

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 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 Ellis-Marseglia welcomed everyone to the meeting and Jeryl DeGideo, Director of Emergency Health Services, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Marseglia invited those county row officers who were present to introduce themselves. They were: Meredith Buck, Coroner; Matthew Weintraub, District Attorney; and Kristian Ballerini, Treasurer.

PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

The Commissioners recognized, Jeryl DeGideo, commending her contribution to the County of Bucks as Director of Emergency Health Services, and wishing her luck with her continued service with the Bucks County Coroner’s Office.

Referencing a picture of a deer wearing a face mask, Commissioner Harvie “introduced” Bucky the mascot, courtesy of artist Tom Rudesyle. The commissioner spoke briefly about maintaining social discipline with masks and social distancing, and said the new sign is available for download to any businesses that want to use it.

Dr. David Damsker, Director of the Bucks County Health Department, provided an update on the current COVID-19 situation in the county. Currently in the green phase, he said the cases in the county are currently at a baseline and there is a clear trend with people going out of state and getting sick. The doctor expressed concern about bars and emphasized how important it is for them to follow the rules. He responded to several questions from Commissioner DiGirolamo, who commended the doctor for his early work with contact tracing and managing the virus so well, especially considering the size and population of the county. In response to questions posed by Commissioner Harvie, Dr. Damsker advised how the Health Department is responding to restaurants that may not be complying with the COVID-19 requirements. Commissioner Marseglia asked about going to the gym and Dr. Damsker emphasized that people should be wearing masks anytime they are not working out and should be wiping down equipment before and after using it.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Consent Agenda Items

Bucks County Solicitor Joe Khan read two emails received regarding items on the consent agenda.

Chief Clerk Gail Humphrey addressed an email from Jason Meeks of Doylestown, on agenda item 2a.

Deputy Chief Information Officer Mike Gallagher responded to questions from former Commissioner Andy Warren of Langhorne, regarding agenda items 10 a & b.

District Attorney Matt Weintraub commented on this past election, giving credit to Tom Freitag and staff from across the county who came together as a team to help process all the ballots.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes from the June 17, 2020 regular meeting
- B. Resolutions

1. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	a. Resources for Human Development, Inc. Philadelphia, PA	Approve contract increase and extension to complete additional work for reinvestment project. 1/1/21 – 6/30/21	\$456,759** (County 0%)
	b. Susquehanna Accounting & Consulting Solutions, Inc. Harrisburg, PA	Approve contract to provide consulting services with respect to the HealthChoices Behavioral Health Program. 7/1/20 – 6/30/21	\$78,500** (County 0%)
	c. The Panto Group, LLC Catasauqua, PA	Approve contract increase to provide data analysis and project management services. 1/1/20 – 12/31/20	\$20,000** (County 0%)

2.	BOARD OF ELECTIONS	a. Kutco Printing Harrisburg, PA	Approve contract increase to provide absentee and mail-in ballots for primary election. 4/23/20 – 6/2/20	\$3,250* (County 100%)
3.	CHILDREN & YOUTH	a. A Woman's Place Doylestown, PA	Approve contract increase to provide shelter services. 7/1/19 - 6/30/20	\$2,000 ** (County 20%)
		b. Diakon Child, Family, and Community Ministries Topton, PA	Approve contract increase to provide Family Preservation/After-Care and Intensive Permanency programs. 7/1/19 – 6/30/21	\$25,000** (County 3%)
		c. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Harrisburg, PA	Approve grant increase and extension for the Family Reunification (FR) Program. 7/1/20 – 6/30/21	\$205,000 (Revenue)
		d. Scantek, Inc. Willow Grove, PA	Approve contract extension to digitally scan and archive files. 6/1/20 – 6/30/20	
4.	CORONER	a. Erica Williams, M.D. Wayne, PA	Approve contract to provide forensic pathology services. 7/7/20 – 7/6/25	\$800/autopsy* (County 100%)
		b. Ian Hood, M.D., ChB d/b/a Forensic Pathology Consultants, Inc. Delanco, NJ	Approve contract to provide forensic pathology services. 7/7/20 – 7/6/25	\$950/autopsy* (County 100%)
		c. PA Medical Consulting, Inc. through Zhongxue Hua, M.D., Owner Easton, PA	Approve contract to provide forensic pathology services. 7/7/20 – 7/6/25	\$950/autopsy* (County 100%)
5.	DISTRICT ATTORNEY	a. Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority Mechanicsburg, PA	Approve grant award for auto theft investigations. 7/1/20 – 6/30/21	\$288,964 (Revenue)
6.	EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES	a. Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Harrisburg, PA	Approve County Emergency Medical Services grant. 7/1/20 – 6/30/21	\$280,340 (Revenue)
7.	GENERAL SERVICES	a. George Leck & Son, Inc. d/b/a Leck Waste Services Ivyland, PA	Approve contract decrease for dumpster and trash hauling. 6/1/19 – 5/31/22	(\$1,188.13)
		b. Johnson Controls, Inc. Plymouth Meeting, PA	Approve contract increase for chiller inspection and maintenance for units at the Administration Building, Justice Center and Forensic Facility. 7/15/19 – 7/14/20	\$12,000** (County 100%)
		c. Kristen K. Buck Warminster, PA	Approve Temporary Construction Easement and Agreement of Sale for a Right-of-Way Acquisition for reconstruction of Bucks County Bridge #138, on Creek Road over Little Neshaminy Creek in Warwick Township, in lieu of condemnation. Also, authorize General Services Director of Operations to sign the Settlement Statement on behalf of the County. (TMP #51-013-027)	\$1,081 (County 100%)
		d. Loftus Construction, Inc. Cinnaminson, NJ	Approve contract decrease for repairs to Bridge #51, located on Cafferty Road over Haycock Creek in Haycock and Nockamixon Townships.	(\$5,124.30)
		e. Robert E. Little Inc. d/b/a Deere & Company Cary, NC	Approve purchase of 2 John Deere riding lawn mowers and accessories.	\$40,568.40** (County 100%)
		f. Stan-Roch Plumbing Inc. Zion Grove, PA	Approve contract increase for plumbing contractor for Phase 2B & 3 of 55 East Court Street renovations. Change Order #2	\$21,312.13 (County 100%)

8.	HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	a.	Bucks Villa, Inc. Langhorne, PA	Approve contract increase and extension for 2019 CDBG funding for rehabilitation of a group home in New Hope. 9/1/20 – 2/28/21	\$30,000** (County 0%)
9.	HUMAN SERVICES	a.	Bucks County Opportunity Council, Inc. Doylestown, PA	Approve designation of Bucks County Opportunity Council as lead agency for State Food Purchase Program. 7/1/20 – 6/30/25	
10.	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	a.	MCI Communications d/b/a Verizon Business Services Harrisburg, PA	Approve contract to provide telephone connections for fire alarms and other equipment. 5/1/20 – 12/31/22	\$16,109.99/mo* +usage, taxes, and surcharges (County 100%)
		b.	MCI Communications d/b/a Verizon Business Services Harrisburg, PA	Approve contract to provide telephone connections for fire alarms and other equipment. 5/1/20 – 12/31/22	\$1,409.77/mo* +usage, taxes, and surcharges (County 100%)
		c.	Verizon Albany, NY	Approve contract increase and extension to provide connectivity to 12 county locations. Month to Month	\$11,870.85/mo** (County 100%)
11.	JUVENILE PROBATION	a.	Aaron Richwine Jamison, PA	Approve contract to act as liaison between Juvenile Court and Youth Aid Panels. 7/1/20 – 6/30/23	\$92,269** (County 50%)
		b.	Alternative Living Solutions Latrobe, PA	Approve contract to provide supervised independent and transitional living programs. 7/1/20 – 6/30/22	\$150,000** (County 20%)
		c.	Don G. Seraydarian, Ph.D. & Associates, LLC Langhorne, PA	Approve contract to provide court ordered psychological evaluations and screenings. 7/1/20 – 6/30/22	\$150,000** (County 50%)
		d.	John C. D'Alessandro, Ph.D. Warrington, PA	Approve contract to provide court ordered psychological evaluations and screenings. 7/1/20 – 6/30/22	\$45,000** (County 50%)
12.	LAW DEPARTMENT	a.		Rename "HIPAA" matter for outside counsel to "HIPAA and other Healthcare Policy and Regulations." 1/1/20 – Open	\$300/hour** + expenses (County 100%)
13.	MH/DP	a.	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Philadelphia, PA	Approve grant to provide rental assistance. 7/1/20 – 6/30/21	\$39,480 (Revenue)
14.	NESHAMINY MANOR	a.	Delcrest Medical Services Ivyland, PA	Approve contract to provide personal cleansing wipes for residents. 8/1/20 – 7/31/23	\$96,065.28* (County 0%)
		b.	Eagle Equipment Corp. Uwchland, PA	Approve contract to purchase self-contained compactor.	\$25,300 (County 0%)

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

REGULAR AGENDA

15.	COMMISSIONERS	a.		Approve resolution extending the Declaration of Disaster Emergency of March 13, 2020 relative to a pandemic outbreak through July 16, 2020.	
16.	HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	a.	A Woman's Place Doylestown, PA	Approve contract for COVID-19 Stimulus funding to provide housing and shelter services. 3/1/20 – 12/30/20	\$193,000 (County 0%)
		b.	Bucks County Housing Group Warminster, PA	Approve contract for COVID-19 Stimulus funding to provide housing counseling services. 3/1/20 – 12/30/20	\$418,360 (County 0%)

c. Family Service Association of Bucks County Langhorne, PA Approve contract for COVID-19 Stimulus funding to provide additional staff, equipment and services needed to cope with the impact of pandemic. 3/1/20 – 12/30/20 \$466,534 (County 0%)

d. YWCA Bucks County Trevoese, PA Approve contract for COVID-19 Stimulus funding to provide homelessness prevention and emergency food distribution. 3/1/20 – 12/30/20 \$391,327 (County 0%)

17. WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT a. Authorize disbursement of Bucks Back to Work Small Business grant funds to Shear Style, Inc. \$25,000 (County 0%)
 b. Authorize disbursement of Bucks Back to Work Small Business grant funds to other program recipients. \$25,000** /recipient (County 0%)

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

Items 16a, b, c, & d – Commissioner Harvie noted that all money being paid out to these small businesses is being funded through the CARES Act.

Items 17a & b – Mr. Khan explained why these disbursements of grant funds were separated into two agenda items. Commissioner DiGirolamo clarified that Shear Style (17a) is owned by one of his siblings and he was not aware that they were planning to apply for the grant. He will recuse himself from the vote. Commissioner Harvie advised that the commissioners were not involved in the selection process and only saw the list of recipients after-the-fact. He thanked Deanna Giorno, Program Manager for Workforce & Economic Development, and Director of Housing & Community Development, Jeff Fields, who shouldered the bulk of the work with this program.

Upon motion of Commissioner Harvie, seconded by Commissioner DiGirolamo, all items from the regular agenda, except item 17a, were approved by the Bucks County Board of Commissioners by a vote of 3-0. Upon motion of Commissioner Harvie, seconded by Commissioner Marseglia, item 17a was approved with a vote of 2-0-1 due to Commissioner DiGirolamo abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Regular Agenda Items

Mr. Khan read an email received from Tina Gerhart of Bedminster Township, in support of items 16a, b, c, & d regarding the Bucks Back to Work Grant Program.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

None

PERSONNEL

Upon motion of Commissioner DiGirolamo, seconded by Commissioner Harvie, with the vote being 3-1, the following Personnel Actions were approved:

COMMISSIONERS LIST							
July 1, 2020							
As recommended by the Department of Human Resources							
Item numbers 1 through 44							

APPOINTMENTS								
	REQUISITION #	NEW HIRE NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
1	N/A	Billie F. Barnes	Executive Director	Workforce & Economic Development	11	40.0	7/1/2020	105,726.00 PA
2	4340	Maria Bennett	Seasonal Help - PD	Parks Recreation Services	00	40.0	7/2/2020	15.00 PH
3	4337	Elizabeth A. Blind	PHN II	Health Department	06	40.0	7/6/2020	33.14 PH
4	N/A	Alice Colyar	Youth Programs Manager	Workforce & Economic Development	00	40.0	7/1/2020	60,382.00 PA
5	4411	Harry J. Elgert	Custodian-NMH	General Services	02	40.0	7/6/2020	21.22 PH
6	4383	Nicholas J. Haines	General Service - PD	General Services	00	40.0	7/6/2020	11.50 PH
7	4416	David Kenderdine	Security Screener - PD	Security	00	12.5	7/6/2020	13.24 PH
8	4424	Rowan B. Koplowitz	Seasonal Help/Deputy Ranger - PD	Park Rangers	00	20.0	7/2/2020	13.00 PH
9	N/A	Dianna J. Kralle	Assistant Director	Workforce & Economic Development	00	40.0	7/1/2020	83,470.00 PA
10	N/A	Francis McGovern	Finance Manager	Workforce & Economic Development	00	40.0	7/1/2020	63,000.00 PA
11	4383	Gavin L. McGuigan	General Service - PD	General Services	00	40.0	7/6/2020	11.50 PH
12	4323	Michael R. Morrow	Registered Nurse	NM Registered Nurses	06	40.0	7/9/2020	33.14 PH
13	4329	Susann K. Ortiz	Activities Assistant - PD	NM Activities	03	12.0	7/9/2020	14.36 PH
14	4416	Joseph Procopio	Security Screener - PD	Security	00	10.0	7/20/2020	13.24 PH
15	4380	Thomas Roskowski	ID Program Specialist I	MH DP Administration	04	37.5	7/13/2020	30.03 PH
16	4414	Darlene H. Schreiber	Activities Assistant	NM Activities	03	40.0	7/9/2020	20.78 PH
17	4383	Joseph R. Wright	General Service - PD	General Services	00	40.0	7/6/2020	11.50 PH

PER DIEM TO PERMANENT								
	REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
18	N/A	Steven M. Krajewski Jr	Dispatcher Trainee - PD TO Dispatcher I	911 Emergency Response	00 TO 03	30.0 TO 40.0	6/22/2020	18.40 PH TO 27.26 PH
19	N/A	Callie J. Sippel	Dispatcher Trainee - PD TO Dispatcher I	911 Emergency Response	00 TO 03	30.0 TO 40.0	6/21/2020	18.40 PH TO 27.26 PH
20	N/A	Erin E. Smeltzer	Dispatcher Trainee - PD TO Dispatcher I	911 Emergency Response	00 TO 03	30.0 TO 40.0	6/23/2020	18.40 PH TO 27.26 PH

POSITION CHANGE							
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
21	N/A	James M. Coyne	Lieutenant Corrections TO Associate Director	Main Jail	00	40.0	7/2/2020 44.23 PH TO 99,960.00 PA
22	4405	Nicky M. Gaston Pierre	Nursing Assistant TO Restorative Aide	NM Nursing Assistants	03	40.0	7/18/2020 21.20 PH
23	N/A	Carl H. Metellus	Case Manager Supervisor TO Community Corrections Manager	Main Jail	81 TO 00	40.0	7/2/2020 37.17 PH TO 82,411.00 PA
24	N/A	Kathy Potena	ID Program Specialist I	MH DP Administration	04	37.5	7/7/2020 41.02 PH
25	4426	Elizabeth A. Sanville	Caseworker TO Social Worker I	Children and Youth	04	37.5	7/6/2020 30.63 PH TO 32.04 PH
26	N/A	Stephanie B. Schwartz	Aging Care Manager	Area Agency on Aging	04	37.5	7/2/2020 34.78 PH
27	4405	Monica M. Tucker	Nursing Assistant TO Restorative Aide	NM Nursing Assistants	03	40.0	7/18/2020 21.20 PH

TRANSFER							
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
28	4432	Jeryl Lee Degideo	Director Emergency Health Services TO Chief Deputy Coroner	Emergency Medical Health TO Coroner	11 TO 00	40.0	7/6/2020 76,931.00 PA TO 80,000.00 PA
29	N/A	James T. O'Malley	Director of Communications/Analyst TO Deputy Director Public Information	District Attorney TO Public Information	00	40.0	7/4/2020 53,040.00 PA TO 65,000.00 PA

SALARY ADJUSTMENT							
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
30	N/A	Robert B. Barnes	Squad Coordinator	911 Emergency Response	00	40.0	7/2/2020 36.35 PH TO 37.36 PH
31	N/A	David S. Hagerty	Squad Coordinator	911 Emergency Response	00	40.0	7/2/2020 36.35 PH TO 37.36 PH
32	N/A	Scott A. Molle	Squad Coordinator	911 Emergency Response	00	40.0	7/2/2020 36.35 PH TO 37.36 PH

END OUT OF CLASS/TEMP ASSIGNMENT							
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
33	N/A	Francis H. Bechter	Chief Appraiser TO Senior Appraiser II-Supervisor	Board of Assessment	00	40.0	7/5/2020 42.63 PH TO 41.57 PH

SEPARATION					
NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION	
34	Francis H. Bechter	Senior Appraiser II-Supervisor	Board of Assessment	7/6/2020	41.57 PH
35	Antoinette D. Carter	Nursing Assistant - PD	NM Nursing Assistants	6/19/2020	20.37 PH
36	Polly D. Graham	Aging Care Manager	Area Agency on Aging	7/6/2020	34.78 PH
37	Jean M. Johnson	Unit Manager	NM Administration	6/24/2020	41.85 PH
38	Eleanore M. Philbin	Laundry Leadman	General Services	7/2/2020	26.15 PH
39	Scott M. Warren	Squad Coordinator	911 Emergency Response	6/29/2020	36.35 PH

*Estimated Date **Never Started ***Agreement ****Reinstatement

CORRECTION							
REQUISITION #	NAME	POSITION TITLE	DEPARTMENT	UNION CODE	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMPENSATION
40	4369 TO 4370	Dawn A. Ricci	Custodian	General Services	02	40.0	6/8/2020 21.72 PH

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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

Bucks County Community College Board of Trustees (6-year term)

Rick Balukas	new appointment	term expires 6/30/26
Thomas Jennings	new appointment	term expires 6/30/26
William D. Maeglin	reappointment	term expires 6/30/26
Broadus W. Davis, Ed.D.	reappointment	term expires 6/30/26

Drug & Alcohol Commission (3-year term)

Brenda Foley	reappointment	term expires 7/1/23
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Housing Authority (5-year term)

Lynn Bush	reappointment	term expires 6/30/25
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Juvenile Detention Board of Managers (3-year term)

President Judge Skip Bateman, Jr.	reappointment	term expires 7/5/23
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MH/DP (3-year term)

Ada Miller	new appointment	term expires 7/5/23
Meghan Fonash	new appointment	term expires 7/5/23

Penn State Cooperative Extension

Carl P. Vivaldi	new appointment	term expires 4/7/21*
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Workforce Development Board

Kevin Morrow	new appointment	term expires 11/4/20*
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*finishing term of another appointee

Commissioner DiGirolamo acknowledged Elizabeth Graver and Tom Skiffington, from the Community College Board of Trustees, and Don Petrille, from the Penn State Cooperative Extension, whose positions on the respective boards are terminating. He thanked them each for their hard work and service over the years.

OTHER CIVICS

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

Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic	\$7,000
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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

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

2020 Census – Bucks County has a 74.2% response rate so far, making it the 106th highest response rate out of 3,215 counties nationwide. Of those responding, 58% were on-line. Please continue to submit your responses, as the more people counted results in more federal money available to assist county residents. In person visits from census takers will begin this month and continue through October.

Rental Assistance – For anyone facing eviction and in need of assistance, call the Bucks County Housing Link hotline at (800)810-4434. See the website for additional information.

SOLICITOR COMMENTS

Solicitor Joe Khan reported on the following:

Evictions – With the moratorium on evictions ending soon, landlords and tenants are encouraged to reach out to Bucks County Consumer Protection for guidance. Their hotline is (800)942-2669, email is consumerprotection@buckscounty.org, and they are active on Facebook and Twitter at @BucksConsumer.

Executive Session – The Commissioners met in Executive Session on June 18th where Mr. Khan advised them on pending litigation matters.

Public Comment Process – While in the green phase of COVID-19, the publiccomment@buckscounty.org email address will still be available during the first five minutes of the meetings for residents wish to comment on agenda items only and are unable to attend the meetings in person. Public comments on non-agenda items will be reserved for those in physical attendance. The initial public comment period for agenda items will be limited 30 minutes total, with a maximum time allotted for each person of five minutes. The public comment period for other issues of concern to residents will also be limited to 30 minutes, with a maximum time for each person of two minutes.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner DiGirolamo provided an update on the election task force and advised that they have submitted a letter to the State with their recommendations. With the purpose of being able to determine results on election night, some of the recommendations included opening the envelopes sooner and scanning the ballots earlier. Currently, envelopes cannot be opened before 7 pm which, with a county as large as Bucks, could take days with the number of mail-in ballots expected. State law also currently prohibits scanning the ballots until after the polls close.

Commissioner DiGirolamo said that, due to COVID-19, this is the first 4th of July in 30 years that he is not marching in any parades. He shared some thoughts on the American Revolution and the Battle of Trenton, as well as the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War, and the Battle of Midway during World War II. The Commissioner thanked all those who fought in the Revolutionary War, making the United States the greatest country in the world.

Commissioner Harvie reiterated Ms. McKeivitt's comments regarding the 2020 Census results, adding that Bucks County is #1 in Pennsylvania for participation. He thanked the Complete Count Committee for all their work in helping to accomplish this. The Commissioner advised that the \$109 million in CARES funding that the county received was based on population. He pointed out that Bucks County had a much worse record for the 2010 Census, resulting in significantly less funding being received over the past ten years.

Commissioner Harvie spoke about the importance of history and the need for more social studies in schools.

Commissioner Harvie thanked the artist who donated the "Mask Up, Bucks" sign and said it is available for any businesses on the COVID page of the county website, under Economic Resources.

Commissioner Marseglia asked everyone to be safe over the 4th of July weekend, wear masks and be careful with fireworks.

Commissioner Marseglia welcomed Area Agency on Aging on their recent move into the building and advised that Children & Youth will move in next.

Noting that it has now been six months since the new administration took over, Commissioner Marseglia said the next six months will be focused on implementing the recommendations of the transition team.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Esposito, from East Rockhill, voiced his support of Commissioner Marseglia’s recent comments calling for the resignation of Planning Commission member Joan Cullen. Commissioner DiGirolamo responded, sharing a story of his experience with racism as a child and calling for both political parties to work together on racial equality and social justice issues.

Mr. Khan advised that over 20 emails were received on this same issue, nearly all expressing support for Commissioner Marseglia’s position. The Commissioners requested they be entered into the record¹.

Mr. Khan read two additional emails received:

Andy Warren from Langhorne requested that the format of the personnel list be adjusted. Mr. Khan advised that this was forwarded to Public Information.

Keith Jacobs from Bristol Township voiced concerns about the merger of the Morrisville and Pennsbury School Districts, and Levittown being named after a racist. Commissioner Marseglia responded that she is in favor of the merger and would reflect on the naming of her hometown of Levittown.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Commissioner Harvie, 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, July 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bucks County Commissioners’ Meeting Room.

Approved: July 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*

¹ Those messages which complied with the rules for e-mail public comment are attached to these minutes

Public Comments Emailed for July 1, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting

Joan Cullen should resign

Understanding the impact of systemic racism is critical in planning the future of our county. There is no place on the Bucks County Planning commission for someone who denies the reality of this scourge that has penetrated our lives and will continue to eat away at our democracy if we refuse to face it. Joan Cullen should resign her position on the BCPC.

Carol Spiewak
Solebury Township

Systematic Racism - The Bucks County Planning Commission

We are all products of systematic racism in the U.S., in Pennsylvania, and yes, here in Bucks County. Just look at the faces of who we live and work with. They don't come close to matching the demographics – the percentage – of people of color who live in Bucks County, but for the most part, live separately. Just look at the number of people with dark skin who have jobs at our Court House and Administration Building compared to Bucks' population as a whole. They just don't match up. And the same is true of housing, education and white collar private employment. Regretfully, there's no explanation other than a long-term systematic effort to keep non-whites down and out.

Anyone who doesn't recognize this should not sit on the Bucks County Planning Commission. Yes, Board members are entitled to their opinion. But they are not "entitled" to weigh in as decision makers on housing and the other planned systems that impact the quality of life that every person, regardless of color, is entitled to enjoy in this country.

I would also ask each of our Commissioners and Row Office holders to look at your own work forces and take the immediate and necessary steps to mitigate the white privilege that pervades our county and local governments. This will help set an example for our private sector.

Thank you for taking a public stand on this issue.
This is a step in the right direction.

s/Ron Smolow
Upper Makefield Twp.,

Joan Cullen's resignation

Joan Cullen must resign from her position on the Bucks County Planning Commission and on the Pennridge School Board.

Systematic racism, sexism and/or homophobia has no place in these organizations.

JOAN CULLEN RESIGN NOW !!!

Barbara Sheinmel
Buckingham

Joan Cullen

It is clear from Joan Cullen's recent tweets that she is blind to the situations that exist all over America today and she should NOT be working on ANY government planning commission of any other government decision making body. She needs to resign NOW!

Gary Ryan
Doylestown Township

7/1 Comment - Agenda Item: Planning Commission and Joan Cullen

My purpose in contacting you is to provide public comment demanding the immediate resignation of Joan Cullen from the Planning Commission.

Joan made public comments that there "is no such thing as systemic racism, homophobia, or sexism."

This shows a troubling lack of understanding Bucks County's history of community-plan enforced segregation.

One example is Levittown. When it was built in the 1950s, white families could buy homes financed by the Federal Housing Administration, but African Americans were forbidden from buying homes. Whites were even forbidden from reselling homes to black families.

These homes sold for less than \$20,000 in the 1950s. Many of these homes are now worth over \$200,000.

White families gained equity to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars for decades, while black families had to fight to even be allowed into the community at all. This is what systemic racism looks like. Whites gaining wealth directly from government support while blacks were directly, specifically excluded.

A service at the United Christian Church in Levittown on June 13th, 2020 memorialized the courage of the Myers family, the first black family to move to Levittown. The Church's members protected the family from mobs of angry white neighbors who protested their arrival in the community.

The Planning Commission's activities have far reaching implications for all residents of Bucks County. Recognizing the painful mistakes of our past is essential if we are going to build the best possible community for ourselves and our children. Joan Cullen has shown she is willfully ignorant of our area's history and is therefore a danger to the public in her current role on the planning commission. She must resign immediately for the safety and well-being of all Bucks County residents.

Skylar D. Hurwitz
New Hope

Public Comment - Non Agenda

Hello. I wanted to voice my support for Commissioner Marseglia's call for Ms Joan Cullen to resign from the planning commission. The views held by Ms Cullen regarding systemic racism, sexism and homophobia are detrimental to those groups and should have no place in county government when trying to address the needs of all people in the county. We have to understand the problems facing our citizens in order to fix them and outright denying these concerns is counter productive.

Dan Wood
Doylestown Township.

Public Comment, Non Agenda

I would like to voice my support for Commissioner Marseglia and her call for Joan Cullen to step down from her role on the county Planning Committee.

As someone who grew up in Bucks County and continues to raise a family here, I find it disheartening that someone who does not have empathy for anyone not white or privileged represents our community. Joan Cullen's comments from 2019 are nothing new to her repertoire of white rhetoric. I expect so much better from our county representatives, that they may represent not just themselves and their own interests but that they may find insight and compassion in others' plight.

Kristy Redstreak
Chalfont, New Britain Township.

public comment - Joan Cullen

Racism has no home in Bucks County and certainly not on the Planning Commission. Denial of systemic racism is racism. Blackface is racism. Joan Cullen must resign immediately or be fired.

Lynda Mintz
Bensalem

Systemic Racism, Misogyny and homophobia and anti-LGBTQ in general

I just wanted to express my support to call for the resignation of Joan Cullen for her posts. She is an elected official and has shown a distinct lack of understanding issues going on today. This is a minimum request. As you know, I am very sensitive to these issues and denying these issues is a way to not address them.

Robin Pettit
Doylestown Township

Joan Cullen

It is obvious by Joan Cullen's statement that she is naive about the ways in which the systems of opportunity that are available for the white population are cut off to blacks- historically as well as today. Her statement is offensive and troubling. It shows a lack of knowledge, thoughtfulness, and leadership.

She should leave or be dismissed from her post.

Lisa Gladden Keyes
New Hope

Planning Commission Joan Cullen

This is not about Joan Cullen's political preferences, nor is it an issue of freedom of speech. Of course Ms. Cullen can say whatever she wants. But she is not absolved from all consequences of that speech.

This is about Ms. Cullen's continued, persistent display of biased and discriminatory opinions. Cullen's disbelief in the straightforward fact that some groups have faced systematic discrimination is inconsistent with the mandate of the Planning Commission.

Someone, like Ms. Cullen, who does not believe that people of color or other groups, have faced any sort of systemic disadvantage cannot "protect the health, safety and welfare of all County residents, equally, without prejudice." That is the stated mission of the Planning Commission and it is 100% inconsistent

with Joan Cullen's expressed opinions.

Her disbelief in such systemic oppression IS prejudice. And it cannot be tolerated on a commission that makes decisions that affect every single person in this county.

Kierstyn P. Zolfo
Newtown Township

Racism is in human nature and needs correction

· From Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific - You've Got To Be Carefully Taught Lyrics:

You've got to be taught to hate and fear
You've got to be taught from year to year
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear
You've got to be carefully taught

· From Bernstein and Sondheim West Side Story, A Boy Like That Lyrics

A boy like that
Who'd kill your brother
Forget that boy
And find another
One of your own kind
Stick to your own kind

Joe Calabria
Doylestown

Joan Cullen

This is a call for Joan Cullen to resign from the Bucks County Planning Commission based on her tweets that there is no systemic racism, sexism, and homophobia in the United States.

Harold Wright
Newtown Township

Public comment non agenda

Today I want to stand in solidarity with Commissioner Marseglia. Racism, homophobia, and any other form of bigotry has no place here in Doylestown and Bucks County at large. I believe that Ms Cullen's views are reactionary and I support the push for her resignation. Thank you Commissioner Marseglia for taking a stand against bigotry.

Connor O'Hanlon
Doylestown Township.

Support resignation request for Joan Cullen

I support Commissioner Marseglia's call for Joan Cullen to resign from the Planning Commission. While Ms. Cullen is entitled to her views, I believe they disqualify her from serving in her role. Her views lack an understanding of reality for many of our community members, and I don't believe she is able to fairly and equally represent Bucks County residents. Thank you, Commissioner Marseglia, for speaking up on this issue.

Katy Rene
Perkasie Borough

Non-Agenda Items

I am writing in support of Diane Marseglia's call for the resignation of Joan Cullen from the Planning Commission in response to her racist remarks on social media. As a public figure Joan Cullen has a responsibility to respect all the members of the community she represents, and her public statements make it clear that she does not. As a School Board member it is reprehensible that she would share content like she has; I presume that the children of Pennridge would be held to a higher standard than she is holding herself to. Words have power and I am certain she understands the power of her words in combination with the responsibility she has assumed as a public figure. If she isn't interested in serving all of the public, she should resign immediately. Thank goodness we have elected figures like Diane who are speaking out against racism and holding her colleagues accountable.

Jessica Getz
Furlong

Joan Cullen

Someone who denies the existence of systemic racism should not be in a position to make decisions that are required by the Bucks County Planning Commission. An understanding of the historical history of the United States denying black people the opportunity to live in certain neighborhoods, obtain reasonable mortgage rates, and have the same economic opportunities as white people is a necessary qualification for making decisions about land use and planning. Without the acceptance of systemic racism there is a potential that racism will continue to play a role in decisions.

Many of us were unaware of the ramifications of systemic racism and it is understandable that Ms. Cullen had never considered this reality. Now that there are many ways to educate ourselves about this issue, Ms Cullen could increase her awareness and acceptance of this fact and remain on the Planning Commission, however, she continues to deny this reality and should be removed.

Kay Reiss
Solebury Township

Non-Agenda Public Comment

I wanted to express my support for the statement Commissioner Marseglia put forward requesting Joan Cullen resign from the Planning Commission. Mrs. Cullen's actions prove she does not understand or represent the needs of the entire Bucks County Community, and has brought embarrassment to her school district and to the county. I appreciate the Commissioner's leadership, and concur that the best course of action is for Mrs. Cullen to step down.

Kevin Foster,
Hilltown PA

Joan Cullen, resignation

Joan Cullen and her supporter's contention that her public remarks denying the existence of systemic racism, homophobia, sexism, etc., are simply using first amendment rights as a rationale and excuse to promote ideas that are clearly tied to white supremacy.

Joan Cullen made her white supremacist values known through a public platform. As such, she should know that she will be held accountable for those remarks and values. She needs to resign now.

Heidi Bortner, Doylestown Borough.

Public Comment: Non-agenda

I am writing to express my support for Commissioner Marseglia's call for Joan Cullen to step down from the Planning board. Ms. Cullen's frequent public comments further views that are loaded with racism, homophobia and xenophobia. These statements are in direct contradiction to the Planning Commission's mission to serve "all County residents, equally, without prejudice".

Ms. Cullen's public statements call into question her commitment and ability to serve without prejudice and thus undermine the integrity and fairness of the Planning Commission's work and judgements.

Ms. Cullen is free to espouse whatever views she wants in her private life, however, this division and prejudice has no role in making decisions that affect all County residents, including those Ms. Cullen denigrates and disrespects based solely on their identity.

Kelly Whitman
New Hope, PA

Joan Cullen

As deeply as I disagree with Ms. Cullen, she is entitled to her opinion. If there is a legal mechanism that allows a vote to remove her before the end of her term, I wonder what the grounds would be - her ignorance? It's a slippery slope.

There is nothing in what I have read that informs me about Ms. Cullen's desire to be a spanner in the works. I fervently hope she represents a small minority and, should she choose to stay out her term and vote her opinion, that this will minimize her effect on the passage of progressive programs that seek to address systemic racism.

I also hope that those who disagree with Ms. Cullen are making every effort to, in the words of Michelle Obama, "go high". Right is on your side. So is the zeitgeist.

Miriam Tucker
New Hope, PA

Cullen

Joan Cullen has expressed opinions which disqualify her for a position of trust representing the people of Bucks County. While she is welcome to hold any view she desires, the county cannot be placed in a position of condoning her personal views and rewarding her with an official position of honor and responsibility for influencing the future of the county's planning process. Please censure her or remove her if possible.

Neil Samuels
Doylestown Township

Brief Public Comment

I am writing today regarding the controversy over Joan Cullen's twitter remark not acknowledging systemic issues affecting racism, homophobia, etc.

I want to point out that the Trumps, father and son, did not acknowledge racism when they refused apartments to people of color in the housing project they developed out of public funds. They were found guilty and paid a large fine. Housing is important because schooling is tied to it and later income. That is an example of systemic racism.

Do people of color now also prefer not to live in beautiful Central Bucks County in significant numbers? Data tell us that people of color have less wealth, income, education, worse health outcomes and dramatically higher rates of incarceration.

Are those all accidental and not systemic effects? No educator today can fall back on eugenics theories long disproved to try to explain these data away.

We cannot allow a person with these viewpoints to represent us so I join those asking for Joan Cullen's resignation.

Margaret Mead, the anthropologist, lived in Bucks County for about ten years as a teen ager and later wrote, Bucks County is the most complacent place in America. Perhaps it is not so complacent anymore.

Wilma Caffentzis, Ph.D.
Solebury Township

JOAN Cullen comment

Thank you Commissioner Marseglia for standing and calling for the resignation of Joan Cullen and her racially insensitive and disturbing comments. It's not a matter of 1st amendment rights, it's about a leader standing up for the basic principles of our society.

Joe Frederick
Doylestown Borough

Commissioner Marseglia's position

I wish to make my voice heard and support Commissioner Marseglia's position re: Ms. Cullen resigning and eliminating systemic racism.

Respectfully,

Neil Hartman
Doylestown Borough

In support of Diane

It is always important to stand up for what is right. I applaud Diane's request for Joan Cullen's resignation.

It is ok and healthy to have different views. It is NEVER ok to promote hate and discrimination. Leaders need to be role models. They need to do (by action and word) and BE better!

Now more than ever we need leaders our children can look up to. Joan's actions and words are not reflective of what our community needs.

Sue-Ann Divito
Solebury Township

Public comment Re: Joan Cullen

While I do believe in freedom of speech, I also believe we have the freedom to condemn such speech. For this reason, we should not have deniers of racism and homophobia on any boards that affect the lives of other people, including the Bucks County Planning Commission and the Pennridge school board. There is enough information available to show that while Ms. Cullen might not experience racism and homophobia personally, these forms of hate and systems of oppression are alive and well. At this point, to deny racism and homophobia exist is willful ignorance and an act of hate itself. It has no place on the Bucks County Planning Commission nor in our schools.

Kristin Donnelly
New Hope

Public Comment - Non Agenda

I wish to express my deep support of Commissioner Marseglia. She was 100% correct to call out Joan Cullen and her ignorant remarks. To deny the existence of systemic racism, sexism, and homophobia is to invalidate the experience of countless citizens. Cullen's remarks - whether made on a public or private platform - are evidence of her true feelings. We can longer have any faith that she will represent ALL of her constituents, and she is unfit for public office.

Jennifer Lynch
Northampton Township, Bucks County

Joan Cullen needs to resign

I recently heard about the controversial, not to mention blatantly false comments made on Twitter by Joan Cullen, the Pennridge School District's school board vice president & curriculum director. Like everyone, I certainly believe in free speech, including the right to say untruths. However, by exercising her right to free speech, Ms. Cullen has exposed her prejudicial beliefs in a false narrative. Nobody living in today's society can deny that racism, sexism and homophobia exists and has existed for centuries! If she had expressed those thoughts and beliefs prior to running for election, I doubt that she would have been elected. We cannot have someone like Ms. Cullen influencing the curriculum that our children will be learning from in our schools. Our students deserve better. The right thing for her to do is to step down, resign from her position and seek employment elsewhere.

Marsha Tabb
Buckingham Twsp.