

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners 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 that those participating in the meeting please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Webster and Chief Clerk Hemminger.

Members Absent:

Commissioner Burke, Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Jim Pooler (Public Works/Building Maintenance), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), and Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing).

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: 05/23/23, 05/25/23, 05/30/23 and 06/01/23

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 05/23/23, 05/25/23, 05/30/23 and 06/01/23. **There were no corrections or changes noted.**

Motion by Commissioner Webster, 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.**

CCAP 2023 COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRIORITY:

Broadband Access and Development

Commissioner Webster provided the following overview of the CCAP 2023 County Government Priority on Broadband Access and Development:

“Pennsylvania’s future will largely be shaped by properly addressing the expansion of broadband within the Commonwealth. Currently, the challenges that we face are preventing residents and businesses from accessing information, medical help, economic opportunities, and other vital issues and services that should be readily available. It is, therefore, a priority of CCAP and of the Blair County Board of Commissioners that we continue to work with the state and federal governments and with community partners to provide the infrastructure and availability for all of our people to have access to affordable and reliable internet connections.

As technology has exploded, almost all aspects of our lives—emergency services, business, health care, and education, for example—have become dependent upon the use of the internet. In particular, we see that the pandemic has broadened use of the internet in all these areas. In order to be competitive in attracting new business, new residents, and new opportunities to the area, we need to have a robust internet available. Here in Blair County, we still have areas that are unserved or underserved.

CCAP supports collaboration with federal, state, local, and private entities to develop broadband expansion, so that we have the maximum resources available. Blair County has joined with surrounding counties with similar accessibility issues to plan and create a network that will serve us well into the future.

CCAP supports identifying funding sources to support the network. Blair County is seeking funding through the collaborative that we are developing with our neighboring counties.

CCAP’s recommendations are all about collaboration. This is an enormous project, and will only be feasible if we continue to work together with our neighboring counties to fund broadband expansion by obtaining and efficiently using all the grant opportunities available to us. Not only do we need to address these immediate needs, but we also must plan for future expansion and upgrades so that Blair County is not left behind as other areas continue to advance.

To date, Blair County has committed \$50,000 towards the study that will determine how to proceed and what projects would be viable, in cooperation with Bedford, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties. The 1st phase of the project includes installing new and additional equipment to existing towers to provide internet to approximately 1,675 properties. The next phase could include constructing some additional towers, if that would be an effective use of funds. The ultimate goal is to create the fiber network infrastructure.

The goal is to make sure every Pennsylvanian has access to reliable, affordable, and robust internet service. This is particularly important in Blair County, where topography and sparse population do not make installation of internet an attractive endeavor for most of the big, nationwide internet providers.

Blair County cannot do this alone. We need the financial support of the state and federal governments. Broadband expansion is of upmost importance for economic growth, and will give us the ability to compete for businesses and jobs”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 268-2023: Approving the FY 22/23 contract between the County of Blair and Center for Community Action, in the amount of \$5,952,646.65 with a maximum amount of \$5,980,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 268-2023.

Resolution 269-2023: Approving a FY 2022/2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, Adult Drug Court and DUI Treatment Court and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) for the acceptance of AOPC Discretionary Grant Funds, in the total amount of \$5,194.00, for the Blair County Adult Drug Court, and in the total amount of \$4,044.00 for the Blair County DUI Treatment Court.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 269-2023.

Resolution 270-2023: Approving an Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Emergency Services and ComPros, in the total amount of \$165,522.25 for 2022/2023 upgrades to Blair County 911 EIM/SMS Services that included the CDR Parts and labor for migration to the State of Pennsylvania. Paid with Statewide Interconnectivity grant funds.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 270-2023.

Resolution 271-2023: Approving a FY 22/23 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and Kids First Affiliated Services LLC for coordination of services for the Healthy Families America (HFA) evidence-based home visiting program.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 271-2023.

Resolution 272-2023: Approving a FY 22/23 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and Kids First Affiliated Services LLC, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 272-2023.

Resolution 273-2023: Approving an Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Thomas K. Hooper, Esq., an attorney with BMZ Law P.C., Hollidaysburg, PA for guardian ad litem services, in the monthly amount of \$2,100.00, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 273-2023.

Resolution 274-2023: Approving a FY 22/23 Purchase of Service Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Evey Black Attorneys LLC, Hollidaysburg, PA for consultative and court appearance legal representation, at the hourly rate of \$120.00/per hour for the provision of services indicated in paragraph 1 of said agreement, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 274-2023.

Resolution 275-2023: Approving the award of bid for the Blair County Prison Security Upgrade Project to Montgomery Technology Systems, LLC, the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, in the total bid amount of \$1,376,900.00.

Chief Clerk stated that there is between \$1.2M to \$1.3M dollars available in 2017 Bond Funds to allocate for the Prison Security Upgrade Project.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 275-2023.

Resolution 276-2023: Approving a Service Contract between the County of Blair, Blair County Prison and Valley Proteins, Inc., to service the prison grease traps every 12 weeks, at the flat rate of \$325.00 per cleaning, for the period of June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024, with automatic contract renewal for successive periods of 90 days on its expiration date and the expiration of any renewal term. Either party may terminate contract by written notice only at least sixty-60 days prior to the automatic renewal period.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 276-2023.

Resolution 277-2023: Approving an Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison and Rebecca Port, for providing hair-trimming services to inmates at the prison at the rate of \$12.00 per person. Provider may change said rate upon one-1 month's written notice given to the county on or before the first of any month. Such written notice shall become an attachment to the Agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 277-2023.

Resolution 278-2023: Approving a Service Contract between the County of Blair and Boyer Refrigeration Heating & Air Conditioning to perform service work for all county buildings at the time and material rates outlined in contract for work needing immediate attention for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. No work will be performed without a Boyer Refrigeration quote signed by the Building Maintenance Director and/or the Chief Clerk authorizing Boyer to proceed with the work.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 278-2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Stair Tower Project:

Chief Clerk Hemminger presented discussion concerning a request for a second time extension received from Ralph J. Albarano & Sons to extend the project completion date of the Employee Parking Garage Stair Tower Project from June 9, 2023 to August 4, 2023.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the county received a request from Ralph J. Albarano & Sons requesting a second time extension (June 9, 2023 to August 4, 2023) for completion of the Employee Parking Garage Stair Tower Project. She stated that they are indicating that the second time extension is needed due to delayed steel deliveries and subsequent fabrication.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated she does not feel that their claim of delayed steel deliveries and subsequent fabrication are valid issues to justify the need for a second time extension as needed project supplies are on site.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that only one-1 of two-2 towers is currently completed. She stated that after receipt of the second time extension request she emailed Mr. Albarano asking for an updated project timeline and some additional information pertaining to the project; however, she has not received any replies from him.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the permit with Hollidaysburg Borough has a final extension date of October 2023. The contract with Ralph J. Albarano & Sons has an \$800.00 per day Liquidated Damages clause if the project is not substantially complete.

Chief Clerk Hemminger recommended that the Board consider only approving a two-2 week time extension from June 9, 2023 to June 22, 2023 for Ralph J. Albarano & Sons to provide an explanation and timeline for the Board to accurately evaluate the second time extension request from June 9, 2023 to August 4, 2023 for substantial completion of the Employee Parking Garage Stair Tower Project.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 279-2023: Approving a two-2 week time extension from June 9, 2023 to June 22, 2023 for Ralph J. Albarano & Sons to provide an explanation as to the need for the second time extension request from June 9, 2023 to August 4, 2023 for substantial completion of the Employee Parking Garage Stair Tower Project.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 279-2023.

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk