

B. Blair County Bridge #82/Monastery Road/Blair Township:

- a. Requesting approval of a six (6) month contract time extension from January 30, 2021 until July 30, 2021, for the completion of Part 1, Preliminary Engineering Services, to coincide with the approved design schedule.
- b. Requesting approval for Notice to Proceed for Part 2, Final Design, for the Superstructure Replacement Project, twelve (12) month duration, with anticipated Let Date of December 9, 2021.

C. Finance/Elections:

Requesting approval for submission of the final invoice, in the amount of \$39,245.75, to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation for the Help America Vote Act, Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Grant Program (HAVA CARES Grant).

D. IT Department:

Requesting approval of a renewal Comodo Endpoint Protection Antivirus/Antimalware Software Licensing Agreement for five-hundred-twenty-five (525) devices, in the total amount of \$17,937.50, for a period of three (3) years.

E. Veterans' Affairs:

Requesting approval for the submission of a FY 2020/2021 Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Veterans' Trust Fund, in the requested amount of \$8,176.00, matching funds in the amount of \$1,348.00, for a total project amount of \$9,524.00 for the Veteran's Operation Outreach Project, for the period of June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022; and authorization for Veterans' Affairs Director, Craig Swineford to sign and submit the grant application on behalf of the county.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

12. **ADJOURN**

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021, 10:00 A.M.:

Location: Participation by telephone conference only.

**Public meetings are being held by conference call while the county is under the Governor's Green Phase of reopening. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

Call to Order:

With Commissioner Erb's absence, Commissioner Burke called the meeting to order.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

Commissioner Burke called for a moment of silent reflection.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Commissioner Burke requested that 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, Chief Clerk Hemminger, and Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Scott Simmons and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Jenn Sleppy and Sarah Chuff (Finance), Angela Wagner (Controller's Office), Mark Taylor (911/E), Brian Wiser (Keller Engineers), Don Weakland (IT), Craig Swineford (Veterans' Affairs), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Rocky Greenland and Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Helen Schmitt (Public), Sarah Seymour (Elections/Voters Registration), Katie Greenleaf-Martin (Library System), and Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog Group).

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, January 27, 2021	3:00 p.m.	Blair HealthChoices Board (Contact office for mtg. info.)
Thursday, January 28, 2021	8:30 a.m.	Blair Planning Commission (Contact office for mtg. info.)
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session
	11:30 a.m.	Blair Senior Services Board (Contact office for mtg. info.)
Friday, January 29, 2021		
Monday, February 1, 2021		
Tuesday, February 2, 2021	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session

Approval of Minutes: January 12 and 14, 2021.

Commissioner Burke called for corrections or changes to the minutes of January 12 and 14, 2021. **There were no corrections or changes noted.**

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

Public Comment:

Kay Stephens asked for the reasoning to the Consent Agenda request for an amendment to Resolution 479-2020, changing the total amount of the proposal received from Empire Communications from \$25,793.00 to \$15,948.00.

Carol Dannenberg asked if the board ever considered making options available for members of the public to view virtual public meetings rather than just having phone participation.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb joined the meeting and called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Webster reminded everyone to remain safe in his or her travels today with the snow, sleet and ice forecast predicted for the day.

Commissioner Burke reminded everyone of the importance of remaining diligent in the taking of all necessary precautions to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. She stated that even though Blair County's numbers have shown a slight decrease over the past several weeks she stated that now is not the time to become complacent with mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, etc.

Commissioner Erb echoed Commissioner Webster and Burke's comments.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #018-2021:

- a. Payment of the following three-3 Warrant Lists listed below:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01-26-2021	210126WW	\$305,398.61
01-26-2021	210126CY	\$2,697.66
01-26-2021	210126SS	\$387,544.21

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- **2017 Project Fund/Bond/Parking Garage Stair Tower Repairs:** Keller Engineers, Inc., in the total amount of \$366.24.

- b. Ratification of the following two-2 Warrant Lists listed below:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01-15-2021	210115HR	\$11,449.26
01-19-2021	210119FS	\$1,966.87

- c. **Blair County Library System Board:** Requesting approval for the reappointments of Nina Ormsby, Tobias Nagle and Maryann Joyce Bistline for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024.
- d. **Blair County Highway:** Requesting approval of an amendment to Resolution 479-2020, dated November 18, 2020, changing the total amount of the proposal received from Empire Communications for the installation/configuration of equipment necessary to provide up to 5G of cellular service to the highway/elections office at the Blair County Highway Yard, from \$25,793.00 to \$15,948.00, with 50% due upon receipt of purchase order and the remaining balance due at project completion.
- e. **Employment:** Amy L. Claar, FT, Administrative Clerk, DA's Office, \$10.51/hr., effective 01/25/2021; Collene P. Zeak, PT, Courtroom Deputy, Prothonotary, \$10.51/hr., effective 01/25/2021.
- f. **Terminations:** Robert E. O'Donald, FT, Sheriff's Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.39/hr., effective 01/15/2021.
- g. **Resignations:** Olivia R. Myers, FT, Caseworker I, CYF, \$30,381.00/yr., effective 01/22/2021.
- h. **Furlough:** Kathy M. Bleicher, PT, Tipstaff, Court Administration, effective 01/11/2021; David A. Brown, Robin Moore, Patricia D. Wolf, Michelle L. Burket, Edward M. Drzewiecki, Anita Michelow, and Gary F. Sicola, PT, Probation Officer Support, \$10.56/hr., effective 11/25/2020.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #018-2021.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS

Weekly COVID-19 Update:

Mark Taylor stated that he was sad to report that the county added an additional twenty-three (23) COVID related deaths raising the total number of deaths to two-hundred-thirty-seven (237). Mr. Taylor stated that there were one-hundred-forty-eight (148) less cases since his update last Tuesday, with a positivity rate decrease to 10%, a decrease in the number of COVID related hospitalizations and a decrease in the number of ICU patients.

Mr. Taylor stated that he agrees with Commissioner Burke's prior comments stating that now is not the time to become complacent with mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing/sanitizing, etc.

Mr. Taylor stated that COVID-19 testing would be conducted at the Blair County Convention Center, February 5 through February 9, 9 am to 6 pm. He strongly encouraged everyone be tested even if not experiencing symptoms.

Mr. Taylor stated that to date over 4,000 individuals have been vaccinated. CVS Pharmacy continues to vaccinate residents and staff of long-term facilities. Hospitals continue their efforts in administering vaccine to all employees and healthcare staff. As more vaccine becomes available, many hospitals are making clinics available for administering vaccine to others in the 1A group. This group includes those over the age of 65 and others with pre-existing health conditions. He stated that this added 3.5 million Pennsylvanian's to the 1A group.

Mr. Taylor stated that the following pharmacies were added to the list to receive and administer vaccine: Thompson's Pharmacy, Weis, Giant Eagle and Altoona Community Health. However, the number of vaccines available is no way near the number of vaccines needed.

Mr. Taylor stated that Blair County receives 143,000 vaccine doses per week, with 32% of those doses dedicated to long-term care use. He stated there is no indication suggesting that this number will be increased.

Mr. Taylor recommended that individuals wanting the vaccine keep in contact with their primary care physician and their local pharmacy. He also recommended getting on an available wait list to receive a vaccine when it becomes available.

Blair County Bridge #70/South Poplar Run/Greenfield Township:

Brian Wisner requested approval of a nine (9) month contract time extension from January 30, 2021 until October 30, 2021, for the completion of Part 5, Preliminary Engineering Services, to coincide with the approved design schedule.

Mr. Wisner stated that the time extension would allow adequate time to complete the waterway permitting, right-of-way and design field view, which are scheduled for completion later this year.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #20-2021: A resolution approving a nine (9) month contract time extension from January 30, 2021 until October 30, 2021, for the completion of Part 5, Preliminary Engineering Services, to coincide with the approved design schedule.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #20-2021.

Blair County Bridge #82/Monastery Road/Blair Township:

- a. Brian Wisner requested approval of a six (6) month contract time extension from January 30, 2021 until July 30, 2021, for the completion of Part 1, Preliminary Engineering Services, to coincide with the approved design schedule.

Mr. Wisner stated that the time extension would allow adequate time to address PennDOT and the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) comments on waterway permitting, right-of-way and design field view.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #21-2021: A resolution approving a six (6) month contract time extension from January 30, 2021 until July 30, 2021, for the completion of Part 1, Preliminary Engineering Services, to coincide with the approved design schedule.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #21-2021.

- b. Brian Wisner requested approval for Notice to Proceed for Part 2, Final Design, for the Superstructure Replacement Project, twelve (12) month duration, with anticipated Let Date of December 9, 2021.

Mr. Wisner stated that the contract for this project has a twelve (12) month duration with a tentative Let Date of December 9, 2021.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #22-2021: A resolution approving Notice to Proceed for Part 2, Final Design, for the Superstructure Replacement Project, twelve (12) month duration, with anticipated Let Date of December 9, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #22-2021.

Finance/Elections:

Jennifer Sleppy requested approval for submission of the final invoice, in the amount of \$39,245.75, to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation for the Help America Vote Act, Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Grant Program (HAVA CARES Grant).

Mrs. Sleppy stated that the final invoice submission is for expenses associated with the November 2020 election.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #24-2021: A resolution approving submission of the final invoice, in the amount of \$39,245.75, to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation for the Help America Vote Act, Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Grant Program (HAVA CARES Grant).

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #24-2021.

IT Department:

Don Weakland requested approval of a renewal Comodo Endpoint Protection Antivirus/Antimalware Software Licensing Agreement for five-hundred-twenty-five (525) devices, in the total amount of \$17,937.50, for a period of three (3) years.

Mr. Weakland stated that since submission of this item for agenda placement, he has since been able to negotiate a new total amount for the licensing agreement. He stated that the total amount decreased from \$17,937.50 to \$15,750.00, for a period of three (3) years.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #19-2021: A resolution approving a renewal Comodo Endpoint Protection Antivirus/Antimalware Software Licensing Agreement for five-hundred-twenty-five (525) devices, in the total amount of \$15,750.00, for a period of three (3) years.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #19-2021.

Veterans' Affairs:

Craig Swineford requested approval for the submission of a FY 2020/2021 Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Veterans' Trust Fund, in the requested amount of \$8,176.00, matching funds in the amount of \$1,348.00, for a total project amount of \$9,524.00 for the Veteran's Operation Outreach Project, for the period of June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022; and authorization for Veterans' Affairs Director, Craig Swineford to sign and submit the grant application on behalf of the county.

Mr. Swineford stated that awarded grant funding would be used to purchase portable equipment necessary to work at an offsite location just as they do in the Veterans' Affairs physical office at the courthouse. He stated the Veterans' Affairs office would try to reach at least two (2) veterans per month at an offsite location making it easier for those veterans who are unable to visit the Veterans' Affairs office within the courthouse due physical inability to come into the courthouse office.

Mr. Swineford stated that the Veterans' Affairs Office would collaborate with public libraries, VFW Posts and American Legions in Blair County to provide an accessible location to meet with veterans and their family's offsite.

Mr. Swineford stated that grant funds would also be used to purchase Photo ID Card making equipment; something that the Veterans' Affairs office currently does not have.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #23-2021: A resolution approving the submission of a FY 2020/2021 Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Veterans' Trust Fund, in the requested amount of \$8,176.00, matching funds in the amount of \$1,348.00, for a total project amount of \$9,524.00 for the Veteran's Operation Outreach Project, for the period of June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022; and authorization for Veterans' Affairs Director, Craig Swineford to sign and submit the grant application on behalf of the county.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #23-2021.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,