

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 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 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 Assistant County Administrator Senkevich.

Members Absent:

Commissioner Burke, Chief Clerk Hemminger, Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Melissa Harpster (Commissioner's Office), Brandon Meck (Finance), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), AC Stickel (Controller), Carol Dannenberg and Bryan King (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog).

Public Comment:

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

Special Presentation on CCAP 2022 Priorities Toolkit:

Broadband Expansions – Commissioner Erb

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the future quality of life in Blair County hinges on addressing the challenges to broadband expansion that are preventing access to opportunities and information to many of our citizens.

You may recall that our regional comprehensive plan for the Southern Alleghenies region, which was titled Alleghenies Ahead, and Blair County's comprehensive plan identified broadband investment and expansion as a top priority.

While these plans were adopted pre-pandemic, the COVID crisis highlighted the existing gaps and the need for new and better broadband connections for businesses, schools, and homes.

With the promise of millions of dollars in federal investment in the commonwealth and the development of the statewide Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority, many of the key pieces are coming together to facilitate the implementation of strategic, thoughtful approaches to move Blair County and all of Pennsylvania forward.

Adequate and affordable broadband connection is critical to everyday functions of life, and, with a once-in-a-lifetime investment of funding for broadband development, county government stands ready to continue aiding in bridging the digital divide through stakeholder partnerships.

Business, education, health care, emergency services, and other key parts of our everyday lives truly rely on access to broadband, even more so now as the pandemic has changed the way and the reasons our people use the internet.

Collaboration will be critical.

The commonwealth must develop partnerships among federal, state, and local government as well as the private sector to identify successful approaches and best practices that can remedy the problem.

These may include:

- *Working together with federal, state, local, and private stakeholders for successful broadband expansion that maximizes resources and minimizes overbuild.*
- *Partnering with higher education and research entities to leverage data, develop needed informational resources, and build on technological innovations that aid in advancement of broadband infrastructure deployment and service provision.*
- *Identifying funding resources and partnering with stakeholders to ensure deployment of resources are responsibly allocated to best fit the areas of greatest need.*

A key component to securing federal funding for Pennsylvania's broadband infrastructure was the creation of the Statewide Broadband Development Authority established under Act 96 of 2021.

The Authority is responsible for strategic planning and funding for broadband development to unserved and underserved areas, including access to the millions of dollars in federal funding allocated to the commonwealth in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Blair County is very fortunate in having our own Brandon Carson recently being named as Executive Director for the Statewide Broadband Authority.

Brandon served for many years as the Planning Director for the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission and more recently was overseeing Alleghenies Broadband, Inc. or ABI.

The formation of ABI was a key outcome from the Alleghenies Ahead regional comprehensive plan I referenced earlier.

ABI is serving Blair County as well as the Commission's five other member counties as the functional intermediary facilitating the various state and federal funding sources for broadband development in the region.

Our long-term goal is a fiber-optic network reaching as much of the county's population and geography as possible.

We are in the midst of the first step in that process with ABI contracting with the Foresight Group to complete a regional fiber-optic network design that will provide the framework for constructing a reliable, high-speed fiber network.

We will have a comprehensive, long-term strategy that addresses lack of internet connectivity in the region, enables the securing of available federal and state resources to construct the infrastructure, and ensures the most efficient use of those available funding resources by reducing duplication of efforts from the public and private sectors.

Working together with the all of the various public and private partners, we will build a brighter future for Blair County for generations to come.

Unfinished Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 203-2022: A resolution approving the submission of a Grant Application, PS-2023-Blair-00020, for FY 2023 to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, for the Blair County Police Traffic Safety Enforcement Program, in the total amount of \$101,282.85, for the period of 10/01/22 through 09/30/23.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 203-2022.

Resolution 204-2022: A resolution approving a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Sub-grantee Indemnity Agreement by, between and among the County of Blair, Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc. and the Borough of Mount Union on behalf of the Mount Union Borough Police Department to provide the operating structure needed to facilitate the inclusion of the Borough Police Department into the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Enforcement Program Blair County Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 204-2022.

Resolution 205-2022: A resolution approving a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Sub-grantee Indemnity Agreement by, between and among the County of Blair, Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc. and the Borough of Huntingdon on behalf of the Huntingdon Borough Police Department into the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Enforcement Program Blair County Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 205-2022.

Resolution 206-2022: A resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, the Solicitor supporting CYF, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries (Diakon), and its subcontractor, Voce (formerly known as Family Design Resources, Inc. (FDR, Inc.) for the SWAN Legal Services Initiative (SWAN LSI) Paralegal(s) for the period of 07/01/21 through 06/30/22.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 206-2022.

Resolution 207-2022: A resolution approving a Lease Agreement by and between the County of Blair, and the Altoona-Logan Township Mobile Medical Emergency Department Authority (AMED) for location of communication equipment (listed in Exhibit A) upon the county's communication tower identified as Number P-1802, located at 916 Fire Tower Road, Altoona, PA in the monthly rental amount of \$1.00, commencing on 07/01/22 and continuing for a period of two-2 years.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 207-2022.

Resolution 208-2022: A resolution approving the ratification of a contract between the County of Blair, Blair County Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds and Ryan & Tony's Upholstery, for reupholstering three-3 office chairs, in the amount of \$75.00/per chair (\$225.00 total). Contract includes pick up, re-upholstering services, delivery and a one-1 year warranty on the material used on the chairs.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 208-2022.

Resolution 209-2022: A resolution approving a contract between the County of Blair on behalf of Fort Roberdeau and Barash Media for a quarter page, 4-color advertisement, in the 2022 Arts Festival Program, in the total amount of \$480.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 209-2022.

Resolution 210-2022: A resolution approving the submission of a 2022 County of Blair Tourism Grant and Co-op Funding Application to Explore Altoona, in an amount up to \$8,000.00, to be used for Fort Roberdeau marketing and advertising programs to non-Blair County residents. The 25% match of funds requirement will be met by in-kind professional services provided by staff and volunteers or by a cash match approved by the Fort Roberdeau Association.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 210-2022.

Resolution 211-2022: A resolution approving a Letter of Support for the submission of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Update to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) by the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 211-2022.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk