

Commissioners:

R. JACK MCKERNAN
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



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*Director of Administration
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**Minutes of the Meeting of
October 31, 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 10:03 a.m.

Bids were opened for the following:
Professional planning services for the Greater Muncy Resilience Plan (6 bidders).

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 November 8, 2017, for payment on November 1, 2017, in the amount of \$1,754,343.

2.2 APPROVE CASH REQUIREMENTS REPORT. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), approved accounts payable cash requirement report through November 15, 2017, for payment on November 8, 2017, pending review and approval of commissioners.

Mr. McKernan recessed the Commissioners' Meeting at 10:31 a.m.

4.0 BOARD of ASSESSMENT REVISION

4.1 CONVENE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVISION. Mr. McKernan convened the Board of Assessment Revision at 10:31 a.m.

4.2 DENY EXEMPTION REQUEST. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), denied real estate exemption request from FUN Academy LLC for parcel 41-373-176-999.

4.3 ADJOURN BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVISION. A motion by Mr. Mussare and seconded by Mr. Mirabito and passed (3-0), adjourned the Board of Assessment Revision at 10:47 a.m.

Mr. McKernan reconvened the Commissioners' Meeting at 10:47 a.m.

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

Mr. McKernan commented on the RFP for Reentry. He said that two vendors were interested: GEO and Firetree. Both proposals need to be discussed to make a decision with regard to continuing to provide reentry services. He has hopes that there will be a vote taken on Thursday regarding this. There are several people involved in the RFP committee.

Mya Toon provided a verbal list of the 10 members of the community who are participating on the committee.

Mr. Mirabito said that it is hard to separate yourself from it when you work with it on a day to day basis.

Mr. McKernan said that there is a report that was presented to the Commissioners by the Committee.

Mr. Mirabito said that it is not "hands off" and "objective" since "GEO and county staff have worked in tandem..."

Mr. McKernan suggested that outsiders would have also made the same observation.

Mr. Mussare asked if we consider the current program a success? Its evolution is important. Is the company successful? How long is the RFP contract for?

Mya Toon replied 3 or 4 years, but it can be negotiated.

Matt McDermott said they are looking at 3 years with two one year extensions.

Mr. Mirabito said that both companies can do the job, but Firetree is 20% less than GEO. His concerns are in comparing the cost of both programs. He also said that if we don't have a reentry program, the courts would find a way. There is a need to consider the budget situation we are in. One vendor is local, and that is significant.

Mr. Mussare agreed with Mr. Mirabito on the local vendor. It is very charitable. Legally this cannot be considered but it is important.

Solicitor Smith said that an RFP is not required, but since it is being used, there are certain rules that must be followed.

Mr. Mirabito said that negotiations can be done with both parties as well. Maybe two programs should be set up and they should compete and the programs re-evaluated after three years.

Mya Toon said that the RFP provides several factors, not just the cost. One vendor scored higher. 98% of the time the Commissioners follow the recommendations by department heads.

Mr. McKernan said that Firetree scored 112 and GEO scored 175 out of 200. He also agrees with wanting to favor a local company, if the score were close. But they are not. He has issues with the idea of a dual program, since that would not be practical.

Mr. Mirabito said that he has concerns this is a duplication of efforts in the non profit community (like what the YWCA provides to women). His other concern is that only 10 points (5%) of the rating system was allocated to cost. Cost is a significant factor.

Mr. Mussare commented on the percentage of individuals who would re-offend. A new prison would cost \$40 million. Is this an option? Are we avoiding the inevitable?

Mr. McKernan said the assumption is that if the programs were gotten rid of a new jail could be afforded.

Todd Lauer asked questions about the point criteria.

Mya Toon explained details and reason the cost was not rated a higher percentage. Regardless, this can be negotiated.

Mr. Mussare believes that price will weigh greatly but the choice will be based more on qualifications.

Mr. Mirabito said that maybe a revisit look at Firetree, digging deeper would be beneficial. The state uses them in 45 other counties.

Mr. McKernan said that the proposals were received in May, and the committee gave its recommendation in October.

Mr. Mirabito spoke extensively on his perspective regarding costs and participants for GEO vs. Firetree.

Mr. Mussare said that we need to make concessions among ourselves (the commissioners). He suggested that lots of decisions need to be made not just this one. He asked Jenn McConnell if this decision can be put off.

Mya Toon explained that the intent was for whoever was chosen to begin on January one. But putting it off is fine as we are already behind the pre-established timeline.

Jenn McConnell said that they will honor whatever the Commissioners decide. She clarified that the team is not "The Courts" but is made up of several people. She asked that time to prepare for whatever is decided be factored into a transition. This will affect 40-70 individuals.

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

Todd Lauer said that as a taxpayer he wants the choice to be the local vendor at a 20% less cost. He only cares about money.

Bill Brown from Firetree said that he only operates on day reporting center.

Mr. McKernan commented that Firetree is not licensed for LSIR (risk/needs).

8.0 NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. Mr. McKernan announced the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Thursday, November 2, 2017.

9.0 ADJOURN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.