

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER:

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Kessling requested that those participating in the meeting please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance the Flag.

EMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke and Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jen Cutshall and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempse (Finance), Mindy Hostler (CYF), Melissa Gillin (Social Services), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), A.C. Stickel, Angela Wagner (Controller), Sherry Socie (Blair Planning), Rachel Foor (Altoona Mirror), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Rocco Panuco (Trinity Services Group)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 4/24, 5/8, 5/22 and 5/29:

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes as prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Webster commented that this week, the Commissioners had the opportunity to attend the CCAP (County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania) conference. During the conference there was much concern from county representatives regarding the lack of an approved State budget and the impact on counties. She stated that the lack of a budget forces counties to draw on reserves, which leads to dire straits for those counties without them. Blair County is fortunate to have reserve funds; however, if the legislature is not in session for several weeks as currently planned, counties will see budget impacts, and it is possible that Blair County will be forced to budget more from its taxpayers. She encouraged everyone to contact the state legislature and request they come back in session to get the budget passed.

Commissioner Kessling added that this situation is unfair to PA counties and cannot continue. It is unprofessional and he stated that the state legislature needs to do its job and pass the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 404– 2025:

- a. Ratification of the following seven-7 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
8/08/2025	250808RF	\$146.55
8/08/2025	250731PC	\$30,836.12
8/11/2025	250811FS	\$1,684.42
8/14/2025	250814HR	\$12,541.67
8/18/2025	250819WW	\$414,478.68
8/19/2025	250819CY	\$98,155.26
8/19/2025	250819SS	\$990,983.71

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Hollidaysburg Borough in the total check amount of \$20,536.21

- b. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for a PCoRP insurance deductible:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-44960 General County Operations	\$2,000.00	113201-44960 CYF

- c. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for arbitrator fees:

From	\$	To
------	----	----

01101GCO-44080 General County Operations \$4,765.00 01209PO-44080 Prison

- d. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the legal fees from McNees Wallace:

From	\$	To
------	----	----

01101GCO-44080 General County Operations \$2,983.38 113201-44080 CYF

- e. **Employments:** Halertz, Nicole, FT, Telecommunicator, 911 Center, \$19.35/hr., effective 8/18/2025. Madden, Adriadne, FT, Civil Case Processor, Court Administration, \$13.75/hr., effective 8/18/2025. Gallaher, Susan, FT, Administrative Support, Juvenile Probation, \$14.44/hr., effective 8/25/2025. Morgan, Megan, FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$19.35/hr., effective 8/18/2025.

- f. **Status Changes:** Pollock, Keiton, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr. to FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$19.35/hr., effective 8/18/2025.

- g. **Resignations:** Kimberly, Brett, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 8/10/2025. Frank, Ashley, PT, Tipstaff, Court Administration, \$13.75/hr., effective 8/13/2025. Wint, Gabriel, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$22.66/hr., effective 8/14/2025. Betz, Christian, FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$19.35/hr., effective 8/15/2025.

- h. **Terminations:** Ammerman, Susan, FT, Public Safety Coordinator, 911 Center, \$2,876.55 biweekly, effective 8/15/2025. Hart, Karin, FT, Juvenile Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary, \$14.44/hr., effective 8/14/2025. Piner, Theresa, FT, Caseworker I, CYF, \$20.60/hr., effective 8/13/2025.

- i. **Retirements:** Burns, Sylvia, FT, Administrative Support, District Attorney, \$17.16/hr., effective 8/17/2025.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention to the payment to Hollidaysburg Borough in the total check amount of \$20,536.21.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, approved to adopt Resolution 404-2025.

Prison:

Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave requested approval for the award, rejection, or rebidding of the proposals received for food service for the Blair County Prison.

Ms. Tiracave stated that proposals were received and rated from Aramark, Summit Food Service and Trinity Services Group, and the County seeks to award Aramark as the highest rated provider. Pricing was as follows:

Provider	Year 1 Cost/Meal	Year 2 Cost/Meal	Year 3 Cost/Meal	Year 4 Cost/Meal	Year 5 Cost/Meal
Aramark	\$2.107	\$2.192	\$2.257	\$2.325	\$2.395
Summit	\$2.417	\$2.514	\$2.614	\$2.719	\$2.828
Trinity	\$2.804	\$2.944	\$3.092	\$3.246	\$3.408

Commissioner Webster complemented staff for an excellent job at putting the Request for Proposal together.

Commissioner Kessling, on behalf of the Commissioners, noted the cost consciousness of this decision, and by seeking outside services, the County will save roughly \$300,000.00 per year versus in-house services. Correctional staff will now be able to return to their assigned jobs. He also thanked the Prison Administration and Correctional staff for their phenomenal job in volunteering to take on food service responsibilities after resignation of the Food Service Director. With this decision, the County was able to save approximately \$90,000 a month by not having to contract for temporary food services according to the opportunities researched.

Resolution 405-2025: Approving the award, rejection, or rebidding of the proposals received for food service for the Blair County Prison. Award is made to Aramark at the rates provided below:

Provider	Year 1 Cost/Meal	Year 2 Cost/Meal	Year 3 Cost/Meal	Year 4 Cost/Meal	Year 5 Cost/Meal
Aramark	\$2.107	\$2.192	\$2.257	\$2.325	\$2.395

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 405-2025.

Children, Youth, and Families:

- i. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program, Inc.

Resolution 406-2025: Approving the FY 2025/2026 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program, Inc.

Commissioner Kessling asked the purpose of this Agreement.

Ms. Hostler responded that Blair Drug & Alcohol provides a Seeking Safety program for individuals with addiction issues or struggling with substance abuse. The Agreement will also provide for a Case Manager that assists with referrals to both the Seeking Safety and Drug & Alcohol program.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 406-2025.

- ii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of a Lease Extension between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and JJ Keller Family Limited Partnership for offices located at 317 Union Street, Hollidaysburg, PA for a period of one year, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 at \$1,975.00 per month, for a total amount of \$23,700.00.

Resolution 407-2025: Approving the Lease Extension between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and JJ Keller Family Limited Partnership for offices located at 317 Union Street, Hollidaysburg, PA for a period of one year, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, at \$1,975.00 per month, for a total amount of \$23,700.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 407-2025.

iii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Family Services, Inc.

Resolution 408-2025: Approving the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Family Services, Inc.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 408-2025.

iv. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC.

Resolution 409-2025: Approving the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 409-2025.

v. Mindy Hostler requested Ratification for the Submission of the Blair County Children, Youth and Families FY 2026-2027 Needs Based Plan and Budget Narrative to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Burke commented that this is the first year the Budget Narrative has been completed without assistance from consultants, and she is happy the staff were able to get this accomplished.

Resolution 410-2025: Ratifying the submission of the Blair County Children, Youth and Families FY 2026-2027 Needs Based Plan and Budget Narrative to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 410-2025.

Social Services:

i. Melissa Gillin requested approval of Amendment #01 to the FY 2024-2025 contract renewal agreement (Resolution 490-2024) between the County of Blair and NAMI of Blair County for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, increasing the maximum contract amount from \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Resolution 411-2025: Approving Amendment #01 to the FY 2024-2025 contract renewal agreement (Resolution 490-2024) between the County of Blair and NAMI of Blair County for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, increasing the maximum contract amount from \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Melissa Gillin noted that these are Human Services Block Grant funds being reallocated from one agency to another.

Commissioner Kessling thanked Ms. Gillin for the clarification that these are grant funds and not General Funds.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 411-2025.

ii. Melissa Gillin requested approval of the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Department of Social Services, and Blair Senior Services for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$50,000.00.

Resolution 412-2025: Approving the FY 2025-2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Department of Social Services, and Blair Senior Services for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$50,000.00.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention to the approval of this Renewal Contract.

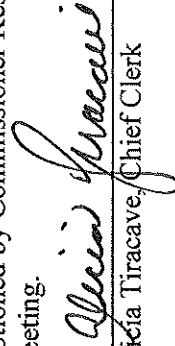
Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 412-2025 with the abstention noted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adjourn today's meeting.


Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk

