

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by Zoom. To participate in the meeting please dial-1-301-715-8592 or-1-646-876-9923, enter meeting number 966 3545 3323, and enter the meeting passcode 423423.*

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:

Jay Whitesel (Prison), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Angela Wagner (Controller's Office), Rich Huether (Farmland Preservation), Bonnie Young (Conservation District), Jim Pooler (Public Works/Building Maintenance), Tricia Maceno (Social Services), Mindy Hostler and Tiffany Treese (CYF), David Kessling (Public), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Jillian Haggerty (WTAJ-TV 10), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Paula Griffin (CAI), Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office).

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:00 a.m. *Commissioners Business Session
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

Friday, September 15, 2023

Monday, September 18, 2023 7:30 p.m. Conservation District Board Mtg.
(1407 Blair St., Hollidaysburg, PA)

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. *Commissioners Work Session
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Hemminger announced that immediately following today's meeting the three-3 Commissioners, herself and Solicitor Karn would meet in Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of land.

MEETING MINUTES: 8/29/23 and 8/31/23.

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 8/29/23 and 8/31/23. **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:

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Webster stated that a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony would be held today beginning at 2 pm at the new Valley View Park Amphitheater. She invited all to attend the ceremony.

Commissioner Burke extended congratulations to Bedford County High School Senior and Blair Regional YMCA Swimmer, Leah Shackley, on her recent gold medal wins at the swimming junior worlds in Israel. Leah won gold medals for the USA in the 50-meter butterfly and the 400-meter mixed medley relay.

Commissioner Erb echoed Commissioner Webster and Commissioner Burke's comments.

PROCLAMATION: Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week 9/11/23-9/15/23.

Commissioner Burke read and requested adoption of the following Proclamation:

Proclamation to Proclaim September 11-15, 2023

As

Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, every day in Pennsylvania, thousands of children are at risk of child abuse and neglect or have been removed from their homes due to such abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the employees of Blair County Children, Youth and Families have recognized the risks and have tasked themselves with the hard work of investigating child abuse, providing services to families, assessing safety and initiating steps to protect children, and providing support services to Blair County's children; and

WHEREAS, the work of child welfare workers requires them to enter into situations in which their personal safety may be put at risk on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, child welfare workers work in severely trying emotional situations with children who have been victimized by physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, to be successful, child welfare workers must develop great skill in working with families who are in crisis situations, struggling with mental health challenges, suffering from drug and alcohol conditions, poverty, and other difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, child welfare workers selflessly undertake the endeavor to protect Pennsylvania's children, often with low pay, long hours, tremendous demands, little appreciation and great criticism, and with dramatic impacts to their personal life; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, county child welfare employees in Pennsylvania investigated over 39,000 reports of child abuse and neglect including over 2,800 here in Blair County; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of child welfare workers have prevented innumerable injuries and deaths of children and have achieved safety, permanency, and well-being for countless children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Blair County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of September 11-15, 2023 as *Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week* and encourage all citizens to recognize the invaluable service and sacrifice of our County's dedicated child welfare workers.

Commissioner Burke stated that she changed the title of the Proclamation from Child Welfare Caseworker Appreciation Week to Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week. She stated that it takes all CYF staff members working as a team to keep the CYF office working efficiently. She extended her thanks and appreciation to all CYF staff members.

Commissioner Burke stated that since the hiring of CYF Administrator Tiffany Treese in August 2022, the county has hired 29 CYF staff members and has been able to retain 22 of the 29 members. She stated that CYF currently has ten-10 full-time and seven-7 part-time caseworkers. She stated that although the county is making staffing improvements it continues to be a challenge.

Commissioner Burke stated that the state inspectors are current reevaluating CYF and while they should find some improvements, she stated she suspects that the county will be issued its fourth provisional license, stating, "They're not saying we have to be perfect, but they are looking for substantial and sustainable improvements." Currently the CYF Office is operating under its third provisional license, which remains in effect through November 5, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 436-2023:

a. Payment of the following five-5 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
09/12/2023	230912CY	\$526,125.15
09/12/2023	230912TC	\$158,429.51
09/12/2023	230912FC	\$ 3,830.00
09/12/2023	230912SS	\$326,577.04
09/12/2023	230912WW	\$320,603.44

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- Thomas and Chandra Jandora, in the total amount of \$1,550.00.

b. Ratification of the following nine-9 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
09/07/2023	230907WC	\$ 3,500.00
09/07/2023	230907ML	\$ 29,783.52
09/05/2023	230905WC	\$ 21,082.14
09/07/2023	230907HR	\$ 8,910.45
09/06/2023	230906FC	\$259,102.15
09/05/2023	230905FS	\$ 2,068.29
09/01/2023	230901HI	\$506,543.13
09/01/2023	230901FN	\$117,016.69
09/01/2023	230901RF	\$ 2,768.21

c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated 09/08/23, in the total amount of \$856,327.05.

d. **2023 Budget Transfer:** Fees received from Justifacts for August 2023.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$130.50	012012-42000 APO Satellite
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$125.69	01107-42000 Assessment
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$80.75	01103BM-42000 Building Maintenance
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$129.69	01152-42000 Coroner
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$1027.20	013201-42000 CYF
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$325.13	01158-42000 District Attorney
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$251.38	34156-42000 Domestic Relations
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$196.19	01160JB-42000 Judge Bernard
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$12.55	01160DM-42000 Judge Milliron/pool
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$199.85	01202-42000 Juvenile Probation
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$21.25	01161FM-42000 MDJ Miller
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$137.69	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$365.25	01153-42000 Prothonotary
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$622.00	44122-42000 Public Safety – 911
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$383.25	01151-42000 Sheriff

e. **2023 Budget Transfer:** Legal fees received from CCAP.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$4,549.09	01153-44080 Prothonotary

f. **2023 Budget Transfer:** Invoices received from Boyer Refrigeration.

From	\$	To
01103BM-44740 Building Maintenance	\$689.28	44122-44740 Public Safety-911
01103BM-44740 Building Maintenance	\$373.70	01161DD-44740 MDJ DeAntonio

g. **2023 Budget Transfer:** Legal fees received from Campbell Durrant for August 2023.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$5,593.40	01209PO-44080 Prison

h. **2023 Budget Transfer:** Fees from Conemaugh Nason Occupational Health for August 2023.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$50.00	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$50.00	012011-42000 APO

i. **Valley View Park Amphitheater Project:** Requesting approval for of Contractor's Application for Payment #3 received from John Clair Excavating, Inc., for general contracting services, in the total amount of \$9,310.01.

j. **Valley View Park Amphitheater Project:** Requesting approval for Application and Certificate for Payment #3 received from Stelco, Inc., for electrical contracted services, in the total amount of \$6,326.19; and Application and Certificate for Payment #4 (retainage), in the total amount of \$6,239.45.

k. **County Road 101:** Requesting approval to close part of County Road 101 from Church Street to Oakdale Avenue, Claysburg, PA on Friday, September 29, 2023 from 4 pm to 6:30 pm to conduct the annual Claysburg-Kimmel Homecoming Parade.

l. **Employment:** Bryan Melendez, FT, Juvenile Probation Officer, JPO, \$16.30/hr., effective 09/05/23; Julie A. Hultberg, FT, Supervisor/Casework, CYF, \$45,905.98/yr., effective 09/11/23.

m. **Resignations:** Marci J. Bush, FT, Social Services Aide I, CYF, \$10.60/hr., effective 09/06/23; Tristan J. Johnson, FT, Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.52/hr., effective 09/07/23; Jessica M. Rodriguez, FT, Supervisor/Casework, CYF, \$50,738.22/yr., effective 09/08/23; Katelyn L. Williams, FT, Administrative

Support, JPO, \$11.58/hr., effective 09/13/23; Sharon L. Henry, FT, Department Clerk I, Domestic Relations, \$11.20/hr., effective 09/15/23; Eden E. Vantries, FT, GIS Mapper/UPI Coordinator I, Assessment, \$16.54/hr., effective 09/15/23.

- n. **Employment Status Change:** Nicholas D. Shope, From, FT, Parole and Probation Officer, JPO, \$17.71/hr., To, FT, Supervisor, JPO, \$47,255.26/yr., effective 08/28/23; Pattie J. Emigh, From, Temporary, 37.5 hours per week, Department Assistant (Clerk Typist II/Fiscal Aide), CYF, \$11.03/hr., To, Temporary, 37.5 hours per week, Department Assistant (Fiscal Aide), \$11.68/hr., effective 09/11/13; Cynthia M. James, From, FT, Mental Health Program Specialist-CASSP, Social Services, \$44,990.40/yr., To, FT, Mental Health Program Coordinator, Social Services, \$56,861.48/yr., effective 09/11/23; and Robin L. Pozgar, From FT, Accounts Payable Specialist, Controller's Office, \$14.06/hr., To, FT, Accounts Payable Coordinator, Controller's Office, \$14.78/hr., effective 09/16/23.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that there is a change to the resignation date of Jessica M. Rodriguez. She stated that Ms. Rodriguez's resignation date is 9/22/23 not 9/8/23 as listed on the agenda.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payment of the invoice to Thomas and Chandra Jandora due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 436-2023 with the abstention and change to Consent Agenda as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Ag Land Preservation:

- i. Rich Huether requested approval of an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and Brian C. and Rachel K. Detwiler and Joseph M. and Vevala McCutcheon for 168.58 acres located in Tyrone, Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of \$300,072.40. Commonwealth shall pay \$205,072.40 and the County shall pay \$95,000.00.

Mr. Huether stated that the County's allocation would come from previously allocated Act 13 funds.

Mr. Huether also mentioned that the purchase of the Detwiler/McCutcheon farm would be the 61st easement for the county.

- ii. Mr. Huether requested approval of an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and James R. and Linda J. Negley for 124.52 acres located in Huston, Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of \$262,737.20. Commonwealth shall pay \$177,737.20 and the County shall pay \$85,000.00.

Mr. Huether mentioned again that the County's allocation would come from previously allocated Act 13 funds.

Mr. Huether stated that the purchase of the Negley farm would be the 62nd easement for the county. Both purchases of the Detwiler/McCutcheon and Negley farms will bring the county's total easement acreage to 9,080 acres.

Commissioner Burke asked Mr. Huether "what is the end goal for how many total acres?" Mr. Huether replied, "All of it."

Commissioner Erb pointed out that Blair County is one of the leaders in terms of commitment to this program, seeing that one easement is the northern part of the county and the other on the southern part of the county and isn't concentrated in one area.

Mr. Huether added that with the county's \$100,000 allocation to the Act 13 funds in 2023, it brought in an additional \$316,101 in state funds. Since the inception of the program in 1991, the program has infused over \$10 million into the local economy, while preserving this farmland for farm use.

Discussion followed.

Social Services:

- i. Tricia Maceno requested approval for the submission of the FY 2023/2024 Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Annual Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS).

Commissioner Erb asked if there have been any substantial changes.

Mrs. Maceno said there have been none since 2022.

Commissioner Erb noted that the county's allocation to this program was 4.47%.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Trina Illig requested approval for the submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget Revision #1 to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development as outlined below:

FY 2021 Contract C000082572:

Non-Entitlements:

1. Reduce existing activity for Allegheny Twp. Area D2 Sewer Laterals (Non-Entitlements) from \$35,000.00 to \$31,910.00 (including delivery costs) for a total decrease of \$3,090.00.
2. Reduce existing activity for Freedom Twp. Water Laterals (Non-Entitlements) from \$100,000.00 to \$45,121.00 for a total decrease of \$54,879.00.
3. Increase existing activity for Housing Rehabilitation (Non-Entitlements) from \$71,973.00 to \$129,942.00 (including delivery costs) for a total increase of \$57,969.00.

Mrs. Illig stated that the projects in Allegheny Township and Freedom Township are complete and the remaining funds are to be transferred to housing rehabilitation. Five-5 sewer laterals were completed in Allegheny Township and thirteen-13 water laterals were completed in Freedom Township.

She stated reallocating the remaining funds would increase the available housing rehabilitation funds as there are a significant number of applications.

Discussion followed.

- iii. Trina Illig presented concerns regarding the selection of project(s) to be included in the FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for the County of Blair on behalf of the seventeen (17) non-entitlement municipalities (Boroughs of Bellwood, Duncansville, Martinsburg, Newry, Roaring Spring and Williamsburg and the Townships of Allegheny, Catharine, Freedom, Greenfield, Huston, Juniata, North Woodbury, Woodbury, Snyder, Taylor, and Tyrone).

Mrs. Illig for FY 2023, the county will receive \$248,366.00 to be used within the seventenn-17 non-entitlement communities. In July, the county held a public hearing to take public comment on their selection of projects. There was no public comment received at that time and received no requests.

Mrs. Illig mentioned she currently has 86 applications for the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program. Because of this, she requested to allocate the FY 2023 money to the housing rehabilitation program.

Discussion followed.

Children, Youth and Families:

- i. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare Information System Data Sharing Agreement to disclose and exchange information to Pennsylvania's County Children and Youth Agencies for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Mindy Hostler and Tiffany Treese requested approval for the submission of the Blair County Children, Youth and Families FY 2023/2024 Implementation Plan and the FY 2024/2025 Needs Based Plan and Budget to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as outlined below:

FY PLAN AND BUDGET	AMOUNT	COUNTY SHARE
FY 23/24 Implementation Plan	\$14,807,606.00	\$2,578,784.00
FY 24/25 Needs Based Plan and Budget	\$15,869,342.00	\$2,793,735.00

Ms. Hostler reviewed the significant highlights. She stated that, with an emphasis on hiring, The budget includes 31 fulltime caseworkers for 2023-2024, but did not include any additional employees for 2024-2025.

Ms. Hostler also stated they had a significant increase in secure residential due to an increase in complex cases. 37 children are in care and are expected to be in care through 2025 which was a \$500,000 increase.

Ms. Treese also added a new provider to provide reunifications, family group decision making, and programming throughout the Williamsburg and Tyrone area.

Prison:

Jay Whitesel requested approval for the award of bids received for food and non-food items for the Blair County Prison.

Chief Clerk Hemminger asked if we are awarding to the lowest bidder per line.

Mr. Whitesel could not confirm how we were awarding.

Chief Clerk Hemminger asked if there was a minimum order or shipping cost in order to purchase from specific vendors, but the question could not be answered.

Chief Clerk Hemminger recommended getting the answers to these questions prior to the Board awarding these bids as well as confirmation from Mr. Whitesel if there were any issues with using the PennBid system.

Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk