

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioner's Meeting Room, Basement.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by conference call. 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 those participating in the meeting to please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster, and Chief Clerk Hemminger.

Members Absent:

Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Sarah Seymour (Elections/Voter Registration), Cati Keith (Altoona Mirror), AC Stickel (Controller), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Brandon Meck and Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Scott Schultz (Court Administration), Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioner's Office).

Public Comment:

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

CCAP 2022 PRIORITIES TOOLKIT:

Promote Election Integrity – All three-3 Commissioner's

Commissioner Webster – Election Integrity:

I have been contacted by Blair County citizens who have grave concerns about the integrity of our recent elections in Pennsylvania. I don't blame them; I am concerned, too. Here in BC take extra precautions to avoid any impropriety. I commend Sarah Seymour and her staff and the dedicated judges of elections, poll workers, and other election officials who diligently implement our procedures. Our Elections and Voter Registrations offices search out information to identify and remove voters who have moved, have become inactive, and those are deceased, from our voting rolls. During the ballot tabulation of an election cycle, we have several layers of checks and re-checks to insure the authenticity of a voter and his or her ballot. However, we have seen cases of questionable activities in other areas of PA.

Act 77 was rushed into implementation for the 2020 election cycle. The directives of the PA appellate courts and the Department of State were frequently inconsistent, legally questionable, and otherwise problematic. The County Comm'rs Assn of PA mobilized after that cycle and requested clarifications and changes, but none were forthcoming. The timelines for allowing people to register to vote allowed people to register on election day, giving almost no opportunity to check the applicants' credentials, see if they were registered elsewhere, or follow reasonable protocols. There were reports of ballots found in dumpsters, registration of ineligible people, people submitting multiple ballots, ballots appearing after the deadline for the election, and other questionable activities in other counties. There were drop boxes placed throughout various PA counties. I have watched the documentary "2000 Mules", and saw instances of numerous people stuffing multiple envelopes into drop boxes, then going to several other drop boxes and doing the same thing. There is video evidence of this in Philadelphia, recorded by nearby security cameras. Those allegations were not satisfactorily answered, and therefore, doubts continue to exist as to the accuracy of valid vote counts for the election of 2020. This is a huge concern for CCAP and the county commissioners throughout the commonwealth.

As a result of the reports and alleged activities, many Pennsylvanians believe that there was widespread fraud during the election of 2020 in our major cities. The inconsistencies and frequent changes in the procedures as dictated by the Department of State and of the appellate courts allowed for careless handling of ballots and questionable protocols. The higher levels of government have largely ignored the requests by the people to investigate these concerns and provide answers and believable assurances. The integrity of elections must be restored. If it is not, this nation will be torn apart by distrust.

An example of the inconsistencies in accepting and counting certain ballots is demonstrated in the issue of the requirement for a date and signature on the outside mailing envelope in which ballots are returned to the counties. The law requires that the outside envelope which contains the ballot in a secrecy envelope must be signed and dated by the voter. We examine every envelope, and here in Blair County, we segregated those envelopes which were not signed or dated, and kept them separate to show why they were not counted. However, in the primary election of 2022, that protocol was challenged, and after litigation through PA and federal courts, those un-signed and un-dated ballots were ordered to be accepted and counted, in contradiction to PA law.

When counties raised concerns about how to implement the changes brought by Act 77, DOS suggested that we create larger spaces for the offices and buy new machinery and equipment. Some counties had the resources to implement those investments. We in BC do not, although we did use a small portion of our CARES funds and another grant to move and secure the election and voter offices, without spending taxpayers' general fund dollars.

CCAP supports changes and clarifications to Act 77. I support the repeal of Act 77, and a return to the reasonable laws and regulations that served PA well throughout our 200+ year history. Luzerne County has adopted a Resolution to urge the PA Legislators to repeal Act 77. I urge my fellow commissioners to join me in adopting such a resolution

here, and in contacting our state representatives to ask for their support in this repeal. As county commissioners, elections are one of our primary responsibilities. Unfortunately, the interference, inconsistencies, and questionable practices permitted by the DOS have caused reasonable and justified concern among PA voters regarding the integrity and accuracy of our elections going back to 2020. This issue is of such importance that the CCAP is seeking either a repeal of Act 77 or action to correct and change the practices that have allowed for fraudulent activities. Counties expect to be a part of establishing rules and protocols that will be used consistently and correctly in our elections. I urge the commissioners of all counties to join in seeking the repeal of Act 77, and suggest that all citizens contact their state congressmen and senators to ask the same.

Commissioner Erb - Election Integrity:

I'm going to address this CCAP legislative priority from a different perspective. The Commonwealth established the Election Law Advisory Board under Act 12 of 2020.

I was honored to be appointed to the 22-member board along with 6 other county commissioners. The board is multi-partisan and geographically diverse.

The board's chief responsibilities are to evaluate and make recommendations on improving the electoral process in the Commonwealth by amending the election law and implementing best practices identified to ensure the integrity and efficiency of the electoral process.

We meet under the auspices of the Joint State Government Commission which last week released our annual report to the legislature.

These are the recommendations that the board made in our report which in many cases parallel CCAP's efforts.

- 1. As highlighted in last year's report, the board recommends that county election boards be permitted to pre-canvass mail-in ballots beginning 14 days prior to the election. The board also discussed the request by counties to move back the deadline for mail-in ballots to 15 days prior to an election to allow sufficient time to process the applications and for the ballots to be mailed from the county to the voter and back again. However, there was not consensus resulting in no recommendation on this one.*
- 2. Updating Pennsylvania's election law to provide for the use of national databases to ensure that the Commonwealth's statewide voter registration system is up to date. Specifically, additional sources that verify when a voter is deceased should be available to maintain voter registration lists.*
- 3. Pennsylvania's current voter identification law has been held to be unconstitutional in parts. Amendments to codify the constitutional requirements and repeal the unconstitutional ones would add clarity to the law. The board will continue discussion on other voter ID recommendations at our next meeting.*
- 4. The board is recommending additional election official and poll worker training in light of the many changes to Pennsylvania's election laws over the past few years. We believe that this is best accomplished by a collaborative effort by the Department of State, county commissioners, and county election directors.*

Commissioner Burke – Election Integrity:

In my experience all elections officials across the Commonwealth take their jobs as seriously as we do locally. It is not helpful to spread misinformation about election fraud without facts to back it up. A big part of the problem when it comes to increasing distrust of the election system is social media. When people see posts about experiences at the polls that differ from what they personally experienced they start to wonder. One solution is increased training and clarifying ambiguous areas of the election code so that things are more standardized. It is hard to attract poll workers. There is a maximum amount of pay that we are allowed to give them statutorily which is still not enough for what is a very long day. A lot of our poll workers are elderly and it is hard for them to put in these long days and keep up with all the changes that are continually being thrown at them. The past several elections we have received directives and court orders while we were processing votes. We need the state to eliminate the ambiguities in the law and give us clear directions on what to do. That alone, will increase confidence in the system. Another big issue is the short time frame between the last day to request a mail in and Election Day. If this were longer the elections office would have enough time to process these requests and make sure the ballots are received and sent back by Election Day and we would have fewer issues with questions over whether certain ballots should be counted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 229-2022 – A resolution approving a renewal agreement between the County of Blair on behalf of the District Attorney's Office and Karpel Solutions for continued use of the software program known as PROSECUTORbyKarpel® hosted through HOSTEDbyKarpel®, a hosting service provided by Karpel Solutions, in the total annual amount of \$23,000.00, for the period of 07/01/22 through 06/30/23.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 229-2022.

Resolution 230-2022: A resolution approving a Customer Support Agreement between the County of Blair on behalf of the District Attorney's Office and Informant Technologies for premium support level licensed software, in the total annual amount of \$1,395.00, for the period of 08/01/22 through 07/31/23.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 230-2022.

Resolution 231-2022: A resolution approving three-3 FY 22/23 renewal Purchase of Service Agreements for Intellectual Disabilities between the County of Blair and the individuals listed below for the period of 07/01/22 through 06/30/23:

- MaryAnn Joyce Bistline
- Erik Messner
- Richard Petroski, PhD

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 231-2022.

Resolution 232-2022: A resolution approving thirteen-13 FY 22/23 renewal Purchase of Service Agreements for Intellectual Disabilities between the County of Blair and the agencies listed below for the period of 07/01/22 through 06/30/23:

- Care Smart Solutions, Inc.
- Community Resources for Independence
- Contact Altoona
- Family Services, Inc.
- Ganister Station
- Shawn McGill MSW Consulting
- North Star Services, Inc.
- Lisa Phipps
- Saint Francis University
- Service Access & Management, Inc.
- Skills of Central PA, Inc.
- UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies
- Denise Vanacore CRNP

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 232-2022.

Resolution 233-2022: A resolution approving one-1 FY 22/23 Purchase of Service Agreement for Early Intervention Services between the County of Blair and North Central Sight Services, Inc. for the period of 07/01/22 through 06/30/23.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 233-2022.

Resolution 234-2022: A resolution approving twelve-12 FY 22/23 renewal Purchase of Service Agreements for Early Intervention Services between the County of Blair and the agencies listed below for the period of 07/01/22 through 06/30/23:

- Appalachia Intermediate Unit 08
- Bauer's All about Kids, LLC
- Creative Solutions Therapy, LLC
- C & S Contract Speech Language Pathology Services, Inc.
- Kids First Affiliated Services
- Milestone Physical Therapy
- Alyssa Neil
- North Star Services, Inc.
- ProCare PT, LP
- Kerri Sassano
- Therapeutic Early Intervention Services d/b/a Teis Early Intervention Provider
- UPMC Home Care Management Services d/b/a Home Nursing Community Services

Commissioner Erb noted his abstention on voting on the UPMC Home Care Management Services d/b/a Home Nursing Community Services Agreement due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 234-2022 with the abstention as noted.

Resolution 235-2022: A resolution approving a Donation Agreement by and between the County of Blair on behalf of Fort Roberdeau and Richard C. Sutter for a \$15,000.00 donation from Mr. Sutter for the Powder Magazine restoration project. Said project is to be completed by the county on or before December 31, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 235-2022.

Resolution 236-2022: A resolution approving authorization to sign the conditional award letter received from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority (PHFA) to accept funds through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund authorized under Act 10 of 2010 and the Marcellus Shale Impact Fee Act (Act 13 of 2012) to support the following projects/programs/activities within Blair County:

- \$30,000.00 Blair County Re-Entry Program
- \$40,000.00 Blair County Housing Assistance Program

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 236-2022.

Resolution 237-2022: A resolution approving four-4 Maintenance Renewal Exhibit A's for Work Order No. 1 under the Master Service Agreement dated 08/04/21 between the County of Blair and KeyMark, for Total OnBase Support for the period of 08/01/22 through 07/31/23, as listed below:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Prothonotary | \$ 655.55 |
| 2. | Prothonotary | \$7,323.94 |
| 3. | Records Management Maintenance | \$1,056.00 |
| 4. | Tax Claim Maintenance | \$ 112.00 |

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 237-2022.

Resolution 238-2022: A resolution approving payment of the Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI) fee established by Health Care Reform to support clinical effectiveness research, for plan year ending 03/31/22, in the total amount of \$1,790.18.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 238-2022.

Resolution 239-2022: A resolution approving to rescind the License and Services Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Emergency Services/911E and Rave Mobility Safety dated 04/08/21 for the implementation of the Smart 911 Operating System, and replace it with a License and Services Agreement with Rave Mobility Safety retroactively to 3/22/21 by changing the initial term **From** 03/22/21 to 03/21/22, in the total annual amount of \$32,100.00 **To** an initial term of 03/22/21 to 03/21/24, in the total annual amount of \$28,500.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 239-2022.

Resolution 240-2022: A resolution approving ratification of the submission of a grant sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) for a County Criminal Justice Advisory Board Technical Assistance and Training Grant, in the amount of \$1,260.00.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 240-2022.

Resolution 241-2022: A resolution approving the acceptance of a Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Technical Assistance and Training Grant Award, in the amount of \$1,260.00.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 241-2022.

Resolution 242-2022: A resolution approving ratification of facilitator services provided by Dr. Kevin J. Sensenig (Interaction Dynamics Group) to the Blair County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in the amount of \$1,260.00.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 242-2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

Prison:

Requesting approval of a Laundry Dispensing Equipment Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Prison and Janitors Supply Inc. Laundry Dispensing Equipment is being supplied without charge, solely for use with Janitors Supply Co. Inc. with Spartan Chemicals for a 4-year period good through 07/31/26. Laundry chemical pricing is listed on Exhibit A-quote. Should the county discontinue use of Janitors Supply Company Inc. and/or Spartan Chemical products the county agrees to purchase the dispensers for \$6,500.00.

No discussion or action taken.

Natural Gas Pricing:

Continued discussion concerning contract options, pricing and recommendations for the county's Natural Gas Suppliers.

Current 2.813 blended rate

Contract Term	05/25/22	06/21/22	06/29/22
12 months	7.320	5.85	5.87
24 months	6.050	5.37	5.30
36 months	5.450	5.20	5.09
42 months	n/a	n/a	n/a
48 months	n/a	n/a	n/a

The following updated pricing was provided as of 06/29/22:

- 12 months 5.87
- 24 months 5.30
- 36 months 5.09

No action was taken. Item will be moved to the agenda of 7/5/22 for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk