

Lewistown, PA

June 29, 2020

The Board of Mifflin County Commissioners met for a Special Meeting on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 9:03 a.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark Sunderland, Robert Postal and Kevin Kodish; Solicitor Stephen Snook, BMZ Law; Chief Clerk Cathy Romig and Assistant Chief Clerk Angela Shuey

Brian Cox of The Sentinel/County Observer was the only representative present from the news media.

Guests present: Planning Director Mark Colussy; Community Development Administrator Chastity Fultz; Jim Zubler; Nick Felice; Rhonda Moore; Roger Herto, MCTV

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Sunderland.

I. Invocation: *The Invocation was given by Commissioner Kodish.*

II. Pledge of Allegiance: *The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.*

III. New Business:

A. Resolution No. 43 of 2020 authorizing an application for the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Funds through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 43
OF THE MIFFLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR THE
COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE PA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Be it RESOLVED, that the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners requests a COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant of \$4,166,670 from the Department of Community and Economic Development to be used for COVID-19 pandemic relief.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners does hereby designate the Chairman of the Board of Mifflin County Commissioners as the official to execute all documents and agreements between Mifflin County and the Department of Community and Economic Development to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Mr. Colussy began by discussing the CARES Act issued by the Federal Government on March 27, 2020 and Act 24 of 2020 issued by the PA Government on May 29, 2020. Both Acts are designed to assist with COVID-19 pandemic responses. This Resolution will be supplied to DCED, who is the forwarding agency to the legislature on the county block grants. In our particular application for the block grant applied for by Mifflin County, there are several areas for which we can receive funds. Those areas are as follows: assistance for local businesses, supplying municipalities with personal protective equipment (PPE), providing benefits to non-profit agencies and deploying broadband to underserved and unserved areas in Mifflin County.

Commissioner Postal added that we did authorize the submission of the application at the last Commissioners' meeting. This part was not completed at that time because it hadn't been received.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve Resolution No. 43 of 2020 authorizing an application for the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Funds through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Jim Zubler – Small Business Grant Program

Mr. Zubler explained that the Small Business Grant Program is authorized through the Community Development Financial Institutions. It encompasses \$225 Million in CARES Act funds. Applications are available to any business in the county with fewer than 25 full-time employees and up to \$1,000,000 in total gross revenue. The amount awarded to eligible businesses ranges from \$5,000 to \$50,000. There are two points of contact in Mifflin County that can offer assistance with this program. They are the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC). Details of the program are still being worked out. There are also disadvantaged areas within the state where businesses that are applying are given additional consideration including those in Keystone Communities. The Borough of Lewistown, Derry Township and Granville Township fall into that category. He urged small businesses to apply. This is an online application that opens tomorrow and will last for 10 days. This is an important program to assist small businesses that have experienced losses during this time.

Commissioner Postal clarified that this is a statewide program. He encouraged Mifflin County small businesses to apply if they've experienced losses between March 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020. He suggested small businesses contact the Chamber of Commerce or MCIDC for specific information.

Commissioner Kodish also urged small businesses to apply as soon as possible given the short time-frame. He stressed that we want some of our county's businesses to get a share of the \$225 Million.

C. Nittany Media Contract

Commissioner Kodish explained that Mifflin County received a grant in 2002 for a fiber connection called the Mifflin County Municipal Area Network (MCMAN). Nittany Media built the fiber network. The original agreement was signed in December of 2002 for a 10-year period. The agreement called for mutual extensions after 2012. As it turned out, neither party brought it up, so the agreement just kept going until now. Nittany Media has approached the county and felt it necessary to have a new service agreement completed regarding the fiber. This network connects several organizations including Mifflin County High School, Lewistown Borough and Mifflin County. It's a network that provides connections for various reasons. Commissioner Kodish gave an example of how this connection can be used by stating there is equipment to be installed in the Courthouse that will allow the Public Safety Director to broadcast information on MCTV in the event of a natural disaster. This item will update the 2002 agreement with Nittany Media.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kodish to approve the Nittany Media Contract. Commissioner Postal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comment:

None to report.

V. Adjournment:

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Sunderland adjourned the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Secretary

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk