

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 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 to the Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

en Cutshall and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsie, Brandon Meck (Finance), Becky Robinson Purchasing), Mindy Hostler (CYF), Tricia Johnson (Social Services), Mark Taylor (Public Safety/EMA), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Nicholas Burket (Public Works – Facilities), Sherry Socie (Blair Planning), Angela Wagner (Controller), Sarah Seymour (Elections), James Ott (Sheriff), Sue St. Martin (Tax Claim), Jim Carothers (Treasurer), Devin Saylor (Assessment), Rachel Foor-Musselman (Altoona Mirror), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Ann Merritt, Al Crissman (Public), Jon Draeger (WTaj-TV), Ethan Imhoff (Hollidaysburg Borough).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 6/26, 8/14 and 8/21:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Webster stated that a Resolution is being drafted to send to State Legislators regarding the current budget impasse. Legislators are not expected to return to session until the end of September, but counties are planning for 2026 right now and finding it difficult with unknown funding levels. She noted that probably half of the money used in the County comes from grants for things like 911/EMA and Mental Health. Commissioner Webster wanted to ensure everyone in attendance is aware and encouraged everyone to contact state legislators asking them to return to work and pass the budget.

Commissioner Kessling stated that the Commissioners were pleased to extend a promotion offer to Julia Burke, who is now the Chief Public Defender for Blair County. Her promotion was effective August 16, 2025.

Commissioner Burke noted that Ms. Burke is the first female Chief Public Defender for Blair County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 413– 2025:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
8/18/2025	250818FS	\$1,656.83
8/21/2025	250821HR	\$10,511.90
8/25/2025	250825FS	\$2,818.31
8/26/2025	250826CY	\$301,281.20
8/26/2025	250826WW	\$490,677.52
5/26/2025	250826WX	\$8,043.33
8/26/2025	250826SS	\$82,502.31

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Blair Senior Services in the total check amount of \$224.84.

- b. Ratification of total Payroll for the paycheck dated 8/22/2025 in the total amount of \$973,047.82.

- c. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for sewer work at MDJ Dunio:

From	\$	To
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01103BM-44840 Building Maintenance \$535.00 01161MD-44840 MDJ Dunio

- d. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for maintenance on county vehicles:

From	\$	To
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01103HW-44730 Highway \$730.00 01152-44730 Coroner

01103HW-44730 Highway \$143.79 01101623-44730 Conservation District

- e. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for roof repairs at Fort Roberdeau:

From	\$	To
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01101GCO-44960 General County Operations \$3,600.00 08607-44960 Fort Roberdeau

- f. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for jury-related expenses:

From	\$	To
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01160-44140 Court Administration \$1,825.41 01160185-45070 Jury System

01160-44140 Court Administration \$240.53 01160185-45000 Jury System

- g. **Blair County Conservation District Board:** Requesting approval for the appointment of Maverick Fleck as Farmer Director, filling the term of John Morrow, through 12/31/2026.

h. **Blair County Children, Youth and Families:** Requesting approval of one (1) Pennsylvania State University student intern, Ashley Lawson, for the period of August 25, 2025, through November 10, 2025. Internship is not for credit and is at no cost to the County.

i. **Employments:** Bailey, Victoria, Balliet, Mathias, Berardimelli, Lilli, Jones, Thomas, McIntosh, Michael, Reed, Kelsey, Tritle, Gary, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 8/25/2025. Wertz, Logan, FT, Correctional Case Manager, Prison \$15.16/hr., effective 8/25/2025. Grager, Stephen, FT, Probation Officer Aide, Adult Parole and Probation, \$13.75/hr., effective 8/25/2025.

j. **Status Changes:** McCormick, Danielle, FT, Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender, \$1,986.01 biweekly to FT, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney, \$1,986.01 biweekly, effective 8/25/2025.

k. **Resignations:** Bowmaster, Jordan, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 8/18/2025. Gates, Patrick, PT, Deputy, Coroner, \$18.42/hr., effective 8/18/2025.

Commissioner Burke stated that she is happy to have an intern coming to Children, Youth and Families, and noted that it has been nearly two years.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention to the payment to Blair Senior Services in the total check amount of \$224.84.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, approved to adopt Resolution 413-2025.

