

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

10/4/2023 - 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Bensalem ROTC

Members of the Bensalem High School Marine Corps JROTC presented information on their organization. Senior Marine Instructor Colonel John Church was accompanied by the 2023 cadet leadership team, including Company Commander 1st Lieutenant Nicholas Donnelly, Company 1st Sgt Thomas Leible, S-1 Administrative Officer 1st Sgt Samantha Flynn, S-3 Operations Officer 1st Sgt Jacob Huttenberger, S-4 Supply Officer 1st Sgt Nyah Hyers.

B. Fire Prevention Week

The Commissioners proclaimed October 8-14th as "Fire Prevention Week" throughout the County of Bucks. In so doing, they commend the Bucks County Fire Marshals Office, firefighters, and first responders who help keep the community safe. They encourage all citizens to check their kitchens for fire hazards and use safe cooking practices year-round. Bucks County Fire Marshal John Gundy, accompanied by Yardley-Makefield Deputy Fire Chief Jim Chamberlain, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

C. Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Commissioners proclaimed October 2023 as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," to commend the Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia at Gilda's Club for the important services they provide to those impacted by cancer. Beth Cribb, Program Director of the Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia, accepted the proclamation and provided information on the Cancer Support Community.

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:

- Edward Mackouse from Buckingham – item 8a
- Andy Warren from Middletown Township – 5b, c, & d
- Liz Youse from Northampton Township – items 4a, 5a, and 9a
- Beth Curcio from Warminster – items 4b, 5a & d, 7c, 8c, 12a & 13a

Commissioner Harvie responded to many of the questions and comments. Director of General Services George Hutt and Chief Operating Officer Margie McKeivitt each 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 September 20, 2023 meeting

B. Resolutions

1. Adult Probation

a.	With:	Offix Systems Allentown, PA
	Amount:	\$49,439.25** (County 100%)
	Purpose:	Approve purchase of furniture for Quakertown office.

2. Area Agency on Aging

a.	With:	Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. Doylestown, PA
	Amount:	\$69,200 (Revenue)
	Purpose:	Approve contract to provide drug take-back, medication education programs, and prevention services. 7/1/23 – 6/30/25

b.	With:	Gem Home Care, Inc. Huntington Valley, PA
	Amount:	\$58,000** (County 0%)
	Purpose:	Approve contract increase to provide home health, personal care, and home support services for seniors. 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

c.	With:	Keystone Family Health Plan Philadelphia, PA
	Amount:	
	Purpose:	Approve Memorandum of Agreement for the USAging's Aging and Disability Business Institute pilot project. 11/2/22 – 10/4/24

- d. With: Shanti Gardens LLC
 d/b/a Shanti Gardens Adult Day Care
 Levittown, PA
 Amount: \$162,000** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase to provide adult day services
 for seniors.
 7/1/22 – 6/30/24
- e. With: Transitional Care Solutions, Inc.
 d/b/a Interim Healthcare of Lower Bucks County
 Trevose, PA
 Amount: \$36,000** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase to provide home health,
 personal care, and home support services for seniors.
 7/1/22 – 6/30/24

3. BH/DP

- a. With: Growing Children with Challenges, Inc.
 Philadelphia, PA
 Amount: \$241,350** (County 10%)
 Purpose: Approve contract to provide early intervention services
 for children.
 7/1/23 – 6/30/24

4. Emergency Communications

- a. With: Motorola Solutions
 Linthicum Heights, MD
 Amount: \$31,822.76** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract to provide field engineering and project
 management services.
- b. With: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of
 Operations
 Harrisburg, PA
 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve contract to provide web-based video sharing
 solution (MVIEW) to view reported highway incidents.

5. General Services

- a. With: Heather Buckley
 Jamison, Pa
 Amount: \$27,800 (Revenue)
 Purpose: Approve contract for rental of county property located at
 2835 Valley Road in Jamison.
 9/1/23 – 8/31/24
- b. With: Eastern Highway Specialists, Inc.
 Wilmington, DE
 Amount: \$49,946.24** (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase for the rehabilitation of Bridge
 #237 on Callowhill Street over East Branch of the
 Perkiomen Creek in East Rockhill Township.
 5/8/23 – 11/4/23
- c. With: Eastern Highway Specialists, Inc.
 Wilmington, DE
 Amount: \$151,546.51** (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase and extension for the
 rehabilitation of Bridge #226 on Stouts Valley Road over
 Cooks Creek in Durham Township.
 1/11/24 – 2/24/24
- d. With: Loftus Construction, Inc.
 Cinnaminson, NJ
 Amount: \$180,392.38** (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase for the rehabilitation of Bridge
 #359 on Butter Creek Road over Butter Creek in West
 Rockhill Township.
 4/23/23 – 12/19/23

6. Health Department

- a. With: General Healthcare Resources LLC
 Plymouth Meeting, PA
 Amount: \$44-\$100/hour* + 2% increase/yr (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase and extension to provide
 temporary staff to assist with epidemiology efforts.
 10/1/23 – 9/30/25

7. Housing & Community Development

- a. With: Bristol Borough
 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve contract amendment to increase scope of work for 2023 CDBG funding to install ADA compliant curb ramps.
 8/1/23 – 3/31/24

- b. With: Family Service Association of Bucks County
 Langhorne, PA
 Amount: \$97,115** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract for 2023 CDBG funding for shelter security improvements.
 12/1/23 – 4/5/24

- c. With: Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
 Harrisburg, PA
 Amount: \$375,000 (Revenue)
 Purpose: Approve contract for Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) grant funding.
 10/4/23 – 4/4/25

8. Human Services

- a. With: Bucks County Department of Adult Probation and Parole
 Doylestown, PA
 Amount: \$200,000** (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve Memorandum of Understanding to provide drug court probation officer, funded by opioid settlement funds.
 1/1/23 – 6/30/24

- b. With: Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
 Doylestown, PA
 Amount: \$367,500** (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve contract for Community Based Mini-Grants for opioid settlement funded programs.
 9/1/23 – 12/31/24

- c. With: Catholic Social Services
 Levittown, PA

Amount: \$7,000** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide counseling services and life skills education.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24

9. Parks & Recreation

- a. With: Found Design LLC d/b/a MERJE
West Chester, PA
Amount: \$147,585** (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide exterior signage and wayfinding design services for park system.
- b. With: Lawn and Golf Supply Co.
Phoenixville, PA
Amount: \$39,078.83 (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve purchase of mower for Oxford Valley Golf Course.

10. Planning Commission

- a. With: Michael Baker International, Inc.
Fort Washington, PA
Amount: \$53,719** (County 50%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase to provide design and engineering services for the Levittown Trail Project in Tullytown Borough and Bristol & Falls Townships.
2/1/23 – 2/28/25

11. Purchasing

- a. With: Medline Industries, LP
Northfield, IL
Amount: \$828.14* (County 0%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase for medical and surgical supplies for Neshaminy Manor and the Health Department.
8/16/23 – 8/15/25

12. Security

- a. With: Johnson Controls Security Solutions
Milwaukee, WI
Amount: \$798,156** (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide security system
maintenance.
11/1/23 – 11/1/28

13. Workforce & Economic Development

- a. With: Bucks County Community College
Newtown, PA
Amount: \$900,050.90** (County 0%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide Out of School Youth services
for at-risk youth through the Workforce Innovation and
Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant.
7/1/23 – 6/30/25
- b. With: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of
Workforce Development Administration
Harrisburg, PA
Amount:
Purpose: Approve contract extension to provide five pre-
apprenticeships for students from the three technical high
schools.
7/1/23 – 6/30/24

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

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Ordinance #172 (roll call)

Approve Ordinance #172, of the County of Bucks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, enacting a tax rebate program for volunteer members of fire companies or nonprofit emergency medical service agencies; and establishing administrative procedures and appeals.

Commissioner Harvie presented information on Ordinance #172.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marseglia, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, and by roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Marseglia – aye, Commissioner Harvie – aye, and Commissioner DiGirolamo – aye, this ordinance was approved with a vote of 3-0.

B. Personnel Actions

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. Board Appointments

Commissioner Harvie advised that the end of term date for the Bucks County Housing Development Corporation reappointment should be 10/1/25.

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

14. Bucks County Housing Development Corporation (3-year term)
Dawn Burke Reappointment Term ends 10/1/26
15. Bucks County Transport (5-year term)
Lewis Tarlini Reappointment Term ends 10/1/28

D. Other Civics

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

16. Autism Cares \$1,250

VI. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

Ms. McKevitt reported on the following:

- The Veterans Benefits Expo will be held this Friday, October 6th, from 12:30 to 4:00 at the Parx East Racetrack building in Bensalem.
- Today, at 2:20 this afternoon, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, which will come across televisions, radios, and mobile phones.

VII. SOLICITOR REPORT

Solicitor Amy Fitzpatrick reported on the standing Executive Session held the day before the public meeting to discuss the personnel list, pending and prospective litigation, and to receive legal advice regarding pending legislation.

VIII. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS – All Items

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

- Edward Mackouse
- Andy Warren
- Liz Youse
- Greg Price from Hilltown
- Beth Curcio
- Laurie Katz from Northampton

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Harvie invited Sheriff Fred Harran to speak after Commissioner DiGirolamo raised a point of order indicating that the Sheriff had had his hand up earlier during public comment. The Sheriff raised questions regarding agenda item 8b. Diane Rosati, Executive Director of the Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, provided information regarding the application and selection process for the mini-grants and said there would be additional opportunities for consideration in the near future. She added that the listing of recipients should be posted later in the day.

Commissioner DiGirolamo spoke about the current divisive political environment in the country and the state, pointing out that compromise is necessary to find solutions. He emphasized that we are going to get to the point where good candidates won't want to run for elected office.

Commissioner Marseglia said that 99% of time the Commissioners vote together, and she emphasized that they work hard to govern in a majority way.

Regarding the mini-grants, Commissioner Marseglia noted that the County will be receiving money from the opioid settlement for the next eighteen years but for this first year, the priority needs to be the stabilization center and treatment options.

In response to earlier public comment, Commissioner Marseglia clarified that the purpose of the new crisis center is to help people with mental health issues who are currently being taken to the jail because there is currently nowhere else to take them.

Referencing the presentation on fire safety, Commissioner Harvie reminded everyone to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and to call their local fire department if they need assistance.

Commissioner Harvie reminded everyone that the deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 23rd. Registration can be done in person at the County Elections Office, or on-line through the state website. This can be accessed via a link on the county Board of Elections website. The deadline to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot is 5 pm on Tuesday, October 31st. The completed ballot should be returned by 8 pm on November 7th, either by mailing or depositing in one of the county drop-boxes. Visit the state website at vote.pa.gov to check registration status or voting locations.

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, October 18, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the Bucks County Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Approved: October 18, 2023
BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(Official copy on file with chief clerk)

BY:

Gene DiGirolamo
Commissioner, Secretary

ATTEST:

Gail Humphrey, *Chief Clerk*