

BUSINESS SESSION: TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019, 10:00 A.M.:

Location: Conference Room 2B, 2nd Floor, New Addition.

Members Present: Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Tomassetti, Commissioner Beam, County Administrator Schmitt and Solicitor Karn.

Others Present: Brian Wiser (Keller Engineers), Rocky Greenland (Public Works), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Angela Wagner and A.C. Stickel (Controller's Office), Nicole Hemminger and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Mark Taylor (911/E Center), Joseph Zolna (Public), Sarah Chuff (Finance), James Ott (Sheriff), Katrina Pope (IRC), Andrea Cohen and Kellie O'Brien (Blair Companies).

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 all present stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019:

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the minutes of Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Tomassetti and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, April 24, 2019	3:00 p.m.	Blair HealthChoices (120 Holliday Hills Dr., Hollidaysburg)
Thursday, April 25, 2019	10:30 a.m.	Salary Board (Conference Room 2B, 2 nd Floor)
Friday, April 26, 2019		
Monday, April 29, 2019		
Tuesday, April 30, 2019	10:00 a.m.	Commissioners Work Session (Conference Room 2B, 2 nd Floor)
Wednesday, May 1, 2019		
Thursday, May 2, 2019	8:30 a.m.	Park and Recreation Advisory Board (Conference Room 2B, 2 nd Floor)
Friday, May 3, 2019		
Monday, May 6, 2019		
Tuesday, May 7, 2019	10:00 a.m.	Commissioners Business Session (Conference Room 2B, 2 nd Floor)

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Tomassetti – nothing

Commissioner Erb – nothing

Commissioner Beam asked Sheriff Ott to announce the National Take Back Initiative.

Sheriff Ott stated that the Blair County Sheriff's Office, along with the Altoona and Martinsburg Borough Police are participating in this year's National Take Back Initiative (prescription drug take back program). He stated that this year's event will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 10 am until 2 pm. The Altoona Police will be located at Thompson's Pharmacy located at 600 E. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, the Martinsburg Borough Police will be located at James Drug Store, 119 W. Allegheny Street, Martinsburg, and the Blair County Sheriff's Office will be located in front of the Courthouse located at 423 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg.

Sheriff Ott encouraged all to stop by one of the three locations and dispose of any expired or unused prescribed medications. He stated the process is simply "drop and go" and is free of charge.

PROCLAMATION:

National Telecommunicator’s Week April 14-20.

Commissioner Beam read the following Proclamation in recognition of National Telecommunicator’s Week being held from April 14-20, 2019. He, along with fellow Commissioner’s Erb and Tomassetti, extended congratulations to the staff members at the Blair County 911 Emergency Communications Center for their exemplary performance 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Blair County 911 Center was opened by The Blair County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Blair County 911 Center serves as the sole Public Service Emergency Answering point for all citizens from every municipality within Blair County with a combined population estimate of 123,457; and

WHEREAS, the Blair County 911 Center is staffed with 36 professional Telecommunicators, Supervisors and support staff who operate the 911 Center 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and 365 days per year answering more than 124,000 calls annually; and

WHEREAS, the Blair County 911 Center has operated with exemplary performance for the past 22 years, assuring that all 911 calls are answered and that vital information is gathered at the time of the call and that proper Police, Fire or EMS emergency agencies are dispatched, so that lifesaving actions can begin for all those in need; and

WHEREAS, the Blair County Commissioners would like to acknowledge and honor these unsung heroes from the Blair County 911 Center for their professionalism, recognizing their specialized skills for multi-tasking and problem solving, with calm and caring presence, while directing the proper response agency to the emergency incident,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that we the Blair County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim today as:

**BLAIR COUNTY 911 CENTER APPRECIATION DAY
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATION WEEK.**

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Bruce Erb, Chairman

Terry Tomassetti, Vice-Chairman

Ted Beam, Jr., Secretary

Attest:

Helen P. Schmitt, County Administrator
April 23, 2019

Commissioner Beam stated that the proclamation would be presented to the 911 Center’s staff later in the day.

Mark Taylor, Director of the 911/Emergency Communications Center shared a few brief words and thanked the board for the recognition.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Tomassetti and unanimously approved to adopt the proclamation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Lakemont Park Renovation Update.

Andrea Cohen, co-owner of Lakemont Park, provided an update on the park renovation project. Mrs. Cohen stated that the park has been closed for the last two seasons and is scheduled to reopen on Saturday, May 25th after the completion of extensive renovations.

Mrs. Cohen stated that park visitors will have access to two 18 holes mini-golf courses. The new Keystone Falls is a regulation size, ADA accessible course featuring a stone waterfall and ponds. The Rabbit Hole course was designed by local artist Michael Allison. Other renovations include the addition of four batting cages, a newly themed Treehouse Activity Pool, six Lake Monster Paddle Boats, and sixteen new go-karts. The park has kept the historic Leap-the-Dips Roller Coaster, Skyliner Roller Coaster, Tin Lizzy Antique Autos, C.P. Huntingdon Train, 4 x 4 Monster Trucks, Lil’ Leaper Kidde Coaster, three open-air waterslides and splash pool.

Mrs. Cohen stated that construction is underway for four basketball courts, which will be utilized by the former Mansion Park League through the Central Blair Recreation Commission, and that the courts will be open to the public to enjoy free of charge when they are not privately reserved.

The park will also feature increased green space, pavilions, a PA Walk Works route, a Born Learning Trail for children, and eight corn hole sets that are being built by the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center. The sets will represent each of the eight local high schools. Food and beverages will be available by Jack's Grubb Shack, Treehouse Take Out, Motorway Cool Off and Dippy's Sweet & Salty. Catering will also be offered by Snappy Chef.

The park will offer free admission. Attractions will be priced individually or through all day and evening unlimited ride, splash and play passes. More information is available at park's website (www.lakemontparkfun.co).

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 158-2019:

- a. Payment of two-2 Warrant Lists dated 04/22/19, in the amounts of \$461,824.21 and \$594,114.20 which include payments of the following invoices:
 - **JJ Keller Family Limited**, in the total amount of \$1,975.00, for CYF office rent for the month of May 2019.
 - **Keller Engineers, Inc., Invoices 3, 4, 5, and 6, Part 2, Bridge #10, Friesville, Final Design**, in the total amount of \$27,520.01.
 - **2017 Project Fund/Bond/Courthouse Water Infiltration Project**: An Invoice to John Rita, in the total amount of \$500.00, for professional services rendered during the month of March 2019.
 - **2017 Project Fund/Bond/Historic Finish Restoration, Courthouse, Phase 2, Courtroom #1 Project**: Application #4, received from Albert Michaels Conservation, in the total amount of \$40,616.32.
 - **2017 Project Fund/Bond/HVAC Improvement and Interior Alterations Project**: Application #7, received from Stelco, Inc., in the total amount of \$80,819.55.
- b. **NBIS Bridge Inspection and Inventory**: Requesting approval for payment of **Invoice #26, received from Stiffler McGraw** (ECMS Invoice #12) in the total amount of \$597.24 as follows: Bridge #69, Bedford Street over South Dry Run, in the amount of \$595.29; mileage in the amount of \$1.95. (Expenses will be paid from the Act 44 Reserve Account #59 and are 80% reimbursable.)
- c. **Employment**: Linda M. Jarema, FT, Victim/Witness Advocate, District Attorney's Office, \$20,395.65/yr., effective 04/22/19; Zacharie Salomie, PT, Summer Help, Highway, \$10.00/hr., effective 04/22/18; Katelyn M. Hoover, From, FT, Assistant District Attorney, \$16.76/hr., To, FT, Assistant District Attorney, \$35,000.16/yr., effective 04/15/19; and Fred A. Guyer, From, FT, Tipstaff, Judge Sullivan, \$10.00/hr., to FT, Tipstaff, Judge Doyle, \$10.00/hr., effective 04/22/19.
- d. **Resignations**: Vicki S. Pike, From FT, Jury Coordinator, Court Administration, \$22,002.76/yr., effective 04/19/19; Troy A. Selip, FT, Truck Driver, Public Works, \$34,944.00/hr., effective 04/19/19; Linda J. Longo, PT, Records Management Archivist, Records Management, \$10.74/hr., effective 04/18/19; and Cheryl L. Plunkett, PT, Records Management Archivist, \$12.52/hr., effective 04/18/19.

Commissioner Tomassetti noted his abstention due to a conflict of interest on the payment of invoices to JJ Keller Family Limited, Keller Engineers, Inc., and John Rita.

Commissioner Beam voted Nay to the payment of an invoice to John Rita, with Commissioner Erb voting Yea and Commissioner Tomassetti abstaining due a professional relationship with Mr. Rita. There being a tie vote and as permitted by the Ethics Act, Commissioner Tomassetti again noted his conflict, and then proceeded to cast his vote in favor of payment of the invoice to John Rita, in light of the fact that the County has a previously approved contract with Mr. Rita.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, second by Commissioner Tomassetti and approved, with abstentions and nay votes noted, to adopt Resolution 158-2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 159-2019: A resolution approving the submission of a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Act 101, Section 903 Recycling Grant on behalf of the County of Blair as part of the County of Blair/IRC Agreement. The total grant amount pending DEP approval will be \$45,988.00.

Commissioner Erb stated that a final grant amount total of \$45,998.00, has been provided by Katrina Pope of the IRC, and action can now be taken.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Tomassetti and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 159-2019.

OLD BUSINESS:

1906 Exterior Window Restoration:

Discussion concerning amending the contract to include mansard roof repair work and the protection of the stained glass windows.

No discussion followed.

Blair County Road 105 (Convention Center Boulevard) Drainage Repairs Project:

Brian Wisner presented discussion concerning award or rejection of bid received from Clearwater Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$273,000.00.

Commissioner Beam stated that he still supports rejecting the bid and re-advertising for bids. Commissioner Erb stated since last week's meeting he has had the opportunity to speak with Public Works Director Rocky Greenland, and that he also feels that the bid needs to be rejected and re-advertised.

Commissioner Erb asked Brian Wisner if it was possible to make any adjustments to the scope of the project to make it more attractive to bidders. Mr. Wisner responded stating that there are two or three possible minor adjustments that can be made.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 160-2019: A resolution approving the rejection of bid received from Clearwater Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$273,000.00 for the Blair County Road 105 (Convention Center Boulevard) Drainage Repairs Project; and approval for authorization to re-advertise for bids.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 160-2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

Blair County Parking Garage:

Brian Wisner requested approval of two Proposal of Service Contracts received from Keller Engineers, Inc., as follows:

- Annual Inspection in the total lump sum total of \$11,500.00

Mr. Wisner stated that the scope of the proposal includes inspecting the parking garage on an annual basis and providing the county with a summary of inspection findings. He stated that the proposal for the initial inspection, for 2019, is in the lump sum total of \$11,500.00, which includes preparation of inspection documents and the annual inspection. The inspections for 2020 and 2021 will be invoiced annually in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the lump sum total will be renegotiated in 2021.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 161-2019: A resolution approving a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers, Inc., in the total lump sum of \$11,500.00 for the annual inspection of the Blair County Parking Garage.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Erb to adopt Resolution 161-2019. Commissioner Tomassetti abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed.

- Stair Tower Repairs in the total lump sum total, plus estimated costs of \$38,600.00

Mr. Wisner stated that the scope of the proposal includes repairs to the stair towers, which will include design, bidding and construction services for the replacement of the stairs at each tower. He stated that the stairs have deteriorated beyond repair due to prior water infiltration and past methods of ice removal. He stated that the proposal is in the lump sum total of \$32,300.00, for design tasks, plus an estimated cost of \$6,300.00, for construction services, bringing the total lump sum plus estimated amount to \$38,600.00.

Discussion followed regarding the source of payment for the stair tower repairs project. Assistant County Administrator Hemminger and County Administrator Schmitt stated that the project will be paid from the 2017 Bond.

Resolution 162-2019: A resolution approving a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers, Inc., in the total lump sum plus estimated amount of \$38,600.00 for the Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repairs Project.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Erb to adopt Resolution 162-2019. Commissioner Tomassetti abstained due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed.

Courthouse (1999 Addition) and Prison Roof Replacement Projects:

Brian Wisner requested approval for authorization to advertise for bids.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 163-2019: A resolution approving authorization to advertise for bids for the Courthouse 1999 Addition and Prison Roof Replacement Projects.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 163-2019.

Blair County Park and Recreation Advisory Board:

Commissioner Beam requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Funds in the amount of \$2,000.00, to the 52nd Annual Blair County Arts Festival to be held on May 15th, May 18th and May 19th.

Commissioner Beam stated that this is an annual allocation request, and has been approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

Resolution 164-2019: A resolution approving an allocation of Park and Recreation Funds in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the 52nd annual Blair County Arts Festival to be held on May 15th, May 18th and May 19th.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Tomassetti and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 164-2019.

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,

Helen P. Schmitt, County Administrator