

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 28, 2020

The Bedford County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting in Room 101 of the Bedford County Government Building, 200 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. Commissioner Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Baughman led the prayer of invocation and pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara, Commissioner Deb Baughman. Others present: Debra Brown, Chief Clerk/Director of Elections; Melissa Cottle, County Treasurer; Dave Cubbison, Director of Emergency Services; Don Schwartz, Director of Planning; Sheri Lowery, Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts; Wayne E. Emerick Jr., Sheriff; Allison Martin; Matt Godissart, Director, Bedford County Library; and members of the press and public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Beth Hickey asked when it was determined to raise taxes to 17%. Commissioner Lang commented that the ordinance is being reviewed by legal counsel.

Dan Harnish spoke on behalf of the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance group. He noted that the group has accumulated up to 1,200 signatures and hopes that the county is in favor of adopting the ordinance. Commissioner Lang commented that the ordinance has being reviewed by legal counsel. Commissioner Baughman also commented that there is no statute that authorizes this specific referendum. The advice that has been provided is that this would not be the proper subject for a local ballot referendum. If there is anything else additional that can be provided to the commissioners, please do so. David Colvin stated that Pennsylvania is an open carry state, and he does not understand why it is so difficult to make one county a sanctuary county when all the others are doing so.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

EXPENDITURES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the following expenditures.

Payroll	\$266,695.20	CK#:183593-183599
General Priority	\$202,125.37	
General Non-Priority	\$245,954.87	
Commissary	\$14,292.38	
LEPC	\$4,170.73	

Commissioner Dallara reported on the following large expenditures from the General Account: UPMC Health Plan at \$30,584.73; Record Improvement at \$15,000.; Solicitor at \$12,000.; CCAP Dues at \$14,990.; and Curtsey Food at \$17,505.01 and the Children and Youth expenses were noted. The motion was approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Proclamation for the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration. The proclamation was read by Melissa Flynn. Commissioner Lang thanked and commended the group. Commissioner Baughman spoke briefly about the importance of women voting and introduced Alicia Lang and her daughter Willow. They commented briefly about history of women’s right to vote and of the group. A replica of the Justice Bell was rung to commemorate the event. The motion was approved as presented.

**Bedford County, Pennsylvania
19TH Amendment Centennial Commemoration**

Whereas, in 1848 people gathered in Seneca Falls, New York and cited the unfairness of depriving women of the right to vote; and

Whereas, the fight for women’s suffrage from the first women’s rights convention to enfranchisement, lasted more than 72 years, with women from all walks of life, political views and demographic backgrounds asking for their voice to be heard at the polls; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania women by the thousands advocated for the right to vote and suffragists nationwide turned to public education and persuasion. They held conferences; campaigned, lobbied; marched; pleaded; petitioned and suffered public disdain, violent opposition, and imprisonment; and

Whereas, in 1915, as part of the lobbying campaign to urge male voters to support a suffrage amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, Katherine Wentworth Ruschenberger of Chester County, commissioned a near replica of the Liberty Bell, known as the Justice Bell, and

Whereas, a flatbed truck carried the Justice Bell to all 67 Pennsylvania counties, arriving in Bedford on August 3, 1915; and although that 1915 Amendment attempt failed, the Justice Bell became a symbol of the suffrage cause in Pennsylvania and

Whereas, suffragists pushed for a single constitutional amendment, granting votes for women on the federal level; and

Whereas, it took male allies to support women in their endeavor to vote, for it was sons, husbands and fathers who ultimately heard the calls of women and

Whereas, the House of Representatives took a historic vote on May 21, 1919 followed by the Senate on June 4, 1919, and three-fourths of the states needed to ratify the 19th Amendment; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania was the 7th state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 24, 1919 and Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify, allowing the 19th Amendment to be officially adopted on August 26, 1920, whereby millions of women were enfranchised; and

Whereas, the introduction, passage and ultimate ratification of the 19th Amendment was the culmination of decades of work and struggle by the advocates for rights of women across the United States; and

Whereas, the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of our Nation; and

Whereas, the daughters, granddaughters, and great granddaughters of the women who fought so hard to vote have been making their voices heard at the polls for 100 years; and

Whereas, the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated and

Whereas, the Justice Belles of Bedford County was formed as a non-partisan organization by civic leaders to commemorate and organize this 100th anniversary in the year 2020; and

Whereas, the President and Congress of the United States, and the Governor and Legislature of Pennsylvania has called for suitable observances to commemorate this centennial anniversary: Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: the Bedford County Commissioners proclaim that the calendar year of 2020 be recognized as a year of commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE COMMISSIONERS OF BEDFORD COUNTY, do hereby proclaim 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the following ranking and selection of P. Joseph Lehman Engineers as Bedford County qualified engineering consulting firm per Pennsylvania Department of Transportation guidelines, effective January 16, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of the Bedford County Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved as presented.

1. P. Joseph Lehman Engineers
2. Stiffler McGraw
3. The EADS Group.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the appointment of Barbara Himmler as the Judicial Secretary for the 57th Judicial District, effective January 30, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Travis W. Livengood, President Judge. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the appointment of Pamela Snyder as a full-time, union, Clerk Typist I at the office of Magisterial District Justice Kathy Calhoun, effective February 18, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Travis W. Livengood, President Judge. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the employment and transfer of Noah J Datillo, Bedford PA as a full-time Clerk Typist in the Prothonotary's Office from January 22, 2020 through January 31, 2020, and as 1st Deputy Civil Division, effective February 3, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Sherri Lowery, Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the hire of Krystal Miller, Fishertown, PA as a full-time, union, Clerk Typist I, effective January 27, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Sheri Lowery, Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement between Bedford County Children & Youth Services and Rene Chamberlain (Incredible Years Program Lead Facilitator), effective, February 3, 2020 through June 30, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Lisa Cairo, Administrator Bedford County Children and Youth Services. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the following amounts for the county health insurance provisions. Commissioner Dallara made a brief comment on cost containment provisions. The motion was approved as presented.

1. County HSA contributions:
 - a. Individual: \$1,000.000
 - b. Family: \$2,000.00
2. Health Insurance Opt Out: \$100.00/month

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the promotion of Valerie Koontz, from a part-time to a full-time Correctional Officer, effective January 29, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Troy Nelson, Warden. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the promotion of Brian Kaszubski, Deputy to Sergeant, effective January 28, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Wayne E. Emerick, Jr., Sheriff. Mr. Emerick commented on the need for the position on the operational side and management side to streamline operations in the department. The motion was approved as presented.

COMMENTS/APPOINTMENTS/BID OPENINGS/COUNTY UPDATES:

Commissioner Lang read the prepared media statement regarding the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance and noted if anyone needed a copy it would be available through our office. A gentleman made a comment about the federal and state laws being different. His comment was noted.

COMMENTS/APPOINTMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dallara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Baughman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

The next meeting will be held February 25, 2020 in Room 101 unless called sooner by the Board of Commissioners.

Debra Brown, Chief Clerk

Deb Baughman, Secretary