

**Warren County Commissioners
Work Session
Commissioners Conference Room
November 6, 2023 12:00 p.m.**

Commissioner Tricia Durbin called the work session of the Warren County commissioners to order with Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin and Commissioner Jeff Eggleston present.

Staff Present: Pamela Matve, Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director, Brian Bull, Chief Assessor, and Solicitor Nathaniel Schmidt

Citizens Present Josh Cotton (WTO), Andy Close (your daily local), and Wendy Hollabaugh (TAWC)

Announcements: Commissioner Tricia Durbin announced that the meeting is being recorded

Public Hearings: None

Public Comment: None

Old Items: None

New Items of Discussion:

Transit Authority 2024/2025 Local Match: Wendy Hollabaugh stated that she is going to attend the Conewango Twp. meeting this week to see if they will not come back as a contributor to the Bus Route. After reviewing the municipalities that do contribute, the request for a local match for operating expenses for the FY 2024/2025 is \$50,763.00.

Transit Authority 2024/2025 Capital Local Match: Wendy Hollabaugh explained that currently the building is connected to a geothermal system that is harming the pipes. The system is bringing sediment in from the river and it is clogging the pipes.

We have talked with a few vendors and they all say that a cooling tower is the way to go. This will bring cleaner water into the pipes, therefore reducing the electric and water bills.

Wendy stated that she has talked with the state and they will do a grant of \$200,000.00 if we can get a match of \$7,000.00. Therefore, we are asking that the county contribute to this local match.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston asked about the building and he thought PennDOT owned the building; so why are they not footing the bill?

Wendy stated that she would look into it, but TAWC takes care of the building, but if TAWC should disband, the building goes back to PennDOT. To get the funding, there must be a local match.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin asked if this new system would reduce cost to which Wendy stated yes; we have had to close because we had no water, and no flushing toilets because the pipes were so clogged.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin asked for clarification on the local Match request of \$50,763.00. He then asked if they had gotten a few quotes on the cooling tower to which Wendy stated they did.

Reassessment Update: Brian Bull, Chief Assessor updated the board on reassessment stating that Farmington is being finished up this week, Pine Grove should also be completed this week. They will then move to Elk Twp.

Brian stated that the City will be done during the winter months. And the quality control checks are satisfactory.

Open Bids for the 2024 Tax Anticipation Note: Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk stated that one Bid was received, and it came from Northwest.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin stated that Northwest has offered an interest rate of 6.5% with a minimum deposit relationship of \$500,000.00, a \$1,000.00 origination fee, and the county to pay their fees of \$5,000.00 from Knox Law.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin inquired as to if there were any mandatory draws.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that projection costs on interest to determine if the TAN is the way to continue, or do we send out two duplicates.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin stated that the lack of interest is not surprising with the change in banking rules.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that next year there are capital needs, and maybe the county should look into floating a bond for the capital expenses.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that the consideration of two tax bills would not happen until at least 2026.

INVEST for local governments: Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that INVEST is an alternate way to invest funds, such as PLIGIT. One of the pros is that INVEST has quicker withdrawals, and there is no cost to establish a relationship.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin then requested that this be placed on the agenda for action on Wednesday.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin stated that INVEST does charge 6 to 11 basis points for their administration. But agreed to place it on the agenda.

Policies & Procedures:

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that there will be an SOP for the Salary Board coming in a couple of weeks for approval.

Projects:

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin stated that the beginning of November will start the appeal process for those vendors that applied for the broadband grant.

Upcoming Commissioner Meeting Review: The agenda for the Public Meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2023, was reviewed.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin stated that besides what is already in the agenda in front of you, there will be additions; the renewal of the Youngsville MDJ office lease, the Share Grant Application, and the INVEST.

Department/Committee Updates:

General Discussion:

Solicitor Nathaniel Schmidt asked about the new location for MDJ Bauer's office space.

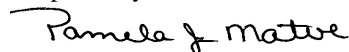
Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director stated that there is some electrical work, paint etc. to be done.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that we are hoping to move in by December 1, 2023.

Commissioner Tricia D. Durbin stated that there is a need for a brief executive session to discuss future litigation.

With nothing further, the work session was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully,



Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

