

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 7, 2019

The Bedford County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting in Room 303 of the Bedford County Government Building, 200 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Commissioner Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Commissioner Lang gave the prayer of invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara, Commissioner S. Paul Crooks. Others present: Debra Brown, Chief Clerk/Director of Elections; Melissa Cottle, Treasurer; Terry Stacey, CDBG Administrator, members of the press and public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of April 23, 2019 meeting were approved.

EXPENDITURES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve the following expenditures:

Payroll	\$294,598.78	Check #:183453-183459
General	\$702,218.16	
Commissary	\$5,610.32	
CDBG	\$38,395.69	

Commissioner Dallara reported on the following large expenditures from the General Account: Allegheny Community College donation at \$12,500; Cottle’s Asphalt final payment at \$174,002.28; Hyndman Health Center for Bedford County Correctional Facility inmates at \$36,333.33; Children and Youth Independent Family at \$33,519.38; Penelec at \$11,162.48; UPMC May Healthcare payment at \$152,623.89 and Wilmington Trust Bond at \$159,387.50. Commissioner Dallara also commented regarding Children, Youth, and the ongoing opioid epidemic with placing kids in facilities.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Resolution in opposition of the changes to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP). This is based upon the recommendation of Makayla Bollman, Director of Resource Development at the Center for Community Action. The resolution was read by Paula Steele. Commissioner Lang commented the Area Agency on Aging does not support the House Bill. He has consulted with other counties and people are unhappy; he is open for discussion with other entities as well. Commissioner Dallara commented the commissioners support House Bill 390, but would like to see a further investigation and other counties are expressing concern as well. Commissioner Crooks stated that the prior bill on transportation was put in at the last minute and authorized at the last minute; more information is needed. A question was asked as to who is promoting this bill; Commissioner Lang responded that he would look into it and get back to everyone. The motion was approved as presented.

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE CHANGES TO THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (MATP)

05-07-19

WHEREAS, the Americans with disabilities Act of 1990 mandates that in any area where fixed-bus route service is offered, door-to-door service to the elderly, the disabled, and other people who cannot use or access the regular bus service must also be offered; and

WHEREAS, most counties in Pennsylvania are responsible for the coordination of these paratransit services, Bedford County provides MATP services through Center for Community Action; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 390 has been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature to delay moving the MATP to a brokerage model until a more detailed review can be undertaken; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Bedford County Commissioners supports Senate Bill 390, as the Board believes that the proposed changes to MATP will seriously and detrimentally affect the most vulnerable citizens of rural communities of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a full-risk broker system was the promise of additional federal funding for DHS in the amount of \$15 million statewide. However, additional analyses now demonstrate that the estimated cost to the Commonwealth will be significantly higher, resulting in a zero savings and a significant additional financial burden placed on Pennsylvania taxpayers through other funding mechanisms that are already oversubscribed, and adding additional layers to the delivery of MATP services; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has been recognized by the Transportation Research Board, as the third-lowest costing state implementing MATP. Pennsylvania currently operates under a coordinated system, which demonstrates a national model of efficiency; and

WHEREAS, MATP provides needed transportation to the most vulnerable members of our society, free of charge, to increase self-sufficiency, mobility, and access to direly needed healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Center for Community Action conducts an average of 34,642 trips a year, assisting an average of 688 unduplicated clients who are low-income, disabled, seniors, and children in dire need of medical care; and

WHEREAS, Center for Community Action manages the provision of MATP services through paratransit trips (door-to-door services) and mileage reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Center for Community Action supports small-business and local organizations with funds from MATP, in an average yearly amount of \$318,712.25; and

WHEREAS, with the transition to a full-risk broker system the contribution to local organizations and small business would be lost.

WHEREAS, Center for Community Action ensures that the local needs of the most vulnerable members of our community are met in a friendly, professional, and compassionate manner; and

WHEREAS, the move to a brokered MATP service would take away local management over MATP and transfer jobs and funding to agencies outside of the county where the services are being provided thereby potentially turning the funding over to large statewide or even international corporations which have little or no interest in local concerns and assisting those in need; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bedford County Board of Commissioners do hereby oppose the changes being made to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) involving a transition to a statewide or regional full-risk brokerage system by the State Legislature and the Department of Human Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bedford County Board of Commissioners will submit this resolution to the regional legislative Representatives, State Senators, The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and the Governor's Office, to respectfully request the administration and General Assembly to take steps to suspend the award of the RFA and consider taking action to study this issue further before initiating any changes.

ADOPTED this 7th day of May 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve Amendment #3 to the March 24, 2017, Force Account Agreement with the Broad Top Township Supervisors, for FFYs 2014 and 2015 Community Development Block Grant, extending the Agreement to May 31, 2019, and adding \$4,551.84 in FFY 2014 CDBG funds to the Agreement. This is based upon the recommendation of Terry Stacey, CDBG Administrator. Mr. Stacey gave a brief overview of the costs, funding and the balances on the account and the uses for those funds. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the hire of Ronald Lavender, Manns Choice, PA as a full-time Correctional Officer and Madison Suder, Bedford, PA as a part-time Correctional Officer at the Bedford County Correctional Facility, effective May 9, 2019. This is based upon the recommendation of Troy Nelson, Warden. A question was asked if Ms. Suder was related to the Mr. Suder that works at the prison. Commissioner Lang will check and respond to the question at a later time. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve Reine Akers from full-time Front Desk/Receptionist to a part-time Tax Claim/Field Inspector, effective April 1, 2019. 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 Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Change of Assessment Notice Control Report changes for the month of April 2019. This is based upon the recommendation of Joyce Hillegass, Director of Tax Assessment. Commissioner Crooks commented on the changes for the month. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve \$600.00 for the security deposit for the rental of an apartment for Bedford County Children and Youth Services Family Preservation Program for the lease as of July 1, 2019. This is based upon the recommendation of Lisa Cairo, Administrator of Bedford County Children and Youth Services. A question was asked who uses the apartment. Commissioner Lang responded that it is for Independent Living Services and that this is approved every year. The motion was approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the appointment of the following to the Bedford County Library board, effective May 1, 2019. This is based upon the recommendation of Matthew Godissart, Director of the Bedford County Library. The motion was approved as presented.

1. Rick Smith – 3 year term
2. Mary Rabine Heller – 3 year term

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks 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 Dallara read the resolution. The motion was approved as presented.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND TRANSPORTATION
RESOLUTION 05-07-19**

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 7th day of May 2019.

COMMENTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Lang responded to an earlier question about the MATP, this was House Bill 1677 and it was done on June 2, 2018 and approved by Governor Wolf.

A few questions were proposed to Commissioner Crooks as follows:
How is the election going? He commented that things are good.
Have the machines been repaired? He commented that they are back and in working order.
Are the plenty of ballots? He commented that there were and that there are extra ballots.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Crooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dallara seconded by motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

The next meeting will be held May 28, 2019 in Room 303 unless called sooner by the Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST:

Debra Brown, Chief Clerk/Director of Elections

S. Paul Crooks, Secretary