STAFF REPORTS AND SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Public Safety / EMA:

i. Mark Taylor requested approval of the Transfer of Title for the 2005 Trivan Decon Trailer from the County of Blair to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Resolution 414-2025: Approving the Transfer of Title for the 2005 Trivan Decon Trailer from the County of Blair to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Mark Taylor informed the Commissioners that the old trailer has been decommissioned, and Logan Township has been able to repurpose it for use in mass casualty events.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 414-2025.

ii. Mark Taylor requested approval of the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services, and the Blair County Convention Center for the facility rental for the 2025 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Preparedness Summit on October 1, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00.

Commissioner Burke stated that EMA staff did request quotes from other facilities, but the Convention Center proved to be the most cost-effective option.

Resolution 415-2025: Approving the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services, and the Blair County Convention Center for the facility rental for the 2025 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Preparedness Summit on October 1, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 415-2025.

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 Summit School Inc. d/b/a Summit Academy.

Resolution 416-2025: 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 Summit School Inc. d/b/a Summit Academy.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 416-2025.

ii. Ms. Hostler requested approval of 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 Bethesda Children's Home.

Resolution 417-2025: 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 Bethesda Children's Home.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 417-2025.
- iii. Ms. Hostler requested approval of the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold dated July 1, 2025, between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Rentokil North America d/b/a Rentokil Steritech d/b/a Ehrlich for pest control services set forth in County approved Purchase Orders.
- Resolution 418-2025:** 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.
- Commissioner Webster asked the status of another local company contacted for a quote.
- Ms. Hostler responded that the company had been contacted multiple times regarding a quote but has not responded. She also noted that Ehrlich is doing some work at no cost, which may not be the case with the other local company.
- Commissioner Kessling thanked Ms. Hostler and noted the efforts were appreciated.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 418-2025.
- iv. Ms. 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 Bethany Christian Services of Central Pennsylvania.
- Resolution 419-2025:** 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 Bethany Christian Services of Central Pennsylvania.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 419-2025.
- v. Ms. 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 Community Specialists Corp. d/b/a The Academy.
- Resolution 420-2025:** 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 Community Specialists Corp. d/b/a The Academy.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 420-2025.

Social Services:

- i. Tricia Johnson requested approval of eight (8) FY 2025/2026 Mental Health (MH) Student Assistance Program (SAP) Letters of Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Social Services, UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies (WHBA), and the school districts listed below for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Altoona Area School District	Holidaysburg School District
Bellwood Antis School District	Spring Cove School District
Bishop Guilfoyle High School	Tyrone Area School District
Claysburg School District	Williamsburg School District

Resolution 421-2025: Approving the eight (8) FY 2025/2026 Mental Health (MH) Student Assistance Program (SAP) Letters of Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Social Services, UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies (WHBA), and the school districts listed below for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Altoona Area School District	Holidaysburg School District
Bellwood Antis School District	Spring Cove School District
Bishop Guilfoyle High School	Tyrone Area School District
Claysburg School District	Williamsburg School District

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 421-2025.
- ii. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Blair County for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in a maximum amount of \$50,000.00.

Resolution 422-2025: Approving the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Blair County for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in a maximum amount of \$50,000.00.

Commissioner Kessling asked if these funds came in the form of a grant.

Ms. Johnson confirmed the funds are from a Human Services Block Grant.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 422-2025.

- iii. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025 Continuity of Care Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Mental Health Program, and Torrance State Hospital for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and for Tricia Johnson, MH/ID/EI Administrator, to sign said agreement on behalf of the County of Blair.

Resolution 423-2025: Approving the FY 2025 Continuity of Care Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Mental Health Program, and Torrance State Hospital for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and for Tricia Johnson, MH/ID/EI Administrator, to sign said agreement on behalf of the County of Blair.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 423-2025.

Opioid Settlement Committee:

Tricia Johnson requested approval of the application and advertisement of the Request for Proposal for the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund, and for said application to be open for 30 days from the date of its posting.

Resolution 424-2025: Approving the application and advertisement of the Request for Proposal for the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund, and for said application to be open for 30 days from the date of its posting.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 424-2025.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of the Quote dated July 24, 2025, received from United Rentals for three (3) light towers to be used at the Fort Roberdeau Halloween Event for the period of October 17, 2025, through October 18, 2025, in the total amount of \$375.00.

Resolution 425-2025: Approving the Quote dated July 24, 2025, received from United Rentals for three (3) light towers to be used at the Fort Roberdeau