

February 25, 2021

The Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners met in regular session beginning at 10:00am on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room #101, 2 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA. The following were present: Chairman Sean Kertes, Vice-Chairman Douglas W Chew, Secretary Gina Cerilli, Esq. (via conference) and County Solicitor Melissa A. Guiddy. The following business was conducted:

Commissioner Kertes led the Pledge of Allegiance

General Agenda

Opportunity for Public Comment

Bill Bretz, Hempfield Twp - I'm writing to express my opposition to recent comments made to Westmoreland County Commissioners suggesting the formation of a county Department of Health is needed to facilitate COVID vaccinations. (Reference only: <https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/westmoreland-county/these-groups-westmoreland-county-are-pushing-get-their-own-health-department/7ZHFKJK57JD3JKF5QKDH47Z3B4/>) The call for rapid and readily available vaccinations is one that I support, however, I don't believe that the formation of a permanent bureaucracy to address a temporary problem serves the best interest of the community as a means to service those awaiting vaccination or as a burden without an ongoing mission for taxpayers going forward. Our county is replete with healthcare providers and merchants anxious to serve their communities by distributing vaccine as broadly and rapidly as possible and I submit that the existing federal and state bureaucracies are hindering their efforts and the establishment of yet another layer of oversight at the county level, even if chronologically possible to support the need, will only further exacerbate the problem. Westmoreland County had established a COVID-19 Task Force that could serve as a liaison between the state and providers if needed but not intervene at the consumer level. I believe the greatest good the government can do in a time sensitive situation like this is to allow entrepreneurs the freedom to enhance existing logistics and supply chains with only essential governmental regulation to rapidly satisfy the demand in the market with the necessary supply. Thank you

Diana Steck, North Huntingdon - Dear Commissioners Cerilli, Chew and Kertes, I attempted to use the newly developed public comment form but the webpage was not responding and the form could not be sent. Please accept these comments as public comments for your 2/25/21 public meeting. I remain unable to attend in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. First, I want to thank you for working with the Westmoreland county transit authority to provide for free transportation via the Westmoreland Transit for trips to COVID-19 vaccination appointments. This is a definite step forward in the process of facilitating vaccine access. Westmoreland county is being left behind in the Covid vaccine distribution process. We need leadership in the county to work to obtain more vaccines for our county and to develop a plan for distribution once more vaccines are available. The PA DOH website is cumbersome, confusing and difficult to navigate. A central registry would make it much easier for people to obtain the vaccine. Neighboring counties like Fayette have developed a central registry and are vaccinating their residents in an efficient and equitable manner. Covid will remain with us for a predicted long period. The county needs not only to work to protect public health now, but prepare to address future public health emergencies. At the very least, a public health director position should be created to have someone dedicated to focusing on public health. State and federal funds are available for creation of a public health department and this pandemic has exposed the void of public health protection in our county. I feel that efforts to explore funding and creation of a public health department should be initiated. Finally, Westmoreland County needs more transparency and access to public participation, not less! After a year of living in a pandemic, our county government continues to refuse to hold virtual public meetings. As if that is not bad enough, now residents are further limited in their ability to participate in meetings by creation of a public comment form on a web page that does not transmit or transfer the public comments! This does not simplify the public comment process for residents, just adds yet another layer of county government trying to take the Public out of public participation! The use of personal email was much simpler and easier. The 4 pm deadline the day prior to your meetings is another barrier to timely public participation. Please bring back the personal email method for public comment submission and resume the 9:30 am deadline the morning of meetings for comments to be considered.

Solicitors Report

Upon review and recommendation of Melissa A. Guiddy, County Solicitor, Sharon Bold, Chief Probation Officer and the Department of Financial Administration, motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Ms. Cerilli and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following items for **Adult Probation:**

- (A) Grant Application to the **Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts** for “**AOPC 2020-2021 Discretionary Grant for Westmoreland County Drug Treatment Court Team**” in the amount of **\$9,673.28** for the term April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; final approval subject to Solicitor review
- (B) Grant Application to the **Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts** for “**AOPC 2020-2021 Discretionary Grant for Westmoreland County Veterans Court Program**” in the amount of **\$8,785.18** for the term April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; final approval subject to Solicitor review

Upon review and recommendation of Melissa A. Guiddy, County Solicitor and Meghan McCandless, Director of Financial Administration, motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Ms. Cerilli and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following item for **Financial Administration:**

- (A) Proposals for “**Banking/Treasury/Escrow (sub-accounting) Services,**” (**Bid 20-42**), were opened on October 20, 2020:

Respondents:

First National Bank	PNC Bank
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank	Somerset Trust Company

Award the operating relationship to **FNB Bank** and tax collection/concentration to **J.P. Morgan Chase Bank**, for “**Banking Services,**” with annual fees as follows:

- J.P. Morgan Chase Bank: The first 15 months of fees will be waived. Subsequently, fees will be based on average balances, after the earnings credit of 0.38% is applied.
- FNB: The County will be required to maintain \$4.3M in non-interest-bearing balances to compensate for servicing the county.

The agreement shall commence on April 1, 2021, final agreement subject to Solicitor review.

Upon review and recommendation of Melissa A. Guiddy, County Solicitor and Roland Mertz, Director, motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Ms. Cerilli and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following items for **Public Safety:**

- (A) Subscription to **Canva US, Inc.** for “**Canva Pro,**” in the amount of **\$119.40** for the term February 3, 2021 through February 2, 2022
- (B) Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for “**911 Statewide Interconnectivity Funding,**” in the amount of **\$74,045.89**, (100% state funded) for the term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Upon review and recommendation of Melissa A. Guidy, County Solicitor, motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Ms. Cerilli and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following items for **Westmoreland County:**

- (A) Ratification of Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development for **“COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Grant Contract,”** and acceptance of funds in the amount of **\$3,951,757.00;** and further approve **Resolution #R-12-2021,** authorizing the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute the Agreement electronically

RESOLUTION #R-12-2021

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 1 of 2021 (SB 109), under an initiative known as the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP), counties within Pennsylvania are required to establish a grant program for eligible businesses within the hospitality industry adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westmoreland is eligible to receive funds in the amount of \$3,951,757.00 under the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County of Westmoreland to apply to receive this payment of funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development in order to provide assistance to eligible hospitality industry businesses that have a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) designation within the Accommodation subsector (721) or Food Services and Drinking Places subsector (722) and where accommodations, food or drink is served to or provided for the public, with or without charge; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westmoreland previously submitted an application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive the funds under the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program, the County was required to submit a COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Grant Contract by February 16, 2021 to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Westmoreland County was required to designate two Commissioners to execute the Grant Contract electronically.

NOW THEREFORE, at a public meeting duly advertised with a quorum present, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Westmoreland ratifies the submission of the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Grant Contract to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development and the designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute the Grant Contract electronically.

RESOLVED and enacted this 25th day of February, 2021, at a duly advertised public meeting with a quorum being present.

- (B) COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Services Agreement with the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County; final approval subject to Solicitor Review
- (C) Certification of Local Government Approval for NonProfit Organizations Receiving ESG Funds from State Recipients in order for the Blackburn Center to be included in an application for ESG-CARES funding, through the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence; final approval subject to Solicitor review.
- (D) Approval to submit Request for Information (RFI) to the **Richard King Mellon Foundation for the Healthy People & Community Grant Program** for “**Integrating Westmoreland County Human Services,**” in the amount of **\$250,000.00**

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Ms. Cerilli and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:09am

Certified by,

Gina Cerilli, Esq.
Secretary