

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 1, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners was held today at 10:00 am, in the Bucks County Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 55 E. Court Street, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. In attendance were Commissioner Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, Chair; Commissioner Robert J. Harvie, Vice Chair; and Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo. Commissioner Marseglia opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. The Commissioner asked everyone to remember all those who are struggling or who have lost someone to COVID-19.

Commissioner Marseglia announced that today’s meeting is being livestreamed over Facebook, with American Sign Language interpreters, for the first time in order to maintain social distancing protocols. She noted that minimal people were in attendance and everyone was sitting more than six feet apart. If needed, any other staff members can be reached by phone. The commissioner encouraged everyone to stay home, and when that is not possible, to maintain as much social distance as they are able. Public comments on agenda items will be accepted via email until 10:05 at publiccomment@buckscounty.org. Please include your name, municipality, and the agenda item you are commenting on, and keep the email under 300 words. There will be time for additional public comment later in the meeting.

PROCLAMATION

The Commissioners proclaimed April 2020 as “Be Kind to Others Month,” believing that simple acts of kindness can help in times of crisis. It is a time for all residents to work together, to ignore differences, and to embrace their humanity and responsibilities through being kind and compassionate to others. Commissioner Harvie prefaced this presentation by saying that the commissioners felt it was important to make a statement during this difficult time regarding the need for everyone to work together. Emphasizing that the Coronavirus is not the fault of any one country, religion, or culture, Commissioner Marseglia also stressed the importance of showing extra kindness to others.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items

Solicitor Joe Khan read the emails received for public comment.

Sharon Forte, from Doylestown Borough; Ardith Talbott, from Solbury; and Mary Kremser, also from Doylestown Borough, all submitted comments in support of agenda item 12a, regarding the resolution in support of a citizen’s commission for congressional and state legislative redistricting.

Mr. Khan advised that any additional comments that come in will be addressed at the end of the meeting during “Public Comments – All Items.” Commissioner Marseglia restated the email address to submit comments and announced the deadline for submitting comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Marseglia provided an explanation of the consent agenda vs. the regular agenda for the benefit of those watching the meeting on Facebook.

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

- A. Minutes from the March 18, 2020 regular meeting
- B. Resolutions

1. AREA AGENCY ON AGING	a. Dr. Kenneth R. Carroll, PhD Swarthmore, PA	Approve contract to provide psychological consulting services. 10/1/19 – 6/30/20	\$7,500** (County 0%)
	b. JA Foodservice Corporation Stevensville, MI	Approve contract increase to provide seven-day shelf-stable meal packets for homebound consumers. 1/1/20 – 12/31/20	\$9,586* (County 0%)
2. CHILDREN & YOUTH	a. Tabor Children’s Services Doylestown, PA	Approve contract to provide intensive family services. 7/1/19 – 6/30/20	\$520,079** (County 7%)
	b. Tabor Children’s Services Doylestown, PA	Approve contract to provide independent living, life skills and other supportive services. 7/1/19 – 6/30/20	\$930,000** (County 14%)

3.	COMMISSIONERS	a.	Approve resolution extending the Declaration of Disaster Emergency of March 13, 2020 relative to a pandemic outbreak through April 16, 2020.		
		b.	Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks Bristol, PA	Approve use of gaming money to support the COVID-19 Emergency Economic Rapid Response Loan Program. 1/1/20 – 12/31/20	
4.	COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	a.	Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County Chalfont, PA	Approve contract for 2019 CDBG funding for county-wide owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program. 4/1/20 – 3/31/23	\$300,000** (County 0%)
		b.	Lenape Valley Foundation Doylestown, PA	Approve contract amendment for 2019 CDBG funding for renovations of a group home in Levittown. 10/1/19 – 9/30/20	
5.	CORONER	a.		Approve out-of-county travel expenses for Chief Deputy Coroner to attend PA Coroner’s Basic Education Course.	\$2,849.54** (County 100%)
		b.	National Medical Services, Inc. d/b/a NMS Labs Willow Grove, PA	Approve contract increase and extension to provide toxicology services. 1/1/20 – 12/31/20	\$150,000** (County 100%)
6.	CORRECTIONS	a.	CoreBTS, Inc. Indianapolis, IN	Approve contract to purchase wireless hardware.	\$154,708.74 (County 100%)
7.	GENERAL SERVICES	a.	Guy M. Cooper, Inc. Willow Grove, PA	Approve decrease of mechanical contract for Administration Building Parking Garage.	(\$6,350)
		b.	Van Cleef Engineering Associates, LLC f/k/a Cherry Weber & Associates Phillipsburg, NJ	Approve vendor name change on contract for engineering design and construction consultation services for Bucks County Bridges #172 and #282.	
8.	HOUSING SERVICES	a.	Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County Chalfont, PA	Approve HOME funding for the acquisition and rehabilitation of an existing single family home in Bristol. 4/1/20 – 3/31/22	\$60,000 (County 0%)
		b.	Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County Chalfont, PA	Approve HOME funding for the acquisition and rehabilitation of an existing single family home in Bristol. 4/1/20 – 3/31/22	\$60,000 (County 0%)
9.	LAW DEPARTMENT	a.	Archer Law Philadelphia, PA	Approve increase in maximum hourly rate for federal litigation. 4/1/20 – open	\$350/hour** + expenses (County 100%)
		b.	Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Philadelphia, PA	Approve increase in maximum hourly rate for federal litigation. 4/1/20 – open	\$350/hour** + expenses (County 100%)
		c.	Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP Conshohocken, PA	Approve Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP as law firm authorized to provide legal services for the county. (Replacing Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP, Philadelphia, PA) 1/4/20 – open	
10.	MH/DP	a.	Family Service Association of Bucks County Langhorne, PA	Approve contract to provide administrative case management, blended case management, peer support, and outpatient services. 7/1/19 – 6/30/20	\$121,800** (County 3.9%)
		b.	PMHCC, Inc. Philadelphia, PA	Approve contract to provide funding to support the Southeast Regional Mental Health Office. 7/1/19 – 6/30/20	\$91,420** (County 3.9%)

11. PURCHASING	a. Bob Barker Fuquay-Varina, NC	Approve contract to purchase inmate clothing. 3/5/20 – 3/4/21	\$12,462.48* (County 1.9%)
	b. JAB Trading Industries San Antonio, TX	Approve contract to provide inmate clothing. 3/5/20 – 3/4/21	\$714* (County 50%)
	c. CNS Acquisition Corp. d/b/a CNS Cleaning Company Bensalem, PA	Approve contract increase and extension to provide janitorial services for 18 locations. 5/1/20 – 4/30/21	\$79,827* (County 91.9%)
	d. Kellermeyer Bergensons Services, LLC d/b/a Capital Contractors, Inc. Oceanside, CA	Approve contract increase and extension to provide janitorial services for 2 locations. 5/1/20 – 4/30/21	\$9,432* (County 100%)
	e. True Cleaners LLC Philadelphia, PA	Approve contract increase and extension to provide janitorial services for 1 location. 5/1/20 – 4/30/21	\$14,400* (County 100%)
	f. Petroleum Traders Corporation Fort Wayne, IN	Approve contract increase and extension to provide heating oil, diesel fuel and gasoline. 7/1/20 – 6/30/21	\$455,731.27* (County 98.7%)

REGULAR AGENDA

12. COMMISSIONERS	a.	Approve resolution in support of a citizens' commission for congressional and state legislative redistricting.	
	b.	Approve delay of start date for county property tax penalty accrual from July 1 to July 31, 2020.	
13. GENERAL SERVICES <i>Untabled</i>	a. Fred Beans Inc. d/b/a Fred Beans Chevrolet Doylestown, PA	Approve purchase of 2020 Chevrolet vehicles for Juvenile Probation (1) and the Youth Center (1).	\$55,556** (County 60%)
<i>Untabled</i>	b. Fred Beans Inc. d/b/a Fred Beans Ford/Lincoln Doylestown, PA	Approve purchase of a 2020 Ford Explorer for Juvenile Probation.	\$32,853** (County 100%)

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

Item 12a - Commissioner DiGirolamo spoke in favor of an independent citizen's commission to re-draw legislative lines in Pennsylvania. He gave a shout-out to Fair Districts PA who, he said, have pushed for this for a long time. Saying that this is a political process that plays out every ten years after the census, the commissioner spoke about his first-hand experience with this during his time serving in Harrisburg.

Item 12b - Commissioner Harvie advised that the commissioners have been receiving questions from citizens and local municipalities regarding the impending deadline for municipal and county property taxes. The commissioner explained that the discount rate if taxes are paid by April 30th is 2% but the penalty for paying after June 30th is 10%. Therefore, after consulting with county staff as well as the Bucks County Association of Tax Collectors, the commissioners have decided to move the penalty date back thirty days from July 1st to July 31st. The commissioner clarified that the discount date will remain April 30th. This extension of the penalty date is for county taxes only but the commissioners are recommending to municipalities that the municipal tax penalty deadlines be moved as well.

Commissioner DiGirolamo motioned to approve items 12a & b, which was seconded by Commissioner Harvie and approved with a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Harvie motioned to untable items (5c & d) from the March 18, 2020 meeting and approve as items 13a & b on today's regular agenda. This was seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo. Mr. Khan noted that the details of these items are available for review by clicking on the link for 2020 Commissioners' Meeting at www.buckscounty.org and reviewing the portions of the March 18, 2020 agenda and minutes that mention items 5c & d. Mr. Khan announced that public comment about these items could be submitted until 10:20am today.

After the deadline passed, Mr. Khan advised that there were no public comments on items 13a & b. The motion to untable and approve those items were then approved with a vote of 3-0.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

None

PERSONNEL

Upon motion of Commissioner DiGirolamo, seconded by Commissioner Harvie, with the vote being 3-0, the following Personnel Actions were approved:

COMMISSIONERS LIST								
April 1, 2020								
As recommended by the Department of Human Resources								
Item numbers 1 through 21								
APPOINTMENTS								
REQUISITION #	NEW HIRE NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION	
1	4295	Lauren R. Cohen	Clerk Typist II	Children and Youth	04	37.5	5/4/2020	18.83 PH
REHIRE								
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION	
2	4343	David A. Leighton Separation Date: 11/7/2019	Dispatcher I	911 Emergency Response	03	40.0	4/6/2020	27.26 PH
POSITION CHANGE								
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION	
3	N/A	Jonathan R. Nicoletti	Corrections Officer TO Sergeant Corrections	Main Jail	01 TO 81	40.0	4/2/2020	28.79 PH TO 31.76 PH
4	4376	Dawn Ann Siman	Casework Supervisor TO Social Work Supervisor	Children and Youth	84	37.5	4/6/2020	39.96 PH TO 41.60 PH
SALARY ADJUSTMENT								
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION	
5	N/A	Michael A. Bradby	Sergeant of Security	Security	00	40.0	4/11/2020	26.01 PH TO 27.45 PH
6	N/A	Roy Eugene Hendricks III	Sergeant of Security	Security	00	40.0	4/11/2020	27.10 PH TO 28.54 PH
START OUT OF CLASS/TEMP ASSIGNMENT								
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION	
7	N/A	Karen F. Brady	Office Manager TO Director	Tax Claim Bureau	00 TO 11	40.0	3/30/2020	62,396.00 PA TO 64,677.00 PA
SEPARATION								
NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION				
8	Dominick T. Diiorio	Custodian	General Services	6/2/2020	23.27 PH			
9	Michele B. Erhard	ID Program Specialist I	MH DP Administration	6/1/2020	41.02 PH			
10	Raymar Fisher	Corrections Officer	Main Jail	3/25/2020	22.14 PH			
11	Helena M. Gallant	Activities Assistant - PD	NM Activities	5/15/2020	14.65 PH			
12	Diane M. Garzio	Registered Nurse - Pool	NM Nursing Pool	3/17/2020	39.26 PH			
13	Mari Kay Geib	Registered Nurse - Pool	NM Nursing Pool	3/16/2020	37.74 PH			
14	Celeste N. Hartzell	Nutritionist	Health Department	3/13/2020	31.90 PH			
15	Richard B. Harvey	Director Agriculture Land Preservation & Open Space Programs	Planning Administrative	6/5/2020	89,083.00 PA			
16	Friday James	Corrections Officer	Main Jail	3/25/2020	22.14 PH			
17	Ut Thi Le	Financial Analyst II	NM Business Office	5/8/2020	30.37 PH			
18	Karen E. Machado	Dispatcher I	911 Emergency Response	4/4/2020	27.81 PH			
19	Harry Ritterson	Trades Level I	General Services	3/31/2020	30.96 PH			
20	Christopher J. Roberts	Operations & Training Officer	Emergency Management Agency	4/3/2020	24.00 PH			
*Estimated Date **Never Started ***Agreement ****Reinstatement								

AND the proper officers are authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry these Resolutions into effect.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

None

OTHER CIVICS

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

Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need	\$1,000
Animal Lifeline	\$1,000
Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless (CSSH)	\$1,000
Doylestown FISH	\$1,500
Ivins House Resource & Referral Center	\$2,500
Rolling Harvest Food Rescue	\$2,500

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

Bucks County SPCA	\$5,000
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AND the proper officers are authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry these Resolutions into effect.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

Margie McKeivitt, Chief Operating Officer, reported on the following:

COVID-19 – County staff has been fully engaged for over a month now, with the Health Department and Emergency Operations working around the clock, in addition to most of the staff, department heads, and division leaders. Thanks to the Board of Commissioners for their continuous guidance and support, and for everything that is being done to help the county through this difficult time.

Food Distribution Efforts – The Bucks County Opportunity Council is conducting a food drive today from 9-12 at 100 Doyle Street, here in Doylestown. Please visit the BCOC website for a list of the items most needed. It is important for them to get this food to distribute to those who need it.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. Khan reported on the following:

The Board of Commissioners met yesterday in Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation.

To ensure the responsible care of inmates in our custody, the Law Department has been working with Chris Pirolli, the courts, the District Attorney, and other stakeholders to reduce the county prison population in a manner that protects both public health and public safety.

The Consumer Protection Department is busier than it has ever been fielding concerns received from the public about price gouging and businesses that are open when they shouldn't be. Please be reminded to call the hotline with any concerns about businesses on any level at 1(800)942-2669 or email consumerprotection@buckscounty.org.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Harvie thanked the many employees of the county who are continuing to deliver fantastic services during a very difficult time. The commissioner referenced the 1918 flu pandemic and said it has been 100 years since anyone has seen anything like this as far as quarantining and life in many ways being shut down. He reminded everyone of the information available on the county website for COVID-19 at www.buckscounty.org. There are many resources available for assistance with issues such as food insecurity, mental illness, and substance abuse, as well as economic resources for employers and employees.

Commissioner Harvie reminded everyone that the primary election date for 2020 has been moved from April 28th to June 2nd. Election information is available on the county website, where you can find the application to vote by mail. Unlike with absentee ballots, you don't have to state a reason to vote by mail, and you can apply to receive both the spring and fall ballots at the same time.

Commissioner Harvie advised that the commissioners were unsuccessful in their efforts to hold a virtual press conference yesterday but are in the process of rescheduling it, most likely for tomorrow. Any briefing will be recorded and available on the county website and on the "Bucks County Govt" Facebook page.

Commissioner DiGirolamo thanked county employees for their work during this pandemic. He said a large number of them are continuing to come into work every day and many others are working from home, all providing essential services for the residents here in Bucks County. The commissioner also expressed appreciation for all the healthcare workers, police and emergency services personnel, grocery store and other workers across the county who are continuing to provide essential services under very difficult circumstances. Saying that everyone needs to work together to get through this, Commissioner DiGirolamo emphasized the importance of staying home and social distancing.

Commissioner Marseglia thanked the American Sign Language interpreters who were there to help make sure everyone understands what is happening at the meeting. The commissioner noted that this is the first time they are providing sign language, as well as the first time having the meeting on Facebook.

Commissioner Marseglia reminded everyone to "stay safe, stay home, and stay six feet apart." The commissioner also asked that everyone join those in New York and New Jersey at 7 pm every night for the next two weeks in going outside and clapping as a way to thank first responders, nurses, and doctors. She encouraged everyone to send it to friends and share it on Facebook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – All Items

Mr. Khan read an email received from Barbara O'Donnell, from Richboro, Northampton Township. Ms. O'Donnell, a member of the League of Women Voters of Bucks County and Fair Districts PA, expressed her thanks to the Commissioners for passing the resolution to support voter redistricting reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner DiGirolamo, seconded by Commissioner Harvie, 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, April 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bucks County Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Approved: April 15, 2020

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BY:

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia
Commissioner, Chair

Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Commissioner, Vice-Chair

Gene DiGirolamo
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Gail Humphrey, *Chief Clerk*