

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement and Telephone Conference.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by conference call. In-person meetings will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room located in the courthouse basement. 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, Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Jim Foreman and Brandon Carson (ABI), Melissa Gillin, Theresa Rudy and Trina Illig (Social Services), Jennifer Sleppy (Finance), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Jim Pooler (Maintenance), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Katherine Swigart (HR), AC Stickel (Controller), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Helen Schmitt (Public), Mark Taylor (EMA/911E), Kerrie Baughman and Andrea Warton (CYF), and Brian Wisner (Keller Engineers).

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, June 2, 2021	9:00 a.m.	*Retirement Board
	10:30 a.m.	*Salary Board
Thursday, June 3, 2021	8:30 a.m.	Park and Rec Advisory Board (Pavilion 2, Valley View Park)
	10:00 a.m.	*Business Session
	10:30 a.m.	*Special Salary Board
	11:30 a.m.	Social Services Advisory Board (At Blair HealthChoices)
	6:30 p.m.	Fort Roberdeau Association (White Oak Hall, Ft. Roberdeau)
Friday, June 4, 2021		
Monday, June 7, 2021		
Tuesday, June 8, 2021		* Commissioners Work Session (Cancelled)
	7:00 p.m.	Airport Authority Meeting (Blair County Airport)
Wednesday, June 9, 2021		
Thursday, June 10, 2021	10:00 a.m.	* Commissioners Business Session (Cancelled)
Friday, June 11, 2021		
Monday, June 14, 2021		
Tuesday, June 15, 2021	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Mtg. Rm., basement)

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 05/11/21 and 05/13/21:

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 05/11/21 and 05/13/21. There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster 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 no comments presented.

Commissioner Burke announced the Senator Bob Casey will be in Altoona for a town hall meeting. Commissioner Burke invited all to attend the town hall meeting.

Commissioner Erb stated that the county is expecting the first payment of the ARP Act monies to arrive in the county in the next month or so. The only guidance that has been clear from the US Treasury is that broadband expansion is an eligible expenditure.

Special Presentation – Efforts of Alleghenies Broadband, Inc.:

Jim Foreman stated the purpose of forming Alleghenies Broadband Inc. (ABI) was to strengthen the Broadband service within Blair County and all the Counties in the South Central Region. The goal is to not only improve internet access for the underserved area of the County but also provide access to the unserved. This would include both Internet Speed and Internet bandwidth.

Mr. Foreman ensured the Commissioners that any Blair County dollars contributed to the effort would be spent only on Blair County projects. ABI's vision is to work collaboratively with the schools and municipalities within the County to partner and share in the cost of improved service to residents.

Brandon Carson stated that in the Blair County Comprehensive Plan that lack of good internet/broadband service was a deficiency in nearly all areas of the County and the same is true for all counties in the South Central Region. ABI was formed with representatives from all counties who have worked together to form short and long term goals for broadband expansion as well as apply for funding streams to achieve the goals.

Short term plans such as retrofitting existing towers and upgrading current equipment as well as long term goals such as installation of fiber would benefit both unserved and underserved populations. ABI has developed proposals that would implement both short and long term goals. The proposals will soon be ready for solicitor review. Each proposal has a clause that relies on state and federal grant or American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act money to be available for the project to be completed.

Steve McKnight spoke in the importance for broadband availability for not only schools and healthcare providers but for the economic impact as well. Broadband expansion is a necessary and key factor in driving economic development which is a priority for ABCD Corp. Mr. McKnight joined Mr. Foreman and Mr. Carson's request for the Blair County Board of Commissioners to consider using ARP funds to support ABI's efforts to expand Broadband access.

Proclamation – June 7-11, 2021 Child Welfare Professionals Appreciation Week:

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation:

**Blair County Proclamation Recognizing
The Staff of Blair County Children, Youth & Families
June 1, 2021**

WHEREAS, the week of June 7-11, 2021 has been proclaimed as Child Welfare Professionals Appreciation Week by Governor Wolf, recognizing the efforts of child welfare professionals serving the children of Pennsylvania; and

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

WHEREAS, we, the Commissioners of Blair County recognize the risks and the need to protect the children in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the challenging task of investigating child abuse, providing services to families, assessing safety, and providing services to ensure that the children of Blair County are provided with nurturance, family connections, support as they transition into adulthood, and services that allow a child to remain safely in their home or return home as expeditiously as possible made more challenging by the global pandemic falls to the child welfare professionals of Blair County's child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, the work of child welfare professionals may require them to enter into situations in which their personal safety may be put at risk; and

WHEREAS, the work of child welfare professionals of Blair County require them to take on the role of frontline essential workers in the time of a global pandemic and provide services to the families of Blair County despite the risk to the professional's health and safety; and

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

WHEREAS, the professionals of Blair County Children, Youth & Families must develop great skill in working with families who are in crisis situations, struggling with mental health challenges, suffering from drug and alcohol afflictions, poverty, and other difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, the professionals of Blair County Children, Youth & Families must develop substantial knowledge and skills surrounding the rights of families, the laws surrounding child welfare, and the legal processes governing the system; and

WHEREAS, the staff of Blair County Children, Youth & Families selflessly undertake the endeavor to protect Pennsylvania’s children, often with low pay, long hours, tremendous demands, little appreciation, great criticism, and with dramatic impacts to their personal life; and

WHEREAS, every year, child welfare professionals are injured or killed in their pursuit to protect children across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus epidemic has created substantial challenges in providing child welfare services to which the staff of child welfare rose most proficiently; and

WHEREAS, innumerable injuries and deaths of children in Blair County have been averted due to the efforts of Blair County Children, Youth & Families; therefore, in special recognition of the efforts of Blair County Children, Youth & Families serving the children of Blair County, We, the Commissioners of Blair County, do hereby issue this Proclamation recognizing the staff of Blair County Children, Youth & Families for their dedicated efforts in protection the children of Blair County.

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Attest:

Bruce R. Erb, Chairman

Laura O. Burke, Vice-Chairman

Nicole M. Hemminger, County Administrator

Amy E. Webster, Secretary

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

Consent Agenda:
Resolution #204-2021:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
06/01/21	210601WW	\$330,248.85
06/01/21	210601CO	\$ 18,704.60
06/01/21	210601CY	\$305,101.68
06/01/21	210601SS	\$348,444.48

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
05/25/21	210525FS	\$ 2,688.02
05/27/21	210527FN	\$117,002.16
05/28/21	210528HR	\$20,598.45

- c. **2021 Budget Transfers:** 1) For the proposal received from Air Management Inc. to replace a defective compressor at the Prison, and 2) a transfer for the purchase of parts and labor to upgrade the existing Simplex Fire Alarm Panel for the PCoRP Loss Prevention Grant Project.

From	\$	To
1) 01101GCO-41999 Contingency	\$7,635.00	01209PO-46060 Prison
2) 01101GCO-46040 Commissioners	\$20,000.00	01103BM-46030 Building Maintenance.

- d. **Bridge #82/Monastery Road Bridge:** Requesting approval of one-1 ECMS Submission as follows: Invoice #2, Part 2, Final Design, Keller Engineers, in the total amount of \$7,769.65. Expenses are 100% reimbursable through the Road Map Fund.
- e. **Bridge #67/West Loop Road:** Requesting approval of two-2 ECMS Submissions as follows: Invoice #21, Part 1, Preliminary Engineering, Keller Engineers, in the total amount of \$3,683.04; and Invoice #2, Part 2, Final Design, Keller Engineers, in the total amount of \$16,294.07. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and payable from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.
- f. **Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board:** Requesting approval for the appointment of Jeanne Puskar, filing the expired term of Cheryl Johns for the period of 05/01/21 through 04/30/23; and the reappointment of Jim Gehret, for the period of 05/01/21 through 04/30/23.
- g. **Resignations:** Debra J. Appleby, Suzanna Burnell, Karla S. Jackson, Rachel M. Korman, Richard E. Merritts, Sharon L. Merritts, Melanie S. Riggelman, and Margaret J. Steward, FT, Temporary Department Assistant, Elections, \$10.00/hr., effective 05/20/21; Patricia Flanagan and Thomas R. Loechner FT, Temporary Department Assistant, Elections, \$10.00/hr., effective 05/24/21; Ayrika R. Orr, FT, Department Clerk I, Domestic Relations, \$10.51/hr., effective 05/21/21; Amy E. Miller, FT, Sheriff’s Deputy, Sheriff’s Office, \$15.39/hr., effective 05/26/21; Dianne R. Carmel, PT, Clerk Typist I, Prothonotary, \$10.51/hr., effective 05/27/21; and Anita Michelow, PT, Probation Officer Support, APO, \$10.82/hr., effective 06/02/21.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #204-2021.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Weekly COVID-19 Update:

Mr. Taylor stated that there were only seventy-seven (77) new positive cases to report since last week; the cases per hundred is down to 63.2; the positivity rate is down from 6.7% to 5.3%; and the number of patients hospitalized due to COVID-19 are also down to under fifteen (15). Sadly, there two (2) additional deaths.

Mr. Taylor stated that the monitoring trends seem to be headed in the right direction. He stated that the key to keep heading in the right direction is to continue encouraging vaccinations. There is plenty of vaccine available and that onsite clinics can be set up.

Tax Claim:

Solicitor Karn requested approval for the exoneration of real estate taxes on the following properties:

Entity/address	Tax	Fees	Total
AASD: 1224 6 TH Ave. (2019)	\$ 397.41	\$ 49.00	\$ 446.41
Newry: (2019)	\$ 4.32	\$ 92.50	\$ 96.82
Newry: (2019)	\$ 5.48	\$ 92.50	\$ 97.98
Newry: (2019)	\$ 6.01	\$ 92.50	\$ 98.51
Newry: (2019)	\$ 9.41	\$ 92.50	\$ 101.91
Altoona: 1110 7 th Ave (2019)	\$ 839.04	\$127.50	\$ 966.54
Altoona: 714 12 th St. (2019)	\$ 125.68	\$199.50	\$ 325.18
Total	\$1,387.35	\$746.00	\$2,153.35

Discussion followed.

County Road 101/Greenfield Township:

Brian Wisner requested approval of a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers for the preparation of a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application for design and construction of paving, drainage, curbs, and sidewalks on a section of County Road 101 located in Greenfield Township, in the lump sum total and expenses of \$1,730.00.

Mr. Wisner stated that the scope of work associated with the proposal of service contract includes the preparation of a 2021 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application for the purpose of obtaining funding for the design and construction of paving, drainage, curbs and sidewalks to improve this section of roadway corridor for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian uses.

Mr. Wisner stated that the lump sum total and expenses is in the amount of \$1,730.00.

Discussion followed.

Bridge #73/Mountain Road:

Brian Wisner requested approval of proposal received from KTA-Tator Inc. for NACE Coating Inspection Services in the Quality Assurance Role for Bridge #73/Mountain Road, Blair County, PA, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Mr. Wisner stated that KTA-Tator Inc. will provide a NACE Certified Inspector (CWI) who will perform the NACE Coating Inspection Services of the fabrication structural steel for the Bridge #73/Mountain Road repair project.

Mr. Wisner stated that the inspection services will take place at the Regal Industries Facility located in Donora PA. He stated that the anticipated coating inspection duration is estimated at 80 hours of production time in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Discussion followed.

Human Resources:

Katherine Swigart requested approval of a Confidential Separation Agreement and General Release between the County of Blair and a member of SEIU Local 668 – Highway Maintenance Unit, effective June 1, 2021.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #205-2021: A resolution approving a Confidential Separation Agreement and General Release between the County of Blair and a member of SEIU Local 668 – Highway Maintenance Unit, effective June 1, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #205-2021.

Department of Social Services:

- a. Melissa Gillen requested approval of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for an allocation amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for Owner Occupied Rehabilitation through the County of Blair, with a cap of up to \$10,000.00 per unit, administered through the Community Development Programs administered within the Blair County Department of Social Services.

Ms. Gillen stated the allocation has been approved by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Advisory Board on May 12, 2021.

Discussion followed.

- b. Melissa Gillen requested approval to modify the disbursement of Affordable Housing Trust Funds for the Weatherization/Housing Rehabilitation Program increasing the cap amount from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00.

Ms. Gillen stated that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Advisory Board voted to request Commissioner’s approval to increase the cap amount from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for the Weatherization/Housing Rehabilitation Program. She stated that the current cap of \$5,000.00 is insufficient as most weatherization requests are exceeding the cap amount.

Discussion followed.

- c. Melissa Gillen requested approval for the renewal of twelve-12 FY 2021/2022 contracts between the County of Blair and the agencies listed below:

AGENCY	FUNDING SOURCES	CONTRACT AMOUNT
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Blair County	Human Services Development Fund (HSDF)	Maximum Contract Amount \$24,000
Blair HealthChoices	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$70,000
Blair Senior Services	HSDF & Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$40,000
CenClear Child Services	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$25,000
Child Advocates	HSDF	Maximum Contract Amount \$5,000
CONTACT Altoona	HSDF & Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$115,000
Family Services, Inc.	HSDF & HAP	Maximum Contract Amount \$130,000
H.O.P.E. Drop In	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$50,000
NAMI of Blair County	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$45,000
Peerstar	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$10,500
Primary Health Network	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$7,000
Skills of Central PA	Mental Health	Maximum Contract Amount \$400,000

Ms. Gillen stated that the Department of Social Services boilerplate contracts and business associate agreements have been reviewed and approved by Solicitor Karn.

Ms. Gillen stated that the contracts are funded with the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) for Mental Health (MH), Human Services Development Fund (HSDF), and the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP).

Discussion followed.

- d. Theresa Rudy requested approval of five-5 FY 2021/2022 Mental Health (MH) Student Assistance Program (SAP) Letters of Agreement (LOA) between the County of Blair, Department of Social Services, UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies (BHA) and the school districts listed below for the period of 07/01/21 through 06/30/22:

- Claysburg/Kimmel School District
- Hollidaysburg Area School District
- Tyrone Area School District
- Bishop Guilfoyle School District
- Spring Cove School District

Mrs. Rudy stated that the SAP LOA’s describe UPMC’s Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies responsibilities, the school district responsibilities and the conflict resolution process for the SAP Mental Health Liaison. She stated that the LOA’s are renewed each fiscal year/school year.

Mrs. Rudy stated that there is no funding referenced in the LOA’s.

Discussion followed.

- e. Trina Illig requested approval for authorization of the signing of the FY 2020 contract for the Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG), in the amount of \$905,960.00 through the e-Contracting Signature System; and authorization designating Jim Hudack, Executive Director, Department of Social Services, as Signing Authority to sign FY 2020 CDBG Invoice Forms.

Discussion followed.

PCoRP 2020/2021 Loss Prevention Grant Award:

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested approval for the acceptance of a PCoRP 2020/2021 Loss Prevention Grant Award, in the total amount of \$20,000.00.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the county received notification that the PCoRP Underwriting and Claims Committee approved the county’s 2020/21 PCoRP Loss Prevention Grant Application in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the grant funds will be used for the purchase of parts and labor to upgrade the existing Simplex fire alarm panel.

Discussion followed.

Facility Maintenance:

Jim Pooler requested approval of a proposal received from Johnson Controls, in the total amount of \$20,945.00, for the purchase of parts and labor to upgrade the existing Simplex Fire Alarm Panel. \$20,000.00 of the total cost will be paid with awarded PCoRP 2020/2021 Loss Prevention Grant Funds, and the remaining \$945.00 will be paid from the Facility Maintenance Budget.

Mr. Pooler stated that the existing Simplex Fire Alarm Panel reached its end-of-life status in 2002 and the replacement parts for the existing fire alarm panel were liquidated and discontinued as of December 31, 2017.

Discussion followed.

Lakemont Park Rental:

Commissioner Burke requested approval of a 2021 Event Contract between Lakemont Park and The County of Blair for rental of the Stage on June 13, 2021 for the performance of Grit and Grace. The cost of \$200.00 to rent the facility was covered by a donation and paid directly to Lakemont Park.

Commissioner Burke stated that the performance of Grit and Grace is part of the county's 175th Anniversary Celebration. She stated that the rental of the stage is at no cost to the county as the rental fee was paid by a sponsor and paid directly to Lakemont Park.

Discussion followed.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk