

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 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:

Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Allison Senkevich (Commissioners), Paul Shaffer (Public Works – Highway), Sarah Chuff (Finance), A.C. Stickel (Controller), Jim Pooler (Public Works – Facilities), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Rhonda (JPO), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Sheriff Ott, Carol Dannenberg and Bryan King (Hollidaysburg WatchDog), Bonita Shreve (Pres. Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Rosalyn Merritts (citizen).

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, February 2, 2022	9:00 a.m.	Retirement Board Meeting *Commissioners Meeting
Room		
	10:30 a.m.	Salary Board Meeting *Commissioners Meeting
Room		
Thursday, February 3, 2022	8:30 a.m.	Parks and Rec Advisory *Commissioners Meeting
Meeting		
Room		
	11:30 a.m.	Social Services Advisory
Board Mtg		
	6:30 p.m.	*Bluejeans Conference call Fort Roberdeau Meeting *Fort Roberdeau
Tuesday, February 8, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Commissioners Mtg Work
Session		
	7:00 p.m.	Blair County Airport
Authority		
		*Blair County Airport

Approval of Minutes – 1/04/22 and 1/06/22

Motion by Commissioner Burke and second by Commissioner Webster to approve meeting minutes.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for any public comment.

Bonita Shreve, President of the 2nd Amendment Coalition congratulated the Commissioners on the 175th Anniversary of Blair County and spoke briefly about the history of Blair County.

Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger read the following two Public Comment submissions submitted to the publiccomment@blairco.org email address.

Carol Franks:

“Hello, I do not fully understand what the agreement is about, however, I wish to keep my right to own and carry my gun. As an American citizen I deserve the right to protect myself, my family and my country, should the need arise. I will not agree to anything that will infringe upon that right. Those who carry weapons illegally should be prosecuted to fullest extent. Those who sell weapons illegally should be prosecuted to the fullest extent. I carry legally, I pay for that privilege,

and I am very careful with my weapon so I will not harm another person. One thing I suggest is that those who legally carry be encouraged to take a self-defense course to prevent situations that would accidentally injure or kill innocent people.

I would appreciate a better explanation of the Gun rights preservation agreement, in terms that I might understand it better.”

Michael Gannon, Altoona PA:
“Blair County Commissioners,

As per your recent request for input from the public, I would like to offer the following for consideration and inclusion in the Blair County Second Amendment Sanctuary document you are developing in response to the overwhelming support from the County citizens in the last election.

I am not a lawyer and realize there may be some legal issues to resolve, but the statement I offer is simple and has no criminal penalties. Violations would lbe treated as personnel matters, but because of the rules being proposed coming from a citizen ratified resolution, any violations and outcomes are of public interest and should be made public. Thank you for your consideration

Blair County Second Amendment Sanctuary

No taxpayer resources of the municipalities, whether jointly or severally, shall be used to enforce any legislation passed after November 2, 2021, that would infringe upon eligible citizens’ rights to bear arms

Employees and officials (elected or appointed) of Blair County and any of its municipality’s, that are paid with or receive taxpayer resources or funds, are prohibited from engaging in work related enforcement of any legislation passed after November 2, 2021, that would infringe upon eligible citizens’ rights to bear arms.

No county funds, resources or property of any kind may be used to enforce legislation passed after November 2, 2021, that would infringe upon eligible citizens’ rights to bear arms

County funds may not be utilized, spent, authorized or allocated in any way to any external entity or organization actively involved in engaging in the enforcement of any legislation passed after November 2, 2021, that would infringe upon eligible citizens’ rights to bear arms.

Suspected violations will be fully investigated by the Blair County Sheriff’s Office. Findings of that investigation will be reported within 7 days of their inquiry being completed. This report will be made to the Blair County Commissioners and fully disclosed to the public at the same time.

Suspected violation against the any member or employee of the Blair County Sheriff’s Office will be fully investigated by the Office of the Blair County District Attorney. Findings of that investigation will be reported within 7 days of the inquiry being completed. This report will be made to the Blair County Commissioners and fully disclosed to the public at the same time.

Violations of such provisions by any employee of Blair County or its municipalities will result in penalties ranging minimally from an immediate 6 month suspension of employment and any public duties for a first offense, up to immediate termination or dismissal for repeated offenses. Employees are not eligible to receive salary from any Blair County taxpayer resources while under suspension.

Adjudication of penalties for any violations found to be substantiated by either the Blair County Sherriff’s Office or the Office of the Blair County District Attorney will be the responsibility of the Blair County Commissioners. Final adjudication of investigations reported to County Commissioners and penalties being imposed will be made public within 14 days of a report being received from either the Blair County Sheriff’s Office or the Office of the Blair County District Attorney”

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for any commissioner comment.

Commissioner Webster shared that in December 2021, the Pennsylvania legislature passed a bill that included insight into Pennsylvania’s plans of broadband expansion projects for rural areas.

Commissioner Burke reminded everyone of the Covid testing dates at the People’s Natural Gas field this week.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #39-2022:

- a. Payment of the following four-4 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
02/01/2022	220201WW	\$298,735.63
02/01/2022	220201CO	\$8,968.09
02/01/2022	220201SS	\$709,124.41
02/01/2022	220201CY	\$68,863.76

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- UPMC Altoona, in the total amount of \$229,304.00

- b. Ratification of the following three-3 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/27/2022	220127HR	\$18,976.15

01/24/2022	220124WC	\$6,250.00
01/25/2022	220125FS	\$3,331.98

- c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated 01/27/2022, in the total amount of \$765,722.26.
- d. **Resignations:** Lee C. Slusser, FT, Building Maintenance, Maintenance Technician, \$16.76/hr., effective 1/24/2022 and Angela N. Kutyba, FT, Custody, Receptionist/Clerk Custody, \$10.50/hr., effective 2/1/2022
- e. **Employment:** Justin A. Shultz, FT, Sheriff, Deputy, \$15.38/hr., effective 1/31/2022

Commissioner Erb noted his abstention in regard to the UPMC Altoona payment.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, second by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution# 39-2022.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval and signature of the change order received from Keller Engineers to extend the John Claar Inc. contract by 60 days from February 22, 2022 to April 23, 2022 for Substantial Completion and 68 days from February 22, 2022 to May 1, 2022 for Final Payment.

Mr. Nelson confirmed that the extension of the Completion and Payment dates is due to supply chain issues to get the materials to complete the project.

Discussion followed.

Juvenile Probation Office:

Jon Frank requested approval and signature of a Youth Level of Service (YLS)/Case Management Inventory 2.0 Test Usage renewal agreement between the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), and the County of Blair on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office, effective January 1, 2022 through January 2, 2023 with the option of YLS assessments to be purchased at \$2.10 per assessment.

Discussion followed.

Prison:

Nicole Hemminger on behalf of the Prison requested approval and signature of an agreement between the County of Blair on behalf of the Prison and McCarl's Preferred Services for removal of a faulty inducer motor and installation and inspection of a new motor in the total amount of \$1,656.00.

Resolution# 40-2022: Requesting approval and signature of an agreement between the County of Blair on behalf of the Prison and McCarl's Preferred Services

Motion by Commissioner Webster, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution# 40-2022.

Human Resources:

Brian Walters requested approval and signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania Counties Health Insurance Cooperative (PCHIP) to agree to set aside approximately \$591,252.00 of the current reserve for the Blair County 2022 Funding Option.

Mr. Walters stated that there is an increase of \$5,807 from 2021 to 2022 and that this MOU is an annual request from (PCHIP).

Discussion followed.

Bridge #82/Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River:

Nicole Hemminger requested approval of a Letter of Amendment to the Reimbursement Agreement #R18090005 for Bridge #82 increasing the total project costs from \$1,130,000.00 to \$1,436,450.00 and authorization for Nicole Hemminger to sign said letter in the RAS system.

Discussion followed.

Bridge #70/Howard Hanna - Cody Weyant Appraisal:

Nicole Hemminger requested approval of a Proposal of Work for Howard Hanna, Bardell Realty to complete a valuation of the lands of Cody J. Weyant for a total of \$1,500.00.

Solicitor Nathan Karn stated that this Roadmap project requires the bank to sign off on the deed. The title search did not discover the mortgage holder. The appraisal will determine the fair market value to be paid into Court.

Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement:

Continued discussion.

Commissioner Webster spoke briefly about having been in contact with multiple people including Senator Eichelberger, Senator Ward, and Senator Joyce's office for assistance in terms of what the Commissioners are currently working on, which is essentially a short version of legislation. She stated that the public comments, although helpful, can open up opportunities to be challenged. The legislators referred her to an organization called "Local Government Commission", which was clarified to be a state organization. She concluded her comments by stating that counties and the municipalities have different powers and authorities and we need to be careful not to step on any toes.

Commissioner Burke stated that she did not have additional comments at this time and noted that additional fundamental research needs to be done to clarify what power (if any) the County government has in changing or implementing the suggested revisions to the referendum, as suggested by last week's public comment submissions.

Commissioner Erb also stated he did not have any additional comments at this time, but said that he is having a discussion with the Deputy Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) later this week.

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk