

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners was called to order today at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Erick J. Coolidge and Mark L. Hamilton. Also present was Derek Williams, Janice Chamberlain, Casey Zuchowski, and Kera Hackett. Members of the public included Deb Crawford, Amy Perry, Betsy Craig, Mindy Northrup, Mike Glazer and press representatives Nat Kennedy and Cheryl Clarke.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments – (agenda items)  
None

Minutes

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016.

Hire D.  
Heilbrun

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Derek Heilbrun, part-time Child Care Worker, Residential Treatment, \$10.02/hr., no benefits.

Hire A.  
Howard

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Anastacia Howard, part-time Child Care Worker, Residential Treatment, \$10.02/hr., no benefits.

Hire Z.  
Lousenslager

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Zachary Loudenslager, part-time Child Care Worker, Residential Treatment, \$10.02/hr., no benefits.

Resignation  
P. Bradley

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the resignation of Paula Bradley, Cook, Tioga County Prison, effective 2/16/16.

Resignation  
C. Stettler

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the resignation of Chrisanda Stettler, Child Care Worker, Residential, effective 2/4/16.

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Adopt  
Resolution  
R-5-16

#### **RESOLUTION R-5-16**

A resolution of the county of Tioga, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the General Assembly and Administration to restore funding for human services programs to historic levels, and to put mechanisms in place to assure any future budget impasse or budget delay does not become a burden on Tioga County and its constituents.

**WHEREAS**, counties are at the forefront for delivery of crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable individuals, such as child welfare and protective, mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse treatment, homeless assistance, meal programs, lottery funded transportation, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the capacity to meet critical service needs has been compromised by a steady decrease in state funding over the past decade, especially the drastic ten percent aggregate cut to the seven human services line items in FY 2012-2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Services Block Grant has provided much-needed flexibility for the 30 counties eligible to participate, but remains closed to the remaining 37 remaining counties; and

**WHEREAS**, new mandates and additional program requirements continue to be placed on counties in the face of decreasing state funds; and

**WHEREAS**, while the rebalancing initiative for child welfare services is portrayed as only an accounting change, the initiative shifts a full quarter of funds for mandated child protective services into the following budget year with no more than a promise of being made whole; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the six-month budget impasse in FY 2015-2016, counties and the providers with whom they contract were forced to make difficult decisions about remaining open and meeting clients' needs while state payments were withheld; and

**WHEREAS**, many counties tapped reserves, borrowed funds, reduced or suspended payments to vendors or subcontractors, limited staff travel, laid off or reduced hours of employees, among other strategies, to maintain their focus on service delivery and assure that clients felt no harm; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue providing services during the budget impasse, Tioga County was able to continue uninterrupted services and supplement providers with Act 13 funds and did not have to implement spend reserves, hiring freeze, limit staff travel, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Tioga County was able to avoid loss of revenue and incurred costs due to the benefit of Act 13; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County remains committed to the important role we play in delivery of services to our communities; and

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County stands ready to work in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania in support of counties' top priority for 2016, the commonwealth budget and human services funding; and

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County supports restoration of funding of the ten percent reductions to the seven key human services line items that occurred in FY 2012-2013, as without restoration to prior funding levels, all counties find it difficult to serve the state's most needy citizens; and

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County opposes "rebalancing" initiatives for child welfare services that will force counties to reduce funding by a quarter, reduce payments to providers, shorten contract periods, or use county property tax funds to cover the state's obligation until a future budget makes a true allocation; and

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County asks that state leaders continue to work with them to find ways to administer human services programs in a way that ensures both quality and efficiency, including expansion of the Human Services Block Grant to any willing and able county; and

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County will work in concert with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and state leaders to develop comprehensive solutions for any future budget impasse or delay to ensure that counties are never again put in a situation where they are forced to cover the state's funding obligations; and

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Tioga County legislative delegation, to Governor Wolf, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tioga, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2016.

Tioga County Board of Commissioners

Attest: /s/ Derek Williams

/s/ Erick J. Coolidge

/s/ Mark L. Hamilton

Use of Green for wedding

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green for the Brandy Hopkins/Michael Hirsh wedding on October 22, 2016.

Appoint J. Haase for DHS Adv Bd

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the reappointment of Jack Haase to the Tioga County Dept. of Human Services Advisory Board/Planning Council for a three-year term.

Agreement with SAM

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve an agreement between Service Access & Management, Inc. (SAM) and Tioga County, providing Management Oversight of the operation of Family Services, CORE Services and Fiscal Services within the Tioga County Dept. of Human Services. Term of agreement is 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2017. Fee for fiscal year 2015/2016: \$1,900,708. Fee for fiscal year 2016/2017: \$1,976,736. This agreement replaces the former agreement and subsequent addendums in place from 9/23/14 – 6/30/17 with the fee of \$3,059,651 per year.

Agreement with SAM

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve a Purchase of Service Agreement with Service Access & Management, Inc. (SAM), for the term 7/1/15 – 6/30/16, \$2,075,000, for the MH/DD/C&Y/D&A Programs.

Bid from Penoco for DHS asbestos abatement

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve a bid from Penoco, Inc. for asbestos abatement project at the Dept. of Human Services, \$8,188. Act 13.

5 DHS agreements

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Erick J. Coolidge and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve five agreements for the Dept. of Human Services. A listing is attached.

Public Comment –  
None

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Erick J. Coolidge

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Derek Williams

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark L. Hamilton