

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Participation in meeting is by telephone conference only.

**Public meetings are being held by conference call due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

Call to Order:

Commissioner Erb called the meeting to order.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

Commissioner Erb called for a moment of silent reflection.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Commissioner Erb requested that those participating in the meeting stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

Members Absent: Commissioner Webster.

Others Present: Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Jenn Sleppy and Sarah Chuff (Finance), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Mark Taylor (EMA/911E), Abbie Tate (Prison Warden), Amanda Moore (APO), Jim Hudack (Social Services), Sarah Seymour (Elections/Voters Registration), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Helen Schmitt (Public), Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Watchdog Group), AC Stickel (Controller), and Jim Pooler (Maintenance).

Upcoming Meetings:

May 5, 2021	9:00 a.m.	*Retirement Board
	10:30 a.m.	*Salary Board
May 6, 2021	8:30 a.m.	*Park and Recreation Advisory Bd. Mtg.
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session
	10:30 a.m.	*Special Salary Board
		CANCELLED
May 7, 2021		
May 10, 2021		
May 11, 2021	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 04/20/21 and 04/22/21:

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 04/20/21 and 04/22/21. **There were no corrections or changes notes.**

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment. **There were no comments noted.**

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Burke stated they only comment she had for the day was, “May the fourth be with you.”

Commissioner Erb stated that the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD) processed and distributed funds to the fifty-eight (58) COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) eligible applicants. He stated that all CHIRP funds were expended with the applications received.

Commissioner Erb extended thanks to ABCD Corporation for their assistance in administering the CHIRP application process.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #164-2021:

a. Payment of the following Warrant Lists listed below:

<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>WARRANT NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
5/4/2021	210504WW	\$193,203.62
5/4/2021	210504SS	\$588,466.94
5/4/2021	210504OD	\$420,419.99
5/4/2021	210504CY	\$132,599.72
5/4/2021	210504CO	\$18,771.50

b. Ratification of the following Warrant Lists listed below:

<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>WARRANT NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
4/30/2021	210430HR	\$19,147.96
4/28/2021	210428LP	\$116,992.34
4/27/2021	210427FS	\$3,233.55

c. **Victim Witness:** Requesting approval of one-1 Penn State Altoona Student Intern, Summer Socie, for the period of May 10, 2021 through July 30, 2021 (320 hours). Internship is for credit only and at no cost to the county.

d. **Employment:** Alyssa D. Detwiler, FT, Parole and Probation Officer, APO, \$13.20/hr., effective 05/03/21; Lou L. Kensinger, PT, Tipstaff, Court Administration, \$10.51/hr., effective 05/03/21; and Dianne R. Carmel, PT, Clerk Typist I, Prothonotary, \$10.51/hr., effective 05/03/21.

e. **Retirement:** Joseph P. Ickes, FT, Public Works, Welder, \$20.50, effective 04/30/21.

f. **Resignations:** Skylar A. Witchley, Shaun S. Hagerthey, Sr. and Dalton Musselman, Per Diem, Fill-In, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.08/hr., effective 04/10/21; 04/15/21; and 04/29/2021 respectively.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #164-2021.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Weekly COVID-19 Update:

Mark Taylor stated that Blair County has shown slight improvement in the number of new COVID patients over the past week. He stated that there has been three-hundred-fifty-one (351) new cases or an average of fifty (50) new cases per day. The number of patients hospitalized has been as high as fifty (50) with an average of forty-two (42) per day. Most of the patients hospitalized are in ICU and hospitals are reporting younger patients being admitted. None of the patients hospitalized have been vaccinated. The number of deaths increased by four (4) over the past week.

Mr. Taylor stated that 42,539 Blair County residents have received at least one (1) vaccine, which is 2,500 more than the previous week. He stated that this number reflects only 41% of Blair County residents.

Mr. Taylor stated that there is ample vaccine available for those who wish to get the vaccine. He strongly encourages everyone to schedule an appointment time to be vaccinated.

Discussion followed.

Prison:

Abbie Tate requested approval of an Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Prison and West, a Thomson Reuters Business, for software and access to the Westlaw website for a thirty-six (36) month period, in the monthly amount of \$2,650.15 for the first 12 months; monthly charges for the second 12 months will be 3% over the first 12 months; and monthly charges for the third 12 months will be 3% over the second 12 months.

Warden Tate stated that Solicitor Karn has reviewed the agreement and the requested changes have been made to the agreement.

Discussion followed.

Adult Parole and Probation:

- a. Amanda Moore requested approval of a FY 2020/2021 Subgrant 2020-GA-ST-35765 Grant-in-Aid Agreement between the County of Blair, Adult Parole and Probation and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, in the total amount of \$70,288.00, for the period of 07/01/2020 through 06/30/2021.

Ms. Moore stated that the grant award amount is similar to the amount received during the previous grant period.

Discussion followed.

- b. Amanda Moore requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Blair County Adult Parole and Probation and Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies-ReSTART Re-entry Program (Goodwill), outlining the responsibilities of the collaborative relationship to work together to improve services for offenders being released from the Blair County Prison. Terms of said MOU are conditional based on available funding for the program during the period of time beginning October 1, 2021 and lasting thirty-six (36) months.

Commissioner Erb stated that the MOU is essentially the same as the MOU recently approved between the Prison and Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies-ReSTART Re-entry Program (Goodwill).

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that there is no cost to the county associated with the MOU.

Discussion followed.

Social Services:

Jim Hudack requested approval for submission of the FY 2019/2020 Human Services Block Grant Revised Retained Earnings Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, transferring funds in the amount of \$10,000.00, from the Summer Employment Program to the Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program CRS-ED Warm Hand Off Program.

Mr. Hudack stated that \$10,000.00 was allocated for the Summer Employment Program; however, due to COVID-19 the participating schools and providers are apprehensive to operate the program this year.

Mr. Hudack stated that due to COVID-19 Blair County Drug and Alcohol has seen an increase in substance abuse use. He stated that because of this increase there is a need for additional funding for the CRS-ED Warm Hand Off Program.

Mr. Hudack requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the Summer Employment Program to the Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program CRS-Warm Hand Off Program.

Discussion followed.

Children and Youth:

Jim Hudack requested approval of a Letter of Support for Blair County Children, Youth and Families (CYF) employee, Karen Bonanno, to participate part-time in the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program through Edinboro University beginning in August 2021.

Mr. Hudack stated that Karn Bonanno, a CYF employee is interested in pursuing graduate professional education through the Child Welfare Education for Leadership Program (CWEL) on a part-time basis through Edinboro University beginning in August 2021. He stated that CWEL will not consider her application until they have received a letter of approval from the county.

Mr. Hudack stated that an adopted Resolution would serve as the Letter of Support. He stated that once she is accepted into the program all parties would enter into a formal agreement.

Discussion followed.

Elections/Voter Registration:

Sarah Seymour requested approval of a County of Blair Agreement for Professional Services/Under Bidding Requirements between the County of Blair on behalf of the Board of Elections and Election Systems & Software, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, for coding the 2021 Municipal Primary Election Ballot and nine-9 days of onsite support, in the total amount of \$80,230.45.

Ms. Seymour stated that the amount is included in the 2021 budget.

Discussion followed.

Fort Roberdeau:

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested Authorization to Advertise for Fort Roberdeau Site Improvements.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that Keller Engineers has prepared bid documents for the Fort Roberdeau Site Improvement Program and have requested authorization to advertise for bids.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #165-2021: A resolution approving Authorization for Keller Engineers, Inc. to Advertise for bids for the Fort Roberdeau Site Improvement Project.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #165-2021.

Commissioner's Office:

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested approval of a Resolution for Attorney Patrick Fanelli to act as conflict counsel at the Request of the Board of Commissioners our standard municipal rate, which is \$135 per hour for general solicitor work and a specialized municipal rate of \$165 per hour for special services relating to labor matters, litigation, etc.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that services would be need by Attorney Fanelli when there would be a conflict of counsel by either Solicitor Karn or Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Discussion followed.

YouTube:

Solicitor Karn provided discussion concerning the start of a YouTube channel to link to our County website for the public's viewing of election related resource videos.

Solicitor Karn stated that in order to provide a source of instruction on various voting matters not only for election poll workers but for the general public, the county would like to start a YouTube Channel to link the county's website for public viewing of prepared election related resource videos.

Solicitor Karn stated that he has currently prepared two (2) videos; one on how to complete the provisional ballot; and one of what to expect when you arrive at the polling place.

Solicitor Karn stated that he anticipates providing additional instructional videos relating to election/voter registration matters.

Commissioner Burke asked if there was the possibility of including subtitles to the videos for those without speakers. Chief Clerk Hemminger responded, that yes, this is a possibility for future videos that may be made.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #166-2021: A resolution approving the start of a YouTube channel to link to our County website for the public's viewing of election related resource videos.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #166-2021.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk