

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2022

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 Brian Munroe, Clerk of Courts, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Harvie welcomed Rich Vona, Director of Law & Safety, and John McConnell, Deputy Director Neshaminy Manor.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Human Trafficking Awareness Month Proclamation

The commissioners proclaimed January 2022 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month," offering support to the Bucks County Coalition Against Human Trafficking (BCAT) and its mission to eradicate human trafficking. Julie Dugery, co-chair of BCAT, accepted the proclamation and shared information regarding their many initiatives to raise awareness and combat human trafficking

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items

- Marc Levitan, from Essentials Salon in Doylestown and Warrington, spoke in favor of proposed Ordinance #166.
- Ed Machouse, from Buckingham, had questions of agenda items 5a and 15a.
- Andy Warren, former commissioner from Middletown Township, had questions on agenda items 10a and 12a, b, c, e, and f.
- Mike Ksiazek, chair of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors, spoke in support of proposed Ordinance #166.

Commissioner Harvie provided more information on the Board of Elections items.

General Services Director Kevin Spencer explained item 10a and the particulars regarding the lease for office space.

In response to the Human Resources items for Neshaminy Manor, Commissioner Harvie spoke about the challenges of hiring and retaining quality employees in the current environment.

Commissioner Harvie responded to Mr. Warren's question regarding the sign-on bonus' and Solicitor Joe Khan provided further clarification regarding item 15a.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve minutes from the January 5, 2022 meeting.

Upon motion of Commissioner Marseglia, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, with the vote being 3-0, the Minutes from the January 5, 2022 meeting were approved.

B. Resolutions

Upon motion of Commissioner DiGirolamo, seconded by Commissioner Marseglia, by a vote of 3-0, item 20a was tabled.

Upon motion of Commissioner DiGirolamo, seconded by Commissioner Marseglia, the following Resolutions from the consent agenda were approved by the Bucks County Board of Commissioners by a vote of 3-0, with the exception of tabled item 20a.

1. Adult Probation

- a. With: Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency
Harrisburg, PA
- Amount: \$920,347 (Revenue)
- Purpose: Approve application for Grant-In-Aid funds.
7/1/21 – 6/30/22

2. Agricultural Preservation

- a. With: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of
Farmland Preservation
Harrisburg, PA
- Amount:
- Purpose: Approve annual allocation for matching funds for
farmland preservation.(Subject to final approval by county
solicitor)
1/1/22 – 12/31/23

3. Area Agency on Aging

- a. With: Delaware Valley University
Doylestown, PA
- Amount: \$5,000** (County 0%)
- Purpose: Approve contract to provide senior discounts for the
Center for Learning in Retirement (CLR) Program.
2/1/22 – 12/9/22

b. With: Nutrition Inc.
 Irwin, PA
Amount: \$27,000** (County 0%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase and extension to provide
 seven-day shelf-stable meal packets for homebound
 consumers.
 4/1/22 – 3/31/23

4. BH/DP

a. With: Belmont Behavioral Hospital
 Philadelphia, PA
Amount: \$35,000** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide inpatient hospitalization
 services.
 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

b. With: Brooke Glen Behavioral Hospital
 Fort Washington, PA
Amount: \$145,000** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide inpatient services.
 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

c. With: Bucks County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.
 Doylestown, PA
Amount: \$179,000** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide student assistance program
 services to Bucks County Schools.
 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

d. With: Resources for Human Development, Inc.
 Philadelphia, PA
Amount: \$2,007,924** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide long term structured
 residential services.
 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

e. With: Salisbury Behavioral Health, Inc.
 Lancaster, PA

Amount: \$2,864,554** (County 3.9%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide supported living and residential services.
7/1/21 – 6/30/22

5. Board of Elections

- a. With: ElectionIQ LLC
Stow, OH
Amount: \$93,000 (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide back-end suite for election night reporting, campaign finance, asset management, and poll worker management.
1/22/22 – 1/21/23
- b. With: NPC, Inc.
Claysburg, PA
Amount: \$241,752.28* + postage (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve contract extension to provide printing and mailing of 2022 election materials.
3/3/22 – 3/2/23

6. Children & Youth

- a. With: Cornell Abraxas Group, Inc.
Pittsburgh, PA
Amount: \$375,000** (County 40%)
Purpose: Approve contract to provide residential services.
7/1/21 – 6/30/22

7. Commissioners

- a. With: Bucks County Industrial Development Authority (BCIDA)
Doylestown, PA
Amount:
Purpose: Approve resolution authorizing a Certificate of Approval for an issuance of bonds not to exceed \$40,000,000 pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to finance a project for Delaware Valley University in Doylestown.

- a. With: Fortress Protection, LLC
Cherry Hill, NJ
- Amount:
- Purpose: Approve contract amendment for change of inspection
and maintenance address for District Court 07-1-12.
1/1/21 – 12/31/23

10. General Services

- a. With: Gilah Properties LLC, c/o Bucks County Office Center
 Bristol, PA
 Amount: \$173,250 (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve rental of office space for PA CareerLink® Bucks
 County. (Subject to final approval by county solicitor)
 2/1/22 – 5/31/22

- b. With: Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.
 Doylestown, PA
 Amount: \$108,870** (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve contract to provide engineering design and
 construction consultation services for the rehabilitation of
 Bridge #361 on Sheep Hole Road over Tinicum Creek in
 Tinicum Township.

11. Housing & Community Development

- a. With: Indian Creek Foundation
 Souderton, PA
 Amount: \$22,350** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract increase for 2021 CDBG funding for
 exterior renovations of group home facility on Highland
 Drive.
 8/1/21 – 7/31/22

- b. With: Sellersville Senior Apartments, LLC
 Telford, PA
 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve contract extension for construction of senior
 apartments.
 1/2/22 – 8/16/22

- c. With: Worthwhile Wear, Inc.
 Silverdale, PA
 Amount: \$40,700** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract for 2021 CDBG funding to provide
 operational support. (Subject to final approval by county
 solicitor)
 2/1/22 – 1/31/23

12. Human Resources

- a. With: American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), District Council 88, AFL-CIO 03 & 33
Plymouth Meeting, PA
- Amount:
- Purpose: Ratify and approve a side letter agreement for sign-on and retention bonuses, and premium pay weekends. (Subject to final approval by county solicitor)
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- b. With: International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 835, AFL-CIO-02
Drexel Hill, PA
- Amount:
- Purpose: Ratify and approve a side letter agreement for sign-on and retention bonuses. (Subject to final approval by county solicitor)
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- c. With: Non-Union Neshaminy Manor Employees
- Amount:
- Purpose: Ratify and approve agreement for sign-on, retention, and supplemental staffing bonuses. (Subject to final approval by county solicitor)
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- d. With: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
Harrisburg, PA
- Amount: \$57,742 (County 100%)
- Purpose: Approve payment of 2021 Administration Fund Assessment for workers' compensation self-insurance.
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- e. With: Pennsylvania Social Services Union, Local 668, SEIU
Harrisburg, PA
- Amount:
- Purpose: Ratify and approve a side letter agreement with Units 44/45 & 46 for sign-on and retention bonuses. (Subject to final approval by county solicitor)
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- f. With: Pennsylvania State Education Association,

Unions 06 & 86
Montgomeryville, PA

Amount:

Purpose: Ratify and approve a side letter agreement for sign-on and retention bonuses, and premium pay weekends.
(Subject to final approval by county solicitor)

13. Information Technology

a. With:

Amount: \$3,450* (County 100%)

Purpose: Approve out-of-county travel expenses for employee to attend the 2022 National Association of Counties Conference in Washington, D.C.
2/11/22 – 2/16/22

14. Juvenile Probation

a. With:

Aaron Richwine
Jamison, PA

Amount: (\$46,894)

Purpose: Approve termination of contract to act as liaison between Juvenile Court and Youth Aid Panels.
7/1/20 – 6/30/23

b. With:

Diversion First LLC
Quakertown, PA

Amount: \$46,894** (County 50%)

Purpose: Approve contract to act as liaison between Juvenile Court and Youth Aid Panels.
1/1/22 – 6/30/23

15. Law Department

a. With:

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Harrisburg, PA

Amount:

Purpose: Expand scope of legal services to include counseling on employment, healthcare regulations, and related licensing issues for the Department of Health and its employees.

1/19/22 – Open

- b. With: Hardwick Benfer, LLC
 Doylestown, PA

 Amount:
 Purpose: Approve law firm to provide legal services for the County.
 (Replacing Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzberg LLP,
 Conshocken, PA)
 1/19/22 – Open

- c. With: Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
 Amount: \$15,000 (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve payment in the matter of Craig Boston v. Bucks
 County for settlement of litigation and general release of
 claims.

16. Military Affairs

- a. With: National Flag and Display Co.,
 d/b/a Metro Flag Company
 Gilbertsville, PA

 Amount: \$28,737* (County 100%)
 Purpose: Approve contract to purchase flags for veterans' graves.
 (Subject to final approval by county solicitor)
 1/13/22 – 1/12/23

17. Neshaminy Manor

- a. With: Manheim Medical Supply
 Manheim, PA

 Amount: \$73,973.90* (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract to purchase pressure-relieving
 mattresses for residents.
 2/1/22 – 1/31/25

18. Planning Commission

- a. With: Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
 Harrisburg, PA

 Amount: \$152,250 (Revenue)

Purpose: Approve application for grant to complete update to the 2021 County Hazard Mitigation Plan and approve Planning Commission Executive Director as the Designated Agent to execute the grant.
1/19/22 – 10/4/26

19. Purchasing

- a. With: MKH Services, Inc. d/b/a CleanNet of Philadelphia
King of Prussia, PA
Amount: \$6,400* (County 0%)
Purpose: Approve contract increase to add a new service location for janitorial services.
6/28/21 – 5/31/23
- b. With: Spruce Industries, Inc.
Rahway, NJ
Amount: \$43,338.05* (County 62%)
Purpose: Approve contract to purchase toilet tissue and paper towels.
2/1/22 – 12/31/22
- c. With: United Sales USA Corp.
Brooklyn, NY
Amount: \$13,351.80* (County 93%)
Purpose: Approve contract to purchase toilet tissue and paper towels.
2/1/22 – 12/31/22

20. Sheriff

- a. With: **TABLED**
Joseph Pizzo & Associates, LLC
Trevose, PA
Amount: \$25,000/year** + expenses (County 100%)
Purpose: Approve appointment of outside counsel as Solicitor for Sheriff at a rate of \$150/hour + expenses.
1/19/22 – Open

21. Workforce & Economic Development

- a. With: Alloy & Stainless Fasteners, Inc.
 Houston, TX
 Amount: \$3,145.50** (County 0%)
 Purpose: Approve contract to provide Haas training for one
 employee through Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act
 (WIOA) and PA CareerLink® Bucks County funding.
 7/1/21 – 6/30/22

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

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Ordinance #166 (roll call)

Assistant Solicitor Chelsey Jackman presented information on the Bucks County Massage Establishment Ordinance. Ms. Jackman spoke about combatting human trafficking and unfair labor practices; the Health Department's role with inspections and licensing; and enforcement of the ordinance by law enforcement. Consumer Protection Director Mike Bannon spoke about the new Compliance Investigator position that was recently created, which will assist with responses to complaints and inquiries regarding these establishments.

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

22. Approve **Ordinance #166**, of the County of Bucks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to regulate the operation of massage therapy establishments and promote fair labor practices.

B. Personnel Actions

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

C. Board Appointments

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

23. Agricultural Land Preservation Board

- David Wolfinger

- Teresa V. Androutsos
- John Godzieba

Library Board

- Georgette Helbling

Parks & Recreation

- Theodore Moore, Sr.

D. Other Civics

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

24. Advocates for the Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN) - \$1,500
 Bridge Animal Clinic - \$4,000
 Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless (CSSH) - \$1,500
 Peace Center - \$2,500
 Quakertown Community Outreach - \$2,500
 Rolling Harvest Food Rescue - \$2,500

VII. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

Chief Operating Officer Margie McKevitt thanked the Health Department and Emergency Management for coordinating the distribution of COVID-19 rapid tests. They have been distributing 1,000 kits per hour today at Sesame Place in Middletown. Tomorrow they will be in Warminster Park and next Monday, January 24th, they will be at the Calvary Church in Souderton. The hours of distribution each day are from 10 am to 6 pm. See website for additional times and information.

Deputy COO/Chief Clerk Gail Humphrey provided information regarding mail-in ballot applications. She advised a letter will be sent out within the next few weeks with instructions to apply for a mail-in ballot for both the primary and general elections. The last day to apply to vote for the May 17th primary is May 10th.

VIII. SOLICITOR REPORT

Solicitor Joe Khan reported on the standing Executive Session held the day before the public meeting to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation.

Mr. Khan congratulated the commissioners on being the first county in the state to enact such an ordinance regulating massage establishments. He thanked all those who contributed to make it a reality, including Health Department Director Dr. Damsker, Director of Environmental Health Phil Smith, and Health Department

inspectors; Mr. Bannon and the Consumer Protection Department; and Assistant Solicitor Chelsey Jackman and 1st Assistant Solicitor Amy Fitzpatrick.

IX. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS – All Items

The following individuals spoke about various items related to COVID-19:

- Josh Hogan from Rockhill Township
- Megan Brock from Northampton Township
- Ed Machouse from Buckingham
- Jamie Walker from Chalfont

Mr. Warren spoke about the 2022 budget and the increases or cuts to various row offices

Patricia Doeblner from Chalfont requested that the commissioners' meetings be held in the evening and questioned mask requirements in county buildings.

Commissioner Harvie responded to the public comments.

X. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Marseglia thanked everyone for their support during her recent surgery.

Commissioner Marseglia referenced a discussion at the January 5th meeting regarding a Right-to-Know request that mistakenly yielded an email address for a private citizen. She apologized for that and said that the citizen should not have had to receive the cruel and vicious email that they did receive as a result.

Commissioner Marseglia spoke about the issue of suicide among children and clarified that according to statistics, the pandemic has not had an impact in that way. She added that doesn't mean that there aren't people in the community that are suffering from mental health problems.

Referencing a recent article on conspiracy theories, Commissioner Marseglia explained how some conspiracy theories get started and she encouraged people to get their information from reliable sources.

Commissioner DiGirolamo spoke at length about the pandemic, how difficult it has been for everyone, and all the issues the Board has had to face during the past two years. He said they have always worked together to manage their responsibilities as best they could while always trying to do what was best for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Bucks County. When businesses were forced to close due to state mandates, the commissioners fought hard to push back and open up the county. The commissioner said that decisions regarding the school districts should stay with the individual districts, and that everyone needs to work together, be respectful of each other, and compromise to find solutions that work for all.

Commissioner Harvie reflected on some of the things the commissioners have been

able to accomplish by working together for the citizens of the county. These included the creation of the HUB, protecting the Delaware River Basin from fracking, passing a 2022 budget with no tax increase, creating a first responder's program, purchasing the first electric county vehicles, preventing evictions, adopting the Ready for 100 Resolution, opening and rebuilding bridges, partnering for the Love is the Answer mural, preserving six farms, preserving Lake Galena in perpetuity, expanding the fresh vegetable program for seniors, providing PPE for early childhood education and daycare centers, providing COVID-19 vaccinations, assisting flood and hurricane victims, holding a job fair for inmates, and implementing a telework policy for county employees. The commissioner said he is looking forward to 2022 and he thanked his colleagues and staff, especially Chief Operating Officer Margie McKevitt for her constant professionalism.

XI. 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, February 2, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. in the Bucks County Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Approved: February 2, 2022
BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(Official copy on file with chief clerk)

BY:

Gene DiGirolamo
Commissioner, Secretary

ATTEST:

Gail Humphrey, *Chief Clerk*