



MINUTES

Cumberland County Finance Meeting

August 4, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room
Courthouse, Carlisle, PA

Phone (717) 240-6150 Website: www.ccpa.net

Present: Commissioners Gary Eichelberger, Jean Foschi, and Vincent T. DiFilippo.

Staff Present: Stacy Snyder, Chief Clerk; Tamie Hershey, Deputy Chief Clerk; Angela Smyser, Administrative Specialist; Megan Fogelsanger, IMTO; Keith Brenneman, Solicitor; Kelly Neiderer, Treasurer.

Staff via Zoom: Dana Best, Finance; Samantha Krepps, Communications.

Outside Agencies Present: Linda Fedrizzi, Shawn Farr, Robert E. Kelly, Central Penn College; Kenn Tuckey, Cumberland County Industrial Development Authority.

Outside Agencies Present via Zoom: Jim Reeb, Social Enterprise Group.

Others Present: Jeff Benjamin, Carlisle Borough.

Others Present via Zoom: Tim Potts; Robert Coyne.

Media: Zach Hoopes, The Sentinel.

Call to Order: Commissioner Eichelberger called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion to approve the July 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Foschi seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Topic of Discussion:

Letter of Grant Support for Central Penn College: Commissioner Eichelberger provided a brief overview of the previous discussions between Central Penn College and the Board of Commissioners.

Linda Fedrizzi, President of Central Penn College, explained that Central Penn College initiated the process to change from an 100% employee-owned ESOP to a non-profit organization in 2016. She provided an overview of the steps taken since then and explained how previous efforts to obtain funding for the transition have failed. She explained they are currently working to sell bonds through an underwriter and need to obtain three backstops prior to selling the bonds. She requested that Cumberland County provide \$1.4 Million for a reserve fund to show the underwriters they have obtained funds to back the non-profit during the first three years, starting in 2023. She clarified that the reserve funds would not be used unless the college fails to make lease payments and they need a commitment from Cumberland County in the form of a letter by September 15, 2021.

Commissioner Foschi asked questions regarding the details of the commitment along with clarification of previous communications received by the Board of Commissioners regarding this transition. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner DiFilippo expressed that he believes all three commissioners want to help Central Penn. He added that they would also want to help other colleges and universities in the County in any way possible. He asked if Central Penn would be agreeable to applying for ARP Funds. Shawn Farr expressed concern due to the restrictions of ARP Fund usage. Discussion ensued.

Solicitor Brenneman requested clarification of the timeline for this request and the remaining transition process. Shawn Farr replied they need the letter as soon as possible so they can submit it by September 15, 2021. Solicitor Brenneman expressed other concerns with the information he had received. Discussion ensued.

Shawn Farr shared that the college has been losing money due to declining enrollment and declining housing, which was worsened by the pandemic. Linda Fedrizzi explained that their sister institutions, which are non-profits, have received federal funding to help offset these losses. She continued to explain that Central Penn did not receive this federal funding and had to make cuts due to losses. She expressed that these financial struggles will only become more difficult in the long-term.

Commissioner Foschi expressed that she would be comfortable with Central Penn using ARP Funds and uncomfortable with using Cumberland County taxpayer funds. Commissioner DiFilippo agreed. Commissioner Eichelberger asked more questions relating to the use of ARP Funds, specifically regarding if the underwriters would accept the promise of such funds. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Eichelberger expressed that he personally feels that Central Penn should be more highly considered as a recipient of the ARP Funds since they have yet to receive other federal assistance. He indicated other alternatives may exist than using tax-payer funds. He asked for clarification on the economic impact data that pertains specifically to Cumberland County and suggested the college use this data to help obtain funding.

Other Business: None.

Adjourn: There being no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Foschi made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Smyser,
Administrative Specialist