

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

8/16/2023 - 10:30 AM

I. WELCOME

The Regular Meeting of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners was held today at 10:30 am, in the Bucks County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 55 E. Court Street, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. In attendance were Commissioner Robert J. Harvie, Chair; Commissioner Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, Vice Chair; and Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo, Secretary. Commissioner Harvie led the Pledge of Allegiance, asking for a moment of silence in memory of two county employees who recently passed away.

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Employee Recognition

The Commissioners recognized Karen Mae Ossmann from District Court 07-1-10 for thirty years of employment with the county.

B. Bucks 2040 Photograph Contest Winners

Evan Stone, Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission, spoke about the Bucks 2040 Photo Contest. He presented a slide show of the various entries and announced the winners.

C. Bucks County Senior Games

Kathy Bennett, Director of the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging, shared information on the 40th annual Bucks County Senior Games held May 31st through June 10th. She presented a video highlighting the games over the years.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items

Commissioner Harvie reminded everyone to restrict their comments to actual items on the agenda.

The following people commented on agenda items as follows:

- Beth Curcio from Warminster – items 1b, 2a, c, d & e, and 6a
- Edward Mackouse from Buckingham – item 1a
- Robert McLain from Milford Township – items 7c 7 d, 9a, and 13d
- Andy Warren from Middletown Township – items 8a & 13d
- Liz Youse from Northampton Township – items 5b, 7f & g, 10a and Other Civics
- Laurie Katz from Northampton – items 3a, 12a, 13a,
- Vonna DeArmond from Plumstead – item 6a, 8a, 9a, and Other Civics

Commissioner Harvie responded to many of the questions and comments. Commissioner Marseglia, Solicitor Amy Fitzpatrick, and Director of Corrections Dave Kratz also provided clarification on other agenda items.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion of Commissioner Marseglia, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, with the vote being 3-0, the following items on the consent agenda were approved:

A. Approve minutes from the August 2, 2023 meeting.

B. Resolutions

1. BH/DP

- a. With: PMHCC, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA
Amount: \$32,883** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase and extension to provide funding to support the Southeast Regional Mental Health Office.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24
- b. With: Voice & Vision, Inc.
Warrington, PA
Amount: \$457,755** (County 2.1%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase and extension for consumer satisfaction team and peer support services.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24

2. Children & Youth

- a. With: KidsPeace National Centers, Inc.
Schnecksville, PA
Amount: \$675,000** (County 12%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide residential and foster care services.
7/1/23 – 6/30/25
- b. With: Neshaminy School District
Langhorne, PA
Amount: \$10,000** (County 10%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide the Summer PASS (Planned Action Stimulates Success) Program.
6/1/23 – 9/30/23
- c. With: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Harrisburg, PA
Amount: \$200,000 (Revenue)
Purpose: Approve grant agreement for the Stable Housing in Facilitated Teams (SHIFT) program.

7/1/23 – 6/30/24

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|----|----------|---|
| d. | With: | Tabor Children's Services
Doylestown, PA |
| | Amount: | \$520,079** (County 5%) |
| | Purpose: | Approve contract to provide intensive family services.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24 |
| e. | With: | Tabor Children's Services
Doylestown, PA |
| | Amount: | \$975,000** (County 14%) |
| | Purpose: | Approve contract to provide independent living, life skills
and other supportive services.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24 |

3. Corrections

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| a. | With: | Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission
Doylestown, PA |
| | Amount: | \$80,000** (County 100%) |
| | Purpose: | Approve contract to continue HEART program.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24 |

4. Emergency Communications

- a. With: Amount: \$5,552.40* (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve out-of-county travel for two employees to attend the Versaterm CAD Users Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.
9/25/23 – 9/29/23

5. General Services

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| a. | With: | BRB Contractors
Pottstown, PA |
| | Amount: | \$12,253.12** (County 100%) |
| | Purpose: | Approve contract increase to provide demolition services
at 765 Langhorne-Newtown Road. |

- b. With: Patrick & Krista Kovitch
 Glassboro, NJ
 Amount: \$17,400 (Revenue)
 Purpose: Approve lease of county property located at 30 Church
 Road in Hatfield.
 8/18/23 – 8/17/24

6. Health Department

- a. With: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of
 Communicable Diseases
 Harrisburg, PA
 Amount: \$38,034 (Revenue)
 Purpose: Approve tuberculosis grant award.
 7/1/23 – 6/30/24

7. Housing & Community Development

- a. With: Bucks County Opportunity Council
 Doylestown, PA
 Amount: (\$45,000)
 Purpose: Approve contract decrease for HUD Emergency
 Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding for Rapid Rehousing
 services and street outreach activities.
 10/1/22 – 9/30/23
- b. With: Family Service Association of Bucks County
 Langhorne, PA
 Amount: \$45,000 (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase for Emergency Solutions
 Grant (ESG-CV) funds to continue shelter assistance.
 2/1/23 – 9/30/23
- c. With: Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County
 Warminster, PA
 Amount: \$200,000** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to
 acquire a blighted property at 79 Indigo Road in
 Levittown to develop as affordable housing in the
 Community Land Trust.
 8/1/23 – 7/31/24

- d. With: Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County
 Warminster, PA
 Amount: \$200,000** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to
 acquire a blighted property at 431 Sycamore Avenue in
 Croydon to develop as affordable housing in the
 Community Land Trust.
 8/1/23 – 7/31/24
- e. With: LifePath Foundation
 Bethlehem, PA
 Amount: \$50,000** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract for 2023 CDBG funding to support ADA
 restroom renovations of group home.
 8/1/23 – 3/31/24
- f. With: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic
 Development
 Harrisburg, PA
 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve extension of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-
 CV) funding for homeless assistance and support.
 7/1/23 – 8/31/23
- g. With: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic
 Development
 Harrisburg, PA
 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve extension of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-
 CV 2) funding for emergency shelter assistance.
 7/1/23 – 8/31/23

8. Human Resources

- a. With:
 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve updated Human Resource Policies regarding
 employee transfers & promotions, retroactive to January
 1, 2023.

9. Law Department

- a. With: Brad M. Jackman, Esq. d/b/a Jackman Law
Doylestown, PA
Amount:
Purpose: Approve law firm to provide legal services for the County
within applicable maximum rates.
7/25/23 - Open

10. Neshaminy Manor

- a. With: Senior Salon Services
Marlton, NJ
Amount: \$22,800* (County 0%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase and extension to provide hair
care services.
8/18/23 – 8/17/24

11. Planning Commission

- a. With: PennDot
King of Prussia, PA
Amount:
Purpose: Approve grant application for TASA (Transportation
Alternatives Set Aside) Funding to be used for
construction of the Levittown Trail in Bristol, Falls and
Tullytown.

*Unit Cost/Estimated for operational purposes only ** Unit Cost/Not to Exceed

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Resolutions

Item 12a – James Nilsen, from the Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, presented information on this proposed agricultural conservation easement. In response to earlier questions, he also spoke generally about the agricultural preservation program and funding.

Items 13a & b – Shannon Kirby, Opioid Settlement Fund Administrator, and Diane Rosati, Executive Director, Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., provided an update on the opioid settlement funds, and the opioid settlement plan providers and programs.

Upon motion of Commissioner DiGirolamo, seconded by Commissioner Marseglia,

with the vote being 3-0, these Resolutions were approved.

12. Agricultural Preservation

- a. With: Robin Staff
Coopersburg, PA
Amount: \$149,643.80 + settlement charges and adjustments
(County 100%)
Purpose: Approve county's portion of a 119.715 acre agricultural
conservation easement on the Robin Staff farm located
on Old Bethlehem Road in Springfield Township. (TMPs
42-012-005, 42-012-006,
and 42-012-012)

13. Human Services

- a. With:
Amount: \$200,000** (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve Memorandum of Understanding to use opioid
settlement funding for the Co-Responder Programs.
1/1/23 – 6/30/24
- b. With: Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
Doylestown, PA
Amount: \$31,500** (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract to use opioid settlement funding to
purchase and distribute Fentanyl Test Strips.
1/1/23 – 6/30/24
- c. With: Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
Doylestown, PA
Amount: \$131,250** (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract to use opioid settlement funding to
purchase and distribute Narcan kits.
1/1/23 – 6/30/24
- d. With: Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
Doylestown, PA
Amount: \$1,430,625** (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract to use opioid settlement funding to
provide sub-grantee awards.
1/1/23 – 6/30/24

B. Personnel Actions - Commissioners List

Upon motion of Commissioner Marseglia, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, with the vote being 3-0, the Personnel Actions on the Commissioners' List were approved.

C. Other Civics

Upon motion of Commissioner Marseglia, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, with the vote being 3-0, the following Other Civics contributions were approved:

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|-----|---------------------------|----------|
| 14. | NAMI Bucks County | \$2,500 |
| | New Creation of Life Inc. | \$1,000 |
| | Pearl Buck Foundation | \$20,000 |

VI. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

Citing recent fires at both the Oxford Valley Golf Course and a local barn in Doylestown Township, Chief Operating Officer Margie McKeivitt expressed appreciation to General Services and the fire departments for their quick action and hard work.

VII. SOLICITOR REPORT

Solicitor Amy Fitzpatrick responded to Mr. Warren's earlier question regarding special counsel.

Ms. Fitzpatrick also reported on the standing Executive Session held yesterday, August 15th, to discuss personnel matters, and pending and prospective litigation.

VIII. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS – All Items

The following individuals spoke during the public comment period for general items:

- Beth Curcio
- Edward Mackouse
- Robert McLain
- Jamie Walker from Chalfont
- Leigh Vlasblom from Buckingham Township
- Joe Frederick from Doylestown Borough
- Liz Youse
- Laurie Katz
- Vonna DeArmond
- Andy Warren

Commissioner Harvie responded to several of the comments including those regarding right-to-know requests, co-responders, the Crisis Center and Diversion, Assessment, Rehabilitation, and Treatment Center, election integrity, employment assistance, the Sheriff's budget, and flooding assistance. Director of Corrections Dave Kratz provided information on mental health issues in the prison population and how that has changed over the years.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner DiGirolamo reflected on the drug epidemic and the pressures on children.

Commissioner Marseglia provided clarification on the Sheriff's budget, and the

positions for additional deputies and a school resource officer. She also noted the decrease in crime and emphasized the need for workers to fill open jobs in the County.

Commissioner Harvie recapped some of the contracts approved at the meeting today and he thanked everyone for their work in putting it together. The Commissioner also spoke about the importance of agriculture in the County, and announced that the Grange Fair started today and runs through Sunday.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner Marseglia, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, with the vote being 3-0, the meeting was adjourned.

The next public meeting of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the Bucks County Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Approved: August 16, 2023
BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(Official copy on file with chief clerk)

BY:

Gene DiGirolamo
Commissioner, Secretary

ATTEST:

Gail Humphrey, *Chief Clerk*