

Commissioners:

R. JACK MCKERNAN
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT
*Director of Administration
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J. DAVID SMITH
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**Minutes of the Meeting of
April 18, 2017
Board Room, Executive Plaza
Pine Street, Williamsport**

Commissioner McKernan - Present
Commissioner Mussare - Present
Commissioner Mirabito - Present

Solicitor Smith - Present

1.0 OPERATIONS

1.1 CONVENE COMMISSIONERS MEETING. The meeting was convened at 10:05 a.m.

Bids were opened for the following:

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 APPROVE CASH REQUIREMENTS REPORT. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved accounts payable cash requirement report through April 26, 2017, for payment on April 19, 2017, in the amount of \$822,503.96.

6.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT. The floor was opened to commissioner comment and the following were received:

Mr. Mussare explained about NACo and CCAP memberships, and how the county benefits from them. He also asked the public to be safety conscious and to use hand rails while taking the steps.

Mr. McKernan announced that the Hotel Tax ordinance will be voted on May 2, 2017. He also said the \$5 registration fee (Act 89) will be coming up as well.

Mr. Mirabito suggested that the hotel tax ordinance passage may be premature. He suggested requesting proposals for it instead. The county has a legal obligation to enforce ordinances. This should be used for property tax relief.

Mr. Mussare said that the Tourist Promotion Agency (TPA) is made of hoteliers and they are the ones who want to promote their businesses. As long as the TPA is following legal requirements, let them do their job. He agrees that the makeup of the TPA could be more diverse, but concessions have been made.

Mr. McKernan said that the visitor's bureau is a good committee. He thinks that the PA Wilds funding should be re-looked at.

Mr. Mirabito said that money can be used in diverse ways. He isn't suggesting cutting off the money, just not increasing the percentage.

7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. The floor was opened to public comment and the following were received:

Ralph Kisburg of Almont Street, Williamsport, is curious if an audit is done on the Hotel Tax monies. Why are tax dollars being used to subsidize a private entity (the Chamber of Commerce). There needs to be a thorough audit.

Alison Hirsch, Rural Avenue, Williamsport asked what the obstacle is for requesting proposals for a TPA. She feels the Chamber of Commerce is ineffective. Has tourism increased? Are there statistics? Less than 1/5 of the businesses in the County are members of the Chamber of Commerce.

John Bogle of East Third Street, Williamsport opposes the hotel tax increase until the Visitors Bureau separates from the Chamber of Commerce and becomes transparent.

Barb Jarmosca of Gamble Township said that we have way more than Little League Baseball. We have recreational tourism and the PA Wilds. This area is enormous and growing. There is a conflict of interest in having the Chamber be the TPA. She is opposed to an increase in tax. The bigger picture needs looked at first.

Robert Cross, Diamond Street, Newberry said that he has a vested interest in the PA Wilds. Agrees that the Chamber being a TPA is a conflict.

Bill Kane of Old Cement Road Montoursville came up with the Little League World Series concept and the Chamber took credit for his intellectual property.

Alison Hirsch commented on the airport project and the chosen contractor, LOBAR.

8.0 NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. Mr. McKernan announced the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Thursday, April 16, 2017.

9.0 ADJOURN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.