

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 7, 2020

The Bedford County Board of Commissioners held video conferencing meeting in the Commissioners Suite of the Bedford County Government Building, 200 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Commissioner Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Dallara led the prayer of invocation and pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara, and Commissioner Deb Baughman. Others present Debra Brown, Chief Clerk/Director of Elections; Melissa Cottle, County Treasurer. Present via teleconference: Terry Stacey, CDBG Administrator; Don Schwartz, Director of Planning; Rachel Paguda, Planning; Rick Suder, Planning; Dave Cubbison, Director of Emergency Planning and members of the press (Will Dishong, Lloyd Roach, and Randy Delozier) and public (Melvin McDowell).

Commissioner Lang opened with a brief statement regarding the current situation with the COVID-19 epidemic. He noted the county is closed with limited operations. The commissioners are continuing to monitor costs and tax revenues. He thanked the various departments for their assistance due to the epidemic and that there is a designated webpage on the website at www.bedfordcountypa.org for viewing and current information. Commissioner Baughman expressed words of encouragement to the county for their services and the pride she feels as a commissioner.

Commissioner Dallara noted that the county offices and the jail are doing an admirable job even with the current vacancies. Staff are filling in to continue to make sure operations are operating efficiently and effectively. There were 20 vacancies prior to the Corona Virus, and everything is functioning and managing well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Melvin McDowell had several questions regarding what the county is doing in relation to the staffing and budget since the close of the courthouse.

Commissioner Lang stated as a county they are working closely on monitoring the budget and look at options regarding workload and staff and reviewing things internally.

Commissioner Dallara stated the county is not consistent with the state. That CYS, 911, deputies and sheriff departments cannot be closed, however the staffing is well monitored.

Commissioner Baughman stated the county is constantly assessing the situation with budget and expenditures, that changes do occur and there are contingency plans in place for these situations.

Mr. McDowell then asked about the courts and if there is a reduction in hearings and trials. Commissioner Lang recommended he contact the courts for a response.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 10, 2020 Commissioners meeting were approved as presented.

EXPENDITURES:

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

Payroll	\$287,433.06	CK#:183620-183626
Payroll	\$21,545.80	CK#:183627-183633
Priority	\$564,700.82	
Priority	\$301,105.48	
Commissary	\$11,567.33	
LEPC	\$302.16	
CDBG	\$4,783.68	

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This is based upon the recommendation of Beth Hickey, Director of Your Safe Haven, Inc. The motion was approved as presented.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 2020

WHEREAS, Your Safe Haven, Inc. wishes to commemorate this month and promote public awareness of the incidences and consequences of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a common occurrence, every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; and the majority occur at or near victim's home

WHEREAS, every 73 seconds a sexual assault occurs, every 9 minutes a child is sexually assaulted and only 5 of 1,000 people are ever incarcerated for sexual assault. 93% of victims know the perpetrator

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified sexual assault as a significant and costly health issue; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative we stop sexual assault as younger people ages 12-34 are at the highest risk of sexual violence including for rape and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the nation pays 127,000,000,000 in the form of medical costs and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals and victim services; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month's campaign is, "**NO MORE**".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our individual and collective efforts in Bedford County reflect our dream for a nation where no sexual assault victim goes unserved, or ever feels there is no path to comfort or justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Commissioners of Bedford County, recognize the dedication of Your Safe Haven, Inc. in working towards the elimination of sexual violence in our community.

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE COMMISSIONERS OF BEDFORD COUNTY, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2020 as *Sexual Assault Awareness Month* in Bedford County, Pennsylvania and urge the citizens of Bedford County to recognize the full value of the dedication of Your Safe Haven, Inc. in working towards the elimination of sexual violence in our community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. This is based upon the recommendation of David E. Cubbison, Director of Emergency Services. Commissioner Lang read the proclamation and thanked all first responders for their dedication and hard work. The motion was approved as presented.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

WHEREAS, Bedford County has experienced emergencies that require responses from police, fire and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our first responders is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Bedford County 9-1-1 Center; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicators of Bedford County have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each Telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during performance of their job in the past year;

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Commissioners of Bedford County do hereby proclaim the week of April 12th through April 18th, 2020 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, in honor of the women and men whose diligence and professionalism keep our County and citizens safe.

Given under our hand and seal of the County of Bedford this 7th day of April 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Pennsylvania Equal Pay Day Proclamation on behalf of the Bedford Business & Professional Women. Commissioner Baughman read the proclamation. The motion was approved as presented.

2020 PENNSYLVANIA EQUAL PAY DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 57 years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, women, especially minority women, continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, women working full time, year-round in 2018 typically earned 80 percent of what men earned; and

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE Graduation Pay Gap, a research report by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the gender pay gap is evident one year after college graduation, even after controlling for factors known to affect earnings, such as occupation, hours worked, and college major; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law, which gives back to employees their day in court to challenge a pay gap; and now we must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would amend the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and improving the law's effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, according to one estimate, college-educated women working full time earn more than a one million dollars less than their male peers do over the course of a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, nearly four in ten mothers are primary breadwinners in their households and nearly two-thirds are primary or significant earners, making pay equity critical to families' economic security; and,

WHEREAS, a lifetime of lower pay means women have less income to save for retirement and less income counted in a Social Security or pension benefit formula; and,

WHEREAS, in the state of Pennsylvania, in the year 2018, full time working women earned real median income of \$45,000, and full- time working men earned real median income of \$55,000; and

WHEREAS, fair pay equity policies can be implemented simply and without undue costs or hardship in both the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, fair pay strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs while enhancing the American economy; and

WHEREAS, March 31st symbolizes the time in 2020 when the wages paid to American women catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year,

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Bedford County Commissioners do hereby proclaim Tuesday, March 31, 2020:

EQUAL PAY DAY

We urge the citizens of *Bedford County*, to recognize the full value of women's skills and significant contributions to the labor force, and further encourage businesses to conduct an internal pay evaluation to ensure women are being paid fairly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the following corrections from the March 10th Commissioners meeting. The motion was approved as presented.

1. Liquid Fuels in the amount of \$3,683.16 instead of \$3,675.25.
2. Priority accounts in the amount of \$156,414.31 instead of \$177,204.77.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to ratify the Bedford County Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated March 16, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of the Bedford County Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the Change of Assessment Notice Control Report changes for the month of March 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Joyce Hillegass, Director of Tax Assessment. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the purchase of a 2020 Jeep Cherokee from Tri-Star Motors at the cost of \$23,073.72. This is based upon the recommendation of Joyce Hillegass, Director, Tax Assessment. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement between Bedford County Children & Youth Services and Karen Hickey, Esquire for a period of July 1, 2019 and ending 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 Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to ratify the agreement between the Bedford County Court Related Employees Association and Bedford County, effective January 1, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of the Bedford County Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to adopt the revised Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Participation Plan of April 7, 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Terry Stacey, CDBG Administrator. The motion was approved as presented. Mr. Stacey gave an overview of the changes and proceedings for the plan. Commissioner Lang asked that Mr. Stacey provide the available projects for the grant. Mr. Stacey noted that there is no specific allocation at this point, they are waiting for guidance from various state agencies and accepting suggestions to submit to the CDBG.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Everett Free Library resolution. This is based upon the recommendation of the Bedford County Commissioners. Commissioner Lang noted that this grant is on behalf of the Everett Free Library and it gives him the permission to officially apply on their behalf. The motion was approved as presented; Commissioner Lang abstained.

Resolution 4-7-2020

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Bureau of Library Development, administers the public library portion of this program which is funded from a portion or realty transfer taxes; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County in cooperation with the Board of Directors of the Everett Free Library have jointly developed this grant request to improve the physical facilities of the Everett Free Library, located at 137 East Main Street, Everett, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County supports the submittal of this application and certifies that as the applicant, Bedford County and the Everett Free Library, a member of the Federated Library System of Bedford County will be jointly responsible for meeting the State Assurances; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Bedford County Board of Commissioners authorizes the filing of a Keystone Grant for Public Library Facilities application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing Commissioner Chair, Josh Lang to be the official representative of the County to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required; and

ADOPTED on this 7th day of April 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the following personnel based upon the recommendation of their respective department heads. The motion was approved as presented.

1. Brittany Norris, Everett, PA – CO – Bedford County Correctional Facility
2. Tina Hostetler – Telecommunicator Trainee– effective April 6, 2020
3. Kristin Frye – Telecommunicator Trainee– effective April 6, 2020

COMMENTS/APPOINTMENTS/BID OPENINGS/COUNTY UPDATES:

Commissioner Lang thanked Rachel Paguda for doing the maps for the county. He asked Don Schwartz to comment on the census. Mr. Schwartz commented on the census and the mapping tools utilized by Rachel. There are weekly notifications and the responses are recorded with the overall data from the townships and the boroughs. Rachel maps the data and the response rates needs to improve.

Commissioner Baughman noted the election has been changed to June 2, 2020 and that residents can complete a mail-in application to vote by mail.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dallara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Baughman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

The next meeting will be held May 5, 2020 in Room 303 via conference call unless called sooner by the Board of Commissioners.