# Warren County Commissioners Work Session Commissioners Conference Room October 25, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin called the Work Session of the Warren County Commissioners to order with Commissioner Tricia Durbin and Commissioner Jeff Eggleston present

Staff Present: Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk, Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director, and Phil Gilbert, Director of Tax Claim

Citizens Present: Missy Griffin, Jane Dunshie, and Karen Black

#### **Announcements:**

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin started the meeting by stating that the meeting will be recorded.

## **Public Hearings:**

#### **Public Comment:**

Karen Black stated that she, Missy Griffin, and Jane Dunshie are part of the Indivisible group. She stated that they are here today to discuss the declining of Commissioner Jeff Eggleston proposal to spend money on vaccine promotion.

Indivisible is made up mostly of the elderly, and those that have had it are shocked as to why this was turned down.

Any public institution, that can do anything, should take the time to do so.

Missy Griffin stated that she feels it is an excellent idea to spend \$22,000 or even \$15,000.00 to do this plan. She asked, why do you feel it is not important? We need a better explanation.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that for him it is an ethical decision; to spend \$22,000.00 on this plan when people have made up their minds already. Karen Black disagreed with this.

Missy Griffin asked why the medical person that his helping with various covid related issues be used to help inform people?

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that personally she feels the healthcare professionals should be putting the information out there; it would make it more credible. She then stated that she invited the newspaper to go talk with the medical professionals.

Missy Griffin then asked, why wouldn't be up to the County to provide the funds for the healthcare professionals to do more.

Karen Black stated, you do not need to be an expert to promote or educate people on the vaccine.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that if they feel so super supportive of the vaccine, they should spread the word.

Missy Griffin stated that with the commissioner's network capabilities, they can reach more than one person talking about it.

## **Old Items of Discussion:**

#### **New Items of Discussion:**

**Open Bids for the 2022 Tax Anticipation Note:** Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk stated that there were no bids received for the 2022 TAN, as we do not have our 2020 audited financials completed at this time and the banks are looking for that to be able to put this together.

Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director stated that the CPA's thought we would at least have a draft by the end of last week, but this did not happen.

Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk stated that we will need to go back out to bid once we have the audited financials to provide.

**Landbank Presentation:** Commissioner Jeff Eggleston and Phil Gilbert, Director of Tax Claim are both with the Redevelopment Authority, gave a presentation on Landbanks as they would like to see the RDA become a landbank.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston gave an overview of how landbanks work, and what the next steps would be. He stated that he is looking for affirmation from the county to move forward with making the RDA a landbank.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston then discussed the funding avenues such as using a dedicated amount of Act 13 funds each year for three years, along with the county allocating a certain amount over a three-year period, and using the \$15.00 fee that can be attached to each deed transfer.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that as far as the funding, she would agree it is a good use for Act 13, and if it is successful then move to the \$15.00 per deed transfer.

**Budget:** Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated a draft version was sent to the Commissioners for review. He stated that this should be a part of the next work session.

The timing of putting the budget out for public review was discussed with Commissioner Jeff Eggleston suggesting it be put out by November 22, 2021.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin suggested that an executive session be called, to discuss the personnel line items and union negotiating items that will affect the budget.

## **Projects:**

## **Upcoming Commissioner Meeting Review:**

The agenda for the October 27, 2021 public meeting was reviewed.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that he would like to do a small presentation of the Economic Development Statistics in the ten-county region over the past years; Penn State extension gave out some very interesting information.

#### **Department/Committee Updates**

Tax Claim: Phil Gilbert, Director of Tax Claim stated that he attended the Tax Claim conference and learned that there is a committee working on a web-based payment system for paying taxes.

#### Commissioner's Schedule

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that he will be out of the office on Friday,

## **General Discussion**

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston asked for a quick executive session to discuss a personnel item.

With nothing further, the work session was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Pamela J. Matve

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Chief Clerk