

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

**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 Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Rhonda Holland (Public), Bonita Shreve (President of the Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition), Marlyn Griffius (Greenfield Township), Bryan King (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), AC Stickel (Controller) and Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror).

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Bonita Shreve, President of the Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition, stated the preamble to the Pennsylvania Constitution states, we, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty and humbly invoking his right do ordain and establish this constitution. Article one, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution states the right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves, and the state shall not be questioned. These are just not words; this is a solemn spirit of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is free life and liberty onto her people. You were elected to be the guardian to the heartbeat of our God given rights and freedom. You were elected to be our Liberty Bell; so that is freedom. We do the right things regarding country. With that being said, God bless you, our county, and our great nation America. Thank you.

Marlyn Griffius, Greenfield Township Resident, stated we need the Second Amendment. He stated Thomas Jefferson quoted that the beauty in the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it away. Mr. Griffius also stated that our government right now is trying to take it away. He asked that the Commissioners do the right thing and accept the draft of the people.

Rhonda Holland, Tyrone Borough, President of the Blair County Tea Party stated her comment is just clarification from last week, when the question had been asked as to whether any municipalities had already voted on what was supposed to be a draft resolution. Ms. Holland stated they have. She stated she attended the Snyder Township meeting and they already voted on it. Ms. Holland stated they know they are within their rights to vote again to put the new draft in place, however, she is not sure the solicitors from the municipalities are aware that the draft put out by Solicitor Karn was supposed to be the starting point. She stated they are already voting on it and if it was the draft posted on the website, it had several major spelling errors and grammatical errors, which she stated might render it in court. Ms. Holland stated she wanted to let the commissioners know that, yes, municipalities have already voted on the draft. Thank you.

Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror, asked for more detail on the proposed feasibility study for the prison and why the cost is so high.

Unfinished Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution #82-2022: A resolution approving an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement to Team EFFORT, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, for renovation to low and moderate income homes within Blair County for the summer of 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #82-2022.

Resolution #83-2022: A resolution approving to amend the relinquishment effective date of the Family Center Grant Agreement No. 4100066998 between the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and the County of Blair to United Way of Blair County from April 1, 2022 (approved via Resolution #29-2022 dated January 20, 2022) to July 1, 2022 at the request of DHS.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #83-2022.

Resolution #84-2022: A resolution approving the submission of a FY 2017 Budget Modification to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) under the county's CDBG Contract #C000069656 as follows:

1. Reduce existing activity for the removal of architectural barriers at the Claysburg Area Community Center (Greenfield Township) in the amount of \$9,413.60 for a new project total of \$59,054.40.
2. Create new activity for housing rehabilitation (Greenfield Township) in the amount of \$9,413.60.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #84-2022.

Resolution #85-2022: A resolution approving Amendment #1 to the Technical Services Agreement (TSA) by and between the County of Blair and Zito Media Communications, LLC, d/b/a Zito Business, executed on March 12, 2019, authorizing Zito Business to convert the existing commercial grade service to a new secure VPN service, in the total monthly amount of \$1,400.00 (a total monthly increase of \$900.00), effective upon activation, but not prior to May 1, 2022, and extending the term of TSA-2 by thirty-six (36) months resulting in a new expiration date of November 23, 2027. (Installation cost is \$31,256.50)

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #85-2022.

Resolution #86-2022: A resolution approving a Professional Services Agreement between the County of Blair on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services and MCM Consulting Group, Inc., to conduct a Commodity Flow Study, involving a manner in which the transportation of hazardous materials flow through the County of Blair by highway, rail and pipeline, in an amount not to exceed \$14,022.65 with \$8,000.00 paid by the FFY 2021-2022 HMEP Grant, \$2,000.00 paid by the LEPC, \$2,429.74 paid by the 2019-2020 HMRF, and \$1,592.91 paid by the 2020-2021 HMRF.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #86-2022.

Resolution #87-2022: A resolution approving the submission of the 2021 Annual Report on Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Preparedness (HMERP) within ESA as required by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) by Cris Fredrickson, Operations & Training Coordinator, Blair County Emergency Management Agency, as part of the Hazardous Materials Response Fund Grant Program (HMRF). Said report details the activities and status of the county concerning the threat and preparedness levels currently experienced within the County of Blair, and serves as the 2022-2023 HMRF grant application.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #87-2022.

Resolution #88-2022: A resolution approving to advertise for bids for a contract to prepare inmate meals from food primarily provided by the Blair County Prison on an as-needed and short notice basis.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #88-2022.

Resolution #89-2022: A resolution approving a proposal received from McCarl's Preferred Services (MPS) for the installation of a new grinder pump at the courthouse, in the total amount of \$2,050.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #89-2022.

Resolution #90-2022: A resolution approving the submission of a Statewide Local Share Account Program Grant Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority, in the amount of \$185,400.00, to be used for professional consulting services for a Blair County Prison Feasibility Study, and authorization for Commissioner Bruce R. Erb and Chief Clerk Nicole M. Hemminger to execute all documents and agreements between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth Financing Authority and to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #90-2022.

Resolution #91-2022: A resolution approving a revision to the Letter of Amendment to the Reimbursement Agreement #R18090005 for Bridge #82 to include a Notice Provision and Exhibit T-01-Title VI Assurances, and authorization for Nicole M. Hemminger to sign said revised Letter of Amendment in the RAS System.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #91-2022.

Old Business:

Human Resources:

Requesting approval of a quote received from Tyler Technologies for Blair County ERP PACE 06 Flex for implementation of timekeeping through Employee Self-Service module of MUNIS and additional training options, in the total amount of \$8,325.00.

Item held for a future meeting.

Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement:

Continued discussion.

Commissioner Webster stated that the Tea Party draft assigns authority to the county that simply does not exist. She stated that through legal research she has found no authority vested to the county. Therefore, she recommends adopting the solicitors draft agreement.

Solicitor Karn stated that the county's policy on forbidding guns inside the courthouse is strictly based upon state law. He stated that neither the county nor municipality has the authority to create gun laws.

Solicitor Karn stated that the agreement becomes a binding agreement when two-2 governing bodies and approval of additional governing bodies execute it. He stated that at least five or six of the municipalities have already approved the solicitor's draft.

Commissioner Burke stated she would only support the agreement prepared by the solicitors stating the draft includes language that forbids the use of taxpayer resources to enforce legislation that infringes upon a citizen's right to bear arms. She stated there are already options for protecting a person's constitutional rights and that she does not know of any state legislation that would affect a person's Second Amendment rights.

Commissioner Erb stated that he supports the solicitors draft agreement. He stated that the county's liability insurance carrier would not cover the cost of defending a resolution the county did not have the authority to adopt leaving those costs to fall upon the taxpayer and to the county's general fund.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #92-2022: A Resolution approving the County of Blair, Pennsylvania approving an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement pursuant to a referendum question approval under 53 PA C.S.A. §2306 declaring Blair County, Pennsylvania a second amendment sanctuary in the municipality and prohibiting the use of taxpayer resources to enforce any legislation passed after November 2, 2021, that would infringe upon an eligible citizen's right to bear arms.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #92-2022.

New Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk