

BEDFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WEEKLY MEETING

March 01, 2016

The Bedford County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting in Room 101 of the Bedford County Government Building, 200 S. Juliana Street, Bedford, PA on Tuesday, March 01, 2016. Commissioner Josh Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and gave the prayer of invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara and Commissioner S. Paul Crooks were present. Others present were Jill Gordon, Chief Clerk/Director of Elections; Melissa Cottle, Treasurer; Donald Schwartz, Planning Commission Director; David Cubbison, Director of Emergency Service; Charwin Reichelderfer, Sheriff; Brian Kaszubski, Deputy; Diane Nelson, Deputy; Lisa Cairo, Children and Youth Administrator; Pandora Wertz, Planning Commission Board member; and members of the public and press.

The Minutes of February 23, 2016 were approved as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve the corrected expenditure from the meeting of February 23, 2016 General account from \$567,425.78 to \$570,563.96. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no expenditures to report.

There was no old business to discuss.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the appointment of Pandora M. Wertz of Bedford Borough to the Bedford County Planning Commission Board, representing Community Area #1, being Bedford Borough, Bedford Township and Cumberland Valley Township; for a term expiring December 31, 2018. This is based on the recommendation of the Board of the Planning Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lang noted that Pandora had been a former county employee of the Planning Commission, as Administrator for the Community Development Block Grant program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve the move of Douglas Turner from the position of Full-time Deputy to the position of Part-time Deputy with the Bedford County Sheriff's Department effective April 1, 2016. This is based on the recommendation of Charwin Reichelderfer, Sheriff. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the move of Toni Amick from the position of Part-time Deputy to the position of Full-time Deputy with the Bedford County Sheriff's Department effective April 1, 2016. This is based on the recommendation of Charwin Reichelderfer, Sheriff. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve Resolution No 03 01 2016. The motion passed unanimously. The Resolution was read by Commissioner Dallara.

Resolution No 03 01 2016

A RESOLUTION

A resolution of the county of Bedford, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the General Assembly and Administration to restore funding for human services programs to historic levels, and to put mechanisms in place to assure any future budget impasse or budget delay does not become a burden on Bedford County and its constituents.

WHEREAS, counties are at the forefront for delivery of crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable individuals, such as child welfare and protective, mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, homeless assistance, meal programs, lottery funded transportation, and others; and

WHEREAS, the capacity to meet critical service needs has been compromised by a steady decrease in state funding over the past decade, especially the drastic ten percent aggregate cut to the seven human services line items in FY 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Block Grant has provided much-needed flexibility for the 30 counties eligible to participate, but remains closed to the remaining 37 remaining counties; and

WHEREAS, new mandates and additional program requirements continue to be placed on counties in the face of decreasing state funds; and

WHEREAS, while the rebalancing initiative for child welfare services is portrayed as only an accounting change, the initiative shifts a full quarter of funds for mandated child protective services into the following budget year with no more than a promise of being made whole; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the six-month budget impasse in FY 2015-2016, counties and the providers with whom they contract were forced to make difficult decisions about remaining open and meeting clients' needs while state payments were withheld; and

WHEREAS, many counties tapped reserves, borrowed funds, reduced or suspended payments to vendors or subcontractors, limited staff travel, laid off or reduced hours of employees, among other strategies, to maintain their focus on service delivery and assure that clients felt no harm; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue providing services during the budget impasse, Bedford County agencies were forced to lay off employees, take out loans, and spend reserves; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Bedford County remains committed to the important role we play in delivery of services to our communities; and

RESOLVED, that Bedford County stands ready to work in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania in support of counties' top priority for 2016, the commonwealth budget and human services funding; and

RESOLVED, that Bedford County supports restoration of funding of the ten percent reductions to the seven key human services line items that occurred in FY 2012-2013, as without restoration to prior funding levels, all counties find it difficult to serve the state's most needy citizens; and

RESOLVED, that Bedford County opposes "rebalancing" initiatives for child welfare services that will force counties to reduce funding by a quarter, reduce payments to providers, shorten contract periods, or use county property tax funds to cover the state's obligation until a future budget makes a true allocation; and

RESOLVED, that Bedford County asks that state leaders continue to work with them to find ways to administer human services programs in a way that ensures both quality and efficiency, including expansion of the Human Services Block Grant to any willing and able county; and

RESOLVED, that Bedford County will work in concert with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and state leaders to develop comprehensive solutions for any future budget impasse or delay to ensure that counties are never again put in a situation where they are forced to cover the state's funding obligations; and

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Bedford County legislative delegation, to Governor Wolf, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Bedford, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 1st day of March, 2016.

Commissioner Dallara stated that the Resolution is for the State regarding future budget actions such that things would not end up the way it is now. A member from the floor asked if the Resolution had been recommended by CCAP to which an affirmative answer was given. Commissioner Dallara then requested Lisa Cairo, Administrator for Children and Youth Services to address the issue of the rebalancing act; Ms. Cairo addressed the issue. Commissioner Dallara followed-up by asking Ms. Cairo to quantify by a dollar amount that the county could see "lost in the shuffle". Ms. Cairo replied in the 600-700 Thousand Dollar range in state funding. Commissioner Crooks added that it is a way for the state to take money away from the counties to pay for their own budget. There was some discussion regarding mandated reports through Children and Youth Services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the appointment of Rick Suder to the Rural Transportation Technical Committee of the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission Rural Planning Organization. This is a replacement resulting from the resignation of J.R. Barefoot. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dallara and seconded by Commissioner Crooks to approve the following Purchase of Service Agreements, each with a term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, between Bedford County Children & Youth Services and Bedford County Juvenile Probation Office and:

1. White Deer Run,
2. Hoffman Homes,
3. Cornell Abraxas Group, Inc., and
4. Outside In School of Experiential Education.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to approve the Electricity Supply Agreement with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. at the fixed rate of \$0.06182/kWh beginning January 17, 2017 through December 9, 2020. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lang noted this to be a cost savings from the current contracted amount. Commissioner Crooks also noted the 10% green energy guarantee.

Commissioner Dallara addressed a correction to a recent article in the Bedford Gazette which incorrectly named him as head of the Pike 2 Bike steering committee. There was some discussion regarding the Press Release prepared by the County regarding the submission of interested parties to the steering committee; noting submissions to be made to Donald Schwartz with his contact information and deadline of March 21, 2016. The Press Release was distributed to members of the press and offered to those in attendance.

There was no further business to discuss.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks and seconded by Commissioner Dallara to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting at 10:20 AM.

ATTEST:

Jill R. Gordon, Chief Clerk

S. Paul Crooks, Secretary