

Reviewed by: _____

**COMMISSIONER BOARD MINUTES
December 22, 2009**

Those present at the public meeting of the Venango County Commissioners held in Room 100 of the Courthouse Annex:

Commissioner Tim Brooks	Commissioner Troy Wood
Commissioner Jan Beichner	Rich Winkler, Solicitor
Denise Jones, Chief Clerk	Lisa Mumford, Admin. Asst.
Connie Hazelton, Human Resources	Dave Schwille, Human Service Director
O. C. Bell, Airport	Heather Mohnkern, Auditor
Sheila Boughner, News Herald	Diona Brick, Fiscal
Bill Kresinski, MIS	Rich Mihalic, Park Director
Michael Hadley, Esq., Taxpayer	Ray Beichner, Taxpayer
Matt Croyle, Taxpayer	Herb Crawford, Taxpayer
Robert Murphy, Taxpayer	Gerry Wike, Taxpayer
Linda Scheckler, Taxpayer	Frank Toothman, Taxpayer
Misti Kresinski, Taxpayer	

The meeting began with a moment of silent prayer and then Commissioner Brooks led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONER BOARD:

Commissioner Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Beichner to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2009 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMMISSIONER BOARD AGENDA:

Mike Hadley raised several question about the County's plans to acquire the Venango Human Services Complex from the Oil Regional Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism. Hadley began with noting that the right of County commissioners to obtain property is covered by statute, and they can only do so at fair market value. He advised the Human Service Complex building assessed value was \$1.2 million and wondered if the statute permits the "bundling of the building and the lease buyout." Rich Winkler, County Solicitor, advised he didn't know of anything that says you can, but there is nothing either that says you can't. The next question raised by Hadley was if the Venango Industrial Development Authority, which signed the buy-out agreement, voted on the matter in a public meeting. Mr. Hadley also pointed out that the buy-out agreement was signed by Mr. Robert Cross, the Chairman of the VDA, but there was no date on the contract. Commissioner Brooks advised that the commissioners assumed VIDA followed the law.

Next Mr. Hadley pointed to additional covenants in the document, requiring that the County again name the Alliance as its lead economic development agency and continue to provide funding to the Alliance according to an existing memorandum of understanding. He asked if that language would bind future boards of commissioners. Commissioner Brooks advised it only applies to 2010. Hadley then asked if the County had the building inspected by a certified

building inspector. Commissioner Brooks advised the County used the architect who did the renovation on the building.

Herb Crawford requested a copy of ORA's minutes where it states how the board members voted on the purchase of the West Unit building. Commissioner Brooks advised he would get Mr. Crawford a copy of those minutes. Mr. Crawford also asked if the Commissioners knew if the \$610,000 that the ORA paid for the building actually went to UPMC. Commissioner Brooks advised he would check into this matter and provide that information to Mr. Crawford.

Ray Beichner asked if the Commissioners ever heard back from the ORA from a previous request from Commissioner Beichner requesting a list of the repairs the ORA had done to the West Unit building. Commissioner Beichner advised that she never received or heard anything back from the ORA concerning any of the repairs that had been done.

There was no business to come before the Board from the Row Offices, the Prison, Community Services Administration, or the Planning Commission.

COURT ADMINISTRATION:

Denise Jones, Chief Clerk presented on behalf of Court Supervision Services a Demonstration Monitoring Service Agreement #120909CW2. This agreement is between BI, Inc., and the County of Venango and our Adult and Juvenile Court Supervision Services. BI will supply an initial on-site training to our Agency staff for a two-week trial demonstration of an alcohol detection monitoring device. There would no charge to the County for this trial demonstration. Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

Next presented by Denise Jones on behalf of District Judge Doug Gerwick was a Westlaw Contract in the amount of \$69 per month. This contract is for Pennsylvania Essentials Banded Library on CD-ROM. This software will replace nearly all of the hardcopy books that Judge Gerwick currently subscribes to with the exception of two copies each year of the Criminal Pamphlet which is used a desk reference. This will be a cost savings over what is currently spent for the items being replaced, as well as any savings from not having to update the bound volumes of pardons when new editions come out. The contract is for three years which will commence January 1, 2010 and run thru December 31, 2012. Commissioner Beichner made a motion approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

HUMAN SERVICES:

The following items were presented for approval by Dave Schwille:

AAA

Request for First Night Oil City to use the Creekside Senior Center as an indoor venue. A certificate of insurance is provided. Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

MH/MR

Addendum to the contract with the Regional Counseling Center in the amount of \$38,000 to fund an evaluation by the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work of the Transitions Program, a community treatment team approach to assisting transitional age youth.

Approval of a funding application, supported by the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, in the amount of \$300,000 to develop a supported housing program as a diversion from the criminal justice system for seriously mentally ill adults. The concept of this program is to establish a master lease agreement with local landlords who will then sublease to these individuals.

Approval of a snow removal agreement with Bill's Remodeling and Snow Plowing for the property located at 806 Grandview Ave. Oil City in the amount of \$30 per trip and \$20 per salt application.

Commissioner Beichner made a motion to approve the above items, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION:

The following warrants were presented for approval by Diona Brick, Fiscal Director:

Warrant HS121109	\$ 380,982.80	Human Services Expenditures
Warrant 121809	160,579.51	Non-Human Services Expenditures
Warrant HS121809	365,148.18	Human Services Expenditures
Warrant SP121709	6,805.00	Non-Human Services Expenditures
Warrant 122309	119,310.92	Non-Human Services Expenditures
Warrant HS122309	131,307.87	Human Services Expenditures

Total \$ 1,164,134.28

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the above warrants, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

The next item Diona presented was the approval of the County Budget for the calendar year of 2010. The budget changed slightly since it was presented in the preliminary form. The overall budget includes total revenues of \$43,041,538, expenditures of \$46,102,714, and a deficit of \$3,061,176. The general fund budget totals \$16,334,536. Commissioner Beichner made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

TWO MILE COUNTY PARK:

Rich Mihalic, Park Director presented for approval to seek a grant application from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in the amount of \$126,200 for a new handicapped-accessible boat launch, dock and restroom at the Park. Rich advised the cost of the total project cost would be approximately \$174,000. The County match would include in-kind contributions of labor and equipment. Commissioner Beichner made a motion to approve the submission of the application, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION:

There were several items to be presented. The first item presented by Denise Jones, Chief Clerk was a renewal service contract with Simplex Grinnell. The service agreement is to cover fire alarm testing and inspection at an annual cost of 578. The coverage period will commence April 2, 2010 thru March 31, 2011. Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

The second item presented by Denise Jones was the approval of the 2010 Liquid Fuels Application Awards. The amount of \$636,684.10 was received in requests from 22 Venango

County municipalities and \$287,139.40 was awarded. The following funds were allocated to the municipalities listed below:

\$ 7,000	- Barkeyville	\$14,413.80	- Mineral
\$ 9,500	- Canal	\$16,000	- Oil Creek
\$11,500	- Cherrytree/Plum	\$20,000	- Sandycreek
\$30,000	- Clinton	\$ 1,300	- Utica
\$11,635.60	- Clintonville	\$64,200	- Victory
\$40,590	- Frenchcreek		
\$11,000	- Irwin		
\$50,000	- Jackson		

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the 2010 Liquid Fuels Application Awards, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

The third item Denise presented for approval was the authorization to encumber Liquid Fuels Expenses. The amount encumbered is for projects not yet completed. The amount of encumbered funds totaled \$898,469, including funds for three county bridge projects. They are as follows: Miller Farm Road Bridge - \$60,231; Dotter Road Bridge - \$263,315; and for Woolen Mills Bridge - \$133,093. The list of municipalities encumbering funds are listed below:

1. Richland Township – \$2,998.86
2. City of Franklin – \$28,000
3. Sugarcreek Boro. – \$10,000
4. Polk Boro. - \$100,000
5. Emlenton Boro. - \$13,689

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the above encumbrances, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

Commissioner Brooks announced the Proclamation – “In Recognition of Achievement” which recognized Sadie Gravatt who is senior basketball player at the Franklin High School, for achievement of being a “1000 Point Player.” Sadie reached the milestone of achieving 1,000 points playing basketball during the first game of the season, making her the 11th person to achieve this feat in Franklin High School history. Commissioner Beichner made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

The next item presented by Denise Jones was the 2010 Venango County Commissioner Board Public Meetings and Workshops schedule which will be advertised and sent to all department heads. Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the 2010 schedule, seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

The last item presented by Denise for approval was the designation of the Venango County Historical Society as the official historical society for the County of Venango. The County has allotted the amount of \$2,000 in the proposed 2010 County budget to support the efforts of the Historical Society. Commissioner Beichner made a motion to approve the designation, seconded by Commissioner Wood, aye all.

Commissioner Brooks presented for approval the County to acquire the Venango Human Services Complex from the Oil Regional Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism. The County will assume the \$1.6 million mortgage on the former West Unit building at 1 Dale Avenue and buy-out the lease for \$1 million. It is estimated the deal will save the County \$6 million over the life of the 20-year lease. Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the

buy-out lease and the mortgage, seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Commissioner Beichner opposed. Motion passed by majority vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board of County Commissioners enacted Ordinance #09-01 authorizing nonelectoral debt in the presently estimated amount of \$1,609,000 with an interest rate of 6.50% and summarized as follows: Sections 1-8 define certain terms including the debt which consists of cost associated with the purchase of the Human Services Complex at 1 Dale Avenue in Franklin, PA, including the form of general obligation note, interest rate, amortization, maturity, covenant for payment and pledge of the County full faith, credit, and taxing power, and authorization of private sale of the note and of execution and delivery of related documents and related filings; Sections 9-10 address the establishment of a sinking fund & appointment of a sinking fund depository. No amendments were made to the ordinance during final passage. The full text of the Ordinance as proposed may be examined by any citizen from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on regular business days at the Office of the County Commissioners at the Venango County Courthouse Annex, 1174 Elk Street, Franklin, PA.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the above Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Brooks. Commissioner Beichner opposed. Motion passed by majority vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Hadley requested a copy of the ORA's By-Laws. Commissioner Brooks advised he would provide those laws to him.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Wood at 6:47 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Beichner, aye all.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mumford, Admin. Assist.