

Weekly COVID-19 Update

A. **Tax Claim:**

Requesting approval of a Lease PO pursuant to a Master Lease Agreement between the County of Blair, and Doing Better Business dated March 16, 2017, for the lease of one-1 Ricoh IM C300F Color Desktop Copy/Print/Scan/Fax Machine, 30 pages per minute, one-1 250-sheet page tray, in the monthly bundled agreement amount of \$82.40 for sixty-60 months. Pricing includes 1,250 black and white pages and 250 color pages monthly, 0.01 per black and white excess and 0.065 per color excess.

B. **Juvenile Probation:**

Requesting approval of a FY 2020/2021 Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Grant-in-Aid Award Notification/Invoice (#G-20-21-7A), in the total amount of \$94,468.57, for reimbursement of Juvenile Probation Services for the period of 07/01/2020 through 06/30/2021.

C. **Human Resources:**

Requesting approval of a contract renewal between the County of Blair and Vision Benefits of America (VBA), for optional group managed vision care buy-up benefits for eligible employees of the County of Blair, for the period of 04/01/2021 through 03/31/2023. The following rates remain the same as the last contract period:

- Employee/single unit \$ 7.50
- Employee/+one unit \$14.25
- Employee/+family unit \$19.50

D. **Finance:**

Requesting approval of an allocation of 2021 County Match Funds, in the amount of \$100,000.00, paid from Act 13 Marcellus Shale Funds, to the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, for the purchasing of agricultural conservation easements pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of June 30, 1981 (P.L. 128, No. 43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, as amended.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

11. **ADJOURN**

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021, 10:00 A.M.:

Location: Participation by telephone conference only.

**Public meetings are being held by conference call while the county is under the Governor’s Green Phase of reopening. 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 Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Members Absent:

Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Scott Simmons and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Jenn Sleppy and Sarah Chuff (Finance), A. C. Stickel (Controller), Shelley Berry (Tax Claim), Jon Frank (Juvenile Probation), Brian Walters (HR), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Helen Schmitt (Public), Mark Taylor (911/E), Paul Shaffer and Rocky Greenland (Public Works).

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, January 20, 2021	10:00 a.m.	*Board of Assessment Appeals
	10:00 a.m.	SAP&DC Board Meeting (Contact SAP&DC for instruction)
	2:00 p.m.	*Salary Board
Thursday, January 21, 2021	8:30 a.m.	*Prison Board
	9:30 a.m.	*Records Improvement
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session
Friday, January 22, 2021		
Monday, January 25, 2021		
Tuesday, January 26, 2021	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Kay Stephens asked if there has been any thought into having other places such as grocery stores, doctor’s offices and pharmacies set up to administer the COVID-19 vaccine other than just the Convention Center.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Webster extended her thanks and appreciation to the hospitals, ambulance services and numerous others who have pulled together and helped to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to others.

Commissioner Burke stated that in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrated yesterday, January 18 that she would like us to stop and reflect on what service means to us, and who and what do we serve.

Commissioner Erb extended sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Fred Imler on his recent passing.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #013-2021:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/19/21	210119CY	\$145,523.93
01/19/21	21010119SS	\$196,559.85
01/19/21	210119TD	\$29,483.78
01/19/21	210119WW	\$238,328.30

- b. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated January 14, 2021, in the total amount of \$748,829.86.
- c. **Blair County Planning Commission:** Requesting approval of the reappointments of William Hall (Township) and James Dixon (City) to the Planning Commission for the period 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2024.
- d. **Blair County Airport Authority:** Requesting approval for the reappointments of Gary Orner and Drew Swope to the Authority for the period of 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2025.
- e. **Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission:** Requesting approval for the appointment of Donald E. Rhodes III to the Board for the period of 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2022.
- f. **Bridge #67 West Loop Road Bridge Replacement:** Requesting approval for payment of **ECMS submission, Invoice #18, Part #1, Preliminary Engineering Services,** received from Keller Engineers, Inc., in the total amount of \$3,965.44. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds.
- g. **Bridge #10/Friesville:** Requesting approval for payment of **ECMS submission, Invoice #4, Part 4, Construction Inspection,** received from Keller Engineers, Inc., in the total amounts of \$11,593.40. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from Marcellus Shale Legacy Funds.
- h. **Employment:** Shannon R. Booker, From PT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.08/hr., to FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$16.88/hr., effective 01/09/2021; Michael S. Bowden, Matthew R. Browell; Dennis T. Foster; Shania D. Shultz; Ashtin K. Wilt, Sklar A. Witchley and Fred J. Zanghi, IV, Part-Time, Correction Officers, Prison, \$15.08/hr., effective 01/19/21; and Jaydyn E.A. Morrison, FT, Assistant DA, DA's Office, \$45,000.02/yr., effective 01/19/21.
- i. **Terminations:** Nicholas M. Furio, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$20.53/hr., effective 01/05/21.
- j. **Resignations:** Elizabeth Martin, PT, Office Assistant, PD's Office, \$10.25/hr., effective 01/04/21; Jamie C. Lynch, FT, Sheriff's Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.01/hr., effective 01/11/21; Nicole L. Rousell, FT, Administrative Assistant, Assessment Office, \$10.25/hr., effective 01/12/2021; Ashley M. Coleman, PT, Courtroom Clerk, Prothonotary, \$10.51/hr., effective 01/11/21; Eric J. Lindsfold, FT, HR Generalist, HR, \$39,198.15/yr., effective 01/18/2021; and Michael P. Rupp, FT, APO Officer, APO, \$25,116.52/yr., effective 01/18/2021.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #013-2021.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Weekly COVID-19 Update:

Mark Taylor stated that the county experienced eighty-seven (87) less cases since his report last week as well as a slight decrease in positivity rate from 13.2% to a 12%. He stated that there has been no increase in the number of hospitalizations or increase in number of patients in ICU; however, the death count increased by twenty-two (22) over the past week bringing the total number of deaths to two-hundred-fourteen (214).

Mr. Taylor stated that a press release should be going out today regarding COVID-19 testing being conducted once again by AMI at the Convention Center February 5 through 9 from 9 am to 6 pm.

Mr. Taylor stated that there have been just under 4,000 vaccines administered to date, which is approximately 1,000 more than reported last week. He stated that CVS continues to administer first and second vaccine doses to long-term care facilities and hospitals are continuing to work at getting all staff in the Phase 1A group vaccinated.

Mr. Taylor stated that the state has now indicated that vaccines should begin for those in Phase 1B over the age of 65 and with pre-existing health conditions; however, he stated that it is going to take some time for the state to get the plan into place for this to happen. He stated that he expected the revised vaccine plans very shortly. He also stated that additional pharmacies are to be added as points of vaccine administration.

Tax Claim:

Shelley Berry requested approval of a Lease PO pursuant to a Master Lease Agreement between the County of Blair and Doing Better Business dated March 16, 2017, for the lease of one-1 Ricoh IM C300F Color Desktop Copy/Print/Scan/Fax Machine, 30 pages per minute, one-1 250-sheet page tray, in the monthly bundled agreement amount of \$82.40 for sixty-60 months. Pricing includes 1,250 black and white pages and 250 color pages monthly, 0.01 per black and white excess and 0.065 per color excess.

Discussion followed.

Juvenile Probation:

Jon Frank requested approval of a FY 2020/2021 Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Grant-in-Aid Award Notification/Invoice (#G-20-21-7A), in the total amount of \$94,468.57, for reimbursement of Juvenile Probation Services for the period of 07/01/2020 through 06/30/2021.

Mr. Frank stated that due to the state budget today's request is for a second round award, in the amount of \$94,468.57. He stated this amount added to the first round award amount of \$52,370.43 totals \$146,839.00 and is consistent with the total amount awarded over the past several years.

Discussion followed.

Human Resources:

Brian Walters requested approval of a contract renewal between the County of Blair and Vision Benefits of America (VBA), for optional group managed vision care buy-up benefits for eligible employees of the County of Blair, for the period of 04/01/2021 through 03/31/2023. The following rates remain the same as the last contract period:

- Employee/single unit \$ 7.50
- Employee/+one unit \$14.25
- Employee/+family unit \$19.50

Mr. Walters stated that he was happy to report that Vision Benefits of America (VBA) is once again offering the county a twenty-four (24) month contract renewal at a guaranteed rate with no increases. He stated that the rates have remained the same since 2015.

Discussion followed.

Finance:

Jennifer Sleppy requested approval of an allocation of 2021 County Match Funds, in the amount of \$100,000.00, paid from Act 13 Marcellus Shale Funds, to the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, for the purchasing of agricultural conservation easements pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of June 30, 1981 (P.L. 128, No. 43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, as amended.

Mrs. Sleppy requested that the board consider a \$100,000.00 allocation of Marcellus Shale Funds to the Farmland Preservation Program for 2021. She stated that this is an annual request with \$120,000.00 being allocated to the program in 2020. The amount for 2021 is lower than 2020 because the amount of Marcellus Shale Funds the county received was much lower than prior years.

Discussion followed.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk