, as follows:

Current Allocation	Proposed Modification
Criteria 7 – \$10,000.00 – was authorized for the Redevelopment Authority of Indiana County for projects to increase the availability of safe and affordable housing to residents; of which \$1,800.00 was expended, leaving a balance of \$8,200.00.	Criteria 2 – \$8,200.00 – Marion Center Fire Protection Project.

Mr. Stauffer explained that the Borough of Marion Center does not have fire protection. The Commissioners previously authorized 2012 CDBG Funds towards the project, however, there is a funding gap to complete the project. This not only benefits Marion Center Borough but also the school.

INDIANA COUNTY ACT 13 IMPACT FEE DISTRIBUTION – 2014 / PLANNING

Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, explained that Indiana County has received its notification from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) of the Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution for 2014. The Act 13 Impact Fee Distribution is based on an eligibility formula utilizing a complicated series of criteria based on unconventional gas wells. The PUC has determined for 2014 that there are 28 eligible unconventional gas wells that are located in Indiana County. Under Section 2314(d)(1) of Act 13, Indiana County has been allocated \$162,019.56 for 2014. These funds must be used for one of the thirteen criteria outlined in Act 13 under this section.

After an examination of the thirteen criteria under Section 2314(d)(1) and a review of the needs of the County to support various projects and initiatives, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the following expenditures/projects:

- Criteria 2 – \$15,000.00 – Funding to cover stormwater related fees for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair;
- Criteria 3 – \$15,000.00 – Funding for the Indiana County Fire Academy to assist local fire departments and first responders with training for emergency preparedness and related costs;
- Criteria 3 – \$15,000.00 – Funding for HAZMAT / Indiana County EMA Team 900;
- Criteria 4 – \$25,000.00 – Funding for the Indiana County Farmland Preservation;
- Criteria 8 – \$26,000.00 – Funding for hardware, software and related costs for geographic information systems and information technology upgrades for the Office of Planning & Development;
- Criteria 9 – \$10,000.00 – Funding for the Alice Paul House;
- Criteria 11 – \$36,019.56 – Deposit into County’s capital reserve fund to be used solely for a purpose set forth in Act 13 of 2012;
- Criteria 13 – \$20,000.00 – Funding for the preparation of a county-wide Economic Development Plan in collaboration with the Center for Economic Operations (CEO).

RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development and on behalf of the Indiana County Center for Economic Operations, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a Resolution authorizing the filing of a \$40,000 Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) for partial funding for conducting a planning process culminating in a countywide Economic and Workforce Development Plan, to be incorporated as an addendum to the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan.

The last formal economic development plan for Indiana County, conducted in 1991, provided the framework for numerous infrastructure and economic development projects that helped Indiana County transition out of a period of high unemployment resulting in severe job losses in the coal industry in the late 1980s; and that plan has guided the overall economic development strategy in Indiana County for the ensuing 25 years.

The Indiana County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2012 did not include an economic development section; rather, the Comprehensive Plan recommended that a separate economic development planning process be conducted and an official economic development plan be subsequently incorporated into the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan.

The Indiana County Center for Economic Operations (CEO) has identified the development of a new Economic and Workforce Development Plan for Indiana County as its #1 priority for 2016, and they have committed \$20,000 in funding toward that objective, conditioned upon the County securing additional funding to undertake the planning process. The proposed MAP project budget would include a matching \$20,000 commitment from Indiana County, for a total \$40,000 local match to leverage the \$40,000 MAP grant. The CEO has also pledged to assist the Indiana County Commissioners in every phase of the economic and workforce development planning process in collaboration with the Office of Planning & Development.

RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATION / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, a motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve a Resolution authorizing the filing of a \$200,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) for partial funding for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related educational programs and career pathway development.

CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

A motion was made by Mr. Ruddock, seconded by Ms. Hess and unanimously carried to approve the Certification of County Funds for 2016 Program Year providing county matching funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements for Farmland Preservation.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EFFORTS OF HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS

Mr. Ruddock spoke regarding CCAP Priorities for 2016. The first priority was making sure the Commonwealth had a budget and to make sure that the Human Services funding is supported. CCAP made a statement through resolution that it is appreciated the work that agencies have been providing across the state with lack of funds, they were able to preserve the integrity of systems that support those in need for human services requirements and also to thank those agencies that in some way work to provide additional support whether it is in-kind services or financial services to allow these agencies to continue to function while there is not budget.

Mr. Ruddock said the second priority is Tax Reassessment which wasn't on the list of priorities until Indiana County lobbied at the last CCAP meeting in November. Mr. Ruddock said tax reassessment as it is being currently conducted in Pennsylvania is not workable system. The process by which we work the system leads to unfair tax because the sole support functions of government relies on property tax and that is not the way we should be doing business. He said that has to be a high priority in the state and it has to start with the County Commissioners Association. He said he is proud that it got elevated to number two but there is a lot more work to be done. And that work that needs to be done is to get with our legislative team and make them aware and not let it settle back down.

The last three priorities are Comprehensive Behavioral Health Reform, County Financial Match for Children & Youth Services and Maintenance of the Shale Gas Impact Fee. Commissioner Ruddock said they are trying to hold on to what we think is important to Pennsylvania and these are the five items.

Commissioner Baker said we saw an effort from the Senate in November regarding tax reform that ended in a 24-24 tie, he personally challenges the Senate to bring this back up for another vote when all 50 Senators are in the room and have an opportunity to vote. This is something that cannot be allowed to go away. The pain of reassessment and the inequities of reassessment are visited by county by county instead of across the Commonwealth all at one time. If it was spread across the Commonwealth all at one time, nobody in the Senate, the Governors Chair or the House would be able to run from it but right now it is piece mill pain. It is difficult for that collective voice among county commissioners to be heard and is happy that CCAP has made it one of their priorities to take as an organization to the legislature.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...FEBRUARY 10, 2016 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, Commissioner Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Secretary

Michael A. Baker, Chairman

