

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2024

Commissioner R. Michael Keith called the regular meeting of the Indiana County Commissioners to order at 10:31 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

ROLL CALL

Chairman R. Michael Keith, present
Commissioner Robin A. Gorman, present
Commissioner Sherene Hess, absent

Also, in attendance were Solicitor Matthew T. Budash and Chief Clerk Robin Maryai.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 25, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

There were no Executive Sessions.

PROCLAMATION...JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to proclaim October 6 – 12, 2024 as Juvenile Justice Week for the purpose to call on all Pennsylvanians, government agencies, public and private institutions, and schools to remain committed to raising awareness and understanding of juvenile justice.

PROCLAMATION...DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

After a proclamation was read, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Ms. Keith and carried unanimously to hereby proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urges all citizens to work towards the elimination of domestic violence in our community.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE...SECURE TECHNOLOGY VALUE SOLUTIONS / JAIL

At the request of Lesley Loveridge, Warden, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the equipment purchase of a Body Scanner from Secure Technology Value Solutions in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the package.

**GAS PIPELINE EASEMENT – HOODLEBUG TRAIL, CENTER TOWNSHIP –
PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC / PLANNING**

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, in consultation with the Indiana County Parks & Trails, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve a Gas Pipeline Easement with Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, a Pennsylvania based utility company with offices in Pittsburgh, PA. Peoples Natural Gas

Company LLC will be replacing a natural gas pipeline across the Hoodlebug Trail in Center Township, referred to as Parcel ID: 12-007-140. This gas pipeline replacement project is a result of a gas leak complaint to the PUC. The width of the Gas Pipeline Easement shall not exceed thirty feet (30'). Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC and its contractors would be required to restore the disturbed areas and use best efforts to ensure minimal disruption for the utilization of the Hoodlebug Trail. The Indiana County Parks & Trails has approved the location of the proposed gas pipeline. The authorization also allows for Commissioner Mike Keith, Chairman, to sign the Gas Pipeline Easement on behalf of Indiana County.

REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT – PENNDOT – APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) ACCESS ROAD PROGRAM - 119 BUSINESS PARK ACCESS ROAD PROJECT – PHASE II – CENTER TOWNSHIP / PLANNING

At the request of Byron Stauffer, Office of Planning & Development, on behalf of the Indiana County Development Corporation, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously authorize the signing of a General Reimbursement Agreement for Federal-Aid Highway Projects, specifically through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Access Road Program in the amount of \$500,000.00. Authorization also allows for Commissioner Mike Keith, Chairman, to sign the General Reimbursement Agreement on behalf of Indiana County.

The 119 Business Park Access Road Project scope will provide access to approximately 10-acres of previously undeveloped business park property for light manufacturing and industrial development. The proposed project will result in a new 540 LF (0.102 mile) access road that is 24' wide with 2' curb gutter and 100' diameter cul-de-sac, including all development phases, such as engineering, design, survey, administration, inspection & testing, environmental, permitting, grading, stormwater management, lighting, markings and signage, according to applicable design standards. The new roadway will be dedicated as a public road to Center Township following close-out of the project.

The total estimated project budget is \$1,079,195.00, which has been approved by PennDOT D-10. The balance of the funding will be a \$367,500.00 State grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Fund (CFA MTF) and \$211,700.00 through the Indiana County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds.

Request authorization for Commissioner Mike Keith, Chairman, to sign the General Reimbursement Agreement on behalf of Indiana County.

GRANT APPLICATION...JAG LOCAL SOLICITATION GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE / PROBATION & SHERIFF

At the request of Jim Decker, Probation Office, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the JAG Local Solicitation Grant application from the Department of Justice for the purchase of firearms, related tactical equipment and restraint devices in the amount of \$25,000.00 each for the Probation and Sheriff's Office.

AGREEMENT ADDENDUM...TELEOSOFT, INC. / PROTHONOTARY & CLERK OF COURTS

At the request of Randy Degenkolb, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an agreement addendum with Teleosoft, Inc. to provide e-filing services for the Civil Division in the amount of \$89,810.00.

PRIVATE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FY 24-25 / CYS

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Attorney Katherine Haberl-Thomas to serve as Guardian at Litam to represent “the best interest of the child” at the rate of

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Attorney Jacqueline Blackwell-McCracken to represent the parents of a child in foster care at the rate of

At the request of Vicki-Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to represent the parents of a child in foster care at the rate of

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Service Master of Indiana County to provide cleaning services at the rate of \$720.00 a month.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Diversified Treatment Alternative Care, Milton, PA for FY 24-25 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Merakey, Harrisburg, PA for FY 24-25 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

At the request of Vicki Weaver, Children & Youth Services, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Central Counties Youth Center, Bellefonte, PA for FY 24-25 to provide services to Children & Youth Services and Juvenile Probation on an as needed basis. They provide non-placement services.

2024 HAVA GRANT AGREEMENT

At the request of Robin Maryai, Chief Clerk, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Ms. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 Hava Grant Agreement Application in the amount of \$3,000.00. These funds can be used for eligible costs to support the voting process for the upcoming 2024 General Election.

AGREEMENT #1...BABST CALLAND

At the request of Matthew Budash, County Solicitor, a motion was made by Ms. Gorman, seconded by Mr. Keith and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Babst Calland to represent Indiana County with respect to the litigation filed in the District Court for Middle District of Pennsylvania titled Republican National Committee vs. Al Schmidt.

AGREEMENT #2...BABST CALLAND

At the request of Matthew Budash, County Solicitor, a motion was made by Mr. Keith, seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried unanimously to approve an agreement with Babst Calland to

represent Indiana County with respect to the litigation filed in the District Court for Middle District of Pennsylvania titled New Pa Project Education Fund vs. Al Schmidt.

ELECTION REMINDERS:

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 21, 2024

Chief Clerk, Robin Maryai, reminded individuals interested in registering to vote can do so online, by mail or in person at the Voter Registration Office, 825 Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA 15701. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The link is www.vote.pa.gov.

LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE/MAIL IN BALLOT IS OCTOBER 29, 2024

Chief Clerk, Robin Maryai, reminded individuals interested in applying for an absentee/mail-in ballot can do so online, by mail or in person at the Voter Registration Office, 825 Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA 15701. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The link is www.vote.pa.gov. The phone number for any questions is 724-465-3852.

VOTED ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Reminder that Voted ballots must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 5, 2024. Ballots can be returned to Voter Registration Office through the US Postal Service or dropped off in person at the Courthouse. A drop box is available in the lobby from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Except for Saturday, November 2nd the courthouse lobby will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and November 5th, the courthouse will be open until 8:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Keith announce the Courthouse will be closed on Monday, October 14th in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING...OCTOBER 23, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M.

The next regular scheduled Commissioners' Public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Hess, seconded by Ms. Gorman to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Sherene Hess, Commissioner

R. Michael Keith, Chairman