

# **BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

March 10, 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, February 25, 2020. Commissioner Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Lang led the prayer of invocation and pledge to the flag.

## **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Deb Baughman, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara (absent). Others present: Debra Brown, Chief Clerk/Director of Elections; Melissa Cottle, County Treasurer; Terry Stacey, CDBG Administrator; Lisa Cairo, Director of Bedford County Children and Youth Services; and members of the press and public.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Dan Harnish commented that he was disappointed in the decision that the commissioners decided to pass a resolution instead of a proposed ordinance. He commented that 2500 signatures were obtained in favor of the of the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. Commissioner Lang commented that the county does not have the authority to enforce what is requested in the ordinance. He stated that other local governments have tried to do what they have been asking and it has been thrown out of the courts because they ruled local government cannot do this type of thing. Also, he stated that more restrictive gun control efforts in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have been dismissed in court because the local regulations overstepped state and federal law. The county does not have jurisdiction over the Pennsylvania state police or borough police departments and they are the ones who handle these matters. Nor do the commissioners have jurisdiction over the county sheriff or district attorney who are in supportive of the resolution, not ordinance. The commissioners are supportive of the Second Amendment, but do not have the authority to enact local laws protecting gun rights. Commissioner Baughman stated that the ordinance was looked at very closely, researched it and got legal advice on the matter. The commissioners support your Second Amendment rights guaranteed by the Constitution, an ordinance is not the proper way for the county to go. The final action is the resolution.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the February 25, 2020 Commissioners meeting were approved as presented.

## **EXPENDITURES:**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the resolution for the ESG Grant for 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Makayla Bollman, Director of Resource Management at Center for Community Action. Ms. Bollman gave an overview of the resolution. The motion was approved as presented.

**Resolution of the County of Bedford**  
Authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with the  
Department of Community of Economic Development, Commonwealth  
of Pennsylvania.

**WHEREAS**, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH) enacted into law on May 20, 2009, authorized the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program; and

**WHEREAS**, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has received ESG program funds and is making these funds available to units of local governments for eligible emergency shelter activities; and

**WHEREAS**, CCA desires to submit an application to DCED for ESG Program funds on behalf of homeless shelter housing and service providers, in cooperation with Bedford County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the County of Bedford that:

1. The proposed projects: Rapid Re-Housing Outreach, Homeless Prevention, HMIS and Administrative Costs to be funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania ESG Program and hereby eligible and approved.
2. The Center for Community Action will submit an application for ESG Funds in collaboration with the County of Bedford and CCA is authorized and directed to execute an ESG Program application in the of \$250,000 to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.
3. The Center for Community Action will assume the responsibility for securing the required matching amount of project funds.
4. The Center for Community Action will reimburse the Commonwealth for any expenditure found to be ineligible.
5. The Center for Community Action is authorized to provide such assurances, certificates, and supplemental data or revised data that DCED may request in connection with the application.

**ADOPTED** on this 10th day of March 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the Change of Assessment Notice Control Report changes for the month of February 2020. This is based upon the recommendation of Joyce Hillegass, Director of Tax Assessment. Commissioner Baughman noted there has been positive movement, just very slow. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the Purchase of Service Agreement between Bedford County Children & Youth Services and Bedford United Methodist Preschool & Daycare. 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 Lang to approve the appointment of Matthew P. Randall as a board member for a two-year term to the Behavioral Health Services of Somerset and Bedford Counties, Inc. (BHSSBC). This is based upon the recommendation of Mary Piatt-Bruner, LPC, BHSSBC Executive Director and Board Chairperson. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the agreement of lease between Broad Top Township and the Bedford County Commissioners, effective March 1, 2020. Commissioner Lang noted this is for the change of venue for Baker's office. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the agreement between Bedford County and Cambria County for Legal Representation for Mental Health Hearings. Commissioner Lang noted this is for the various fee for services held in Cambria County. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve an agreement between Bedford County and Hyndman Borough for snow removal for (1) one-year, effective March 4, 2020. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the adoption of Governor Wolf's proclamation acknowledging the month of April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month". This is based upon the recommendation of Lisa Cairo, Director of Bedford County Children and Youth Services. Lisa Cairo read the proclamation. Commissioner Lang extended his thanks to staff for all they do daily. The motion was approved as presented.

***Child Abuse Prevention Month***  
***April 2020***

**WHEREAS**, every child in the Commonwealth deserves to be cared for by adults who provide love, protection, and a safe environment; and

**WHEREAS**, protected and unharmed childhoods produce self-assured and successful adults; and

**WHEREAS**, children who are abused and neglected can become permanently disabled and psychologically distressed adults - experiencing problems with substance abuse, crime or domestic violence against others, including their own children; and

**WHEREAS**, in Pennsylvania, 5,102 reports of child abuse were substantiated in 2018, reports of child abuse and neglect reports have increased 76.2% from 2013 to 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse includes physical and psychological wounds inflicted upon a child, and abuse survivors wear physical and emotional scars for the rest of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting children against abuse and neglect requires the involvement of everyone—a combined effort is imperative to help families break the chains of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, many dedicated organizations continue to work in cooperation with federal and state governments to increase public awareness and promote individual and community action as they strive to eradicate this devastating form of violence, protect children, and help build healthy families and communities where children can reach their potential.

**WHEREAS**, under hand and seal of the Governor on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Pennsylvania.

**NOW THEREFORE**, WE THE COMMISSIONERS OF BEDFORD COUNTY, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2020 as ***Child Abuse Prevention Month*** in Bedford County, Pennsylvania and encourage all citizens to cherish our children and join in protecting them from all forms of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve resolution for the director to sign all related documents for Area Agency on Aging. This is based upon the recommendation of Connie Brode, Director. Commissioner Lang noted this is giving the director the ability to sign all related documents for various programs. The motion was approved as presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-10-2020**

**WHEREAS**, the Counties of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton have entered into various agreements with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the Departments of Aging and Transportation to provide a wide range of community-based services for older persons, including MA Waiver, Guardianship, Protective Service, Care Management, Shared Ride Transportation and, also, to receive capital assistance funding; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners of Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Counties have appointed Connie Brode to the position of Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging with authority to assume all duties and responsibilities for administration of this program, as well as serving as Trustee of the Agency's retirement plan and court appointed guardian; and

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Board of County Commissioners recognizes the need for the Agency's Executive Director to be empowered to bind the Agency to various funding agreements, any amended budgets, financial and banking documents, signing funding agreements, service contracts, retirement plan documents, health insurance policy, sale of used vehicles, tax exemptions, all guardianship/PoA/Rep Payee related matters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT** the Bedford County Commissioners, as members of the governing body of the Area Agency on Aging, by adoption of this resolution, do grant to Connie Brode, Executive Director of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging, such required authorization for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

**ADOPTED**, this 10th day of March 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang to award the construction contract for the Hyndman Borough Waterline Replacement - Phase IV, to D&M Contracting, Inc., of New Alexandria, PA, in the amount of \$388,000.00. This is based upon the recommendation of Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc., and the Planning staff. Mr. Stacey gave an overview of the funding for the project. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Lang, to enact the ordinance as presented, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds on a parameters basis to refund a portion of the County's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2014, subject to the stated minimum savings. Alisha Henry noted that interest rates are at an all-time low in the bond market; the refinancing is expected to save the county \$300,000.00, at a 2% savings rate. The motion was approved as presented.

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

1. Christine Dallara-Jones, Bedford, PA – Caseworker I – CYS – March 16, 2020
2. Cara Kirn, Frostburg, MD – Caseworker I – CYS – March 16, 2020
3. Ashley Miller – transfer to full-time Correctional Officer – BCCF – March 9, 2020
4. Chasity Plummer, Everett, PA – full-time Deputy Sheriff – March 16, 2020
5. Stephen L. Simon, Bedford, PA - full-time Deputy Sheriff – March 16, 2020
6. William E. Wright, Bedford, PA – part-time Deputy Sheriff – March 16, 2020

**COMMENTS/APPOINTMENTS/BID OPENINGS/COUNTY UPDATES:**

Commissioner Baughman commented about the upcoming census; this determines the Federal funding for the next 10 years, so please participate in the survey. All the information is secure and cannot be shared. Ms. Bollman from Center for Community Action also noted that there are touch screen kiosks at their office and staff available to assist anyone if needed.

**ADJOURN:**

The next meeting will be held April 7, 2020 in Room 101 unless called sooner by the Board of Commissioners.

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Debra Brown, Chief Clerk

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Deb Baughman, Secretary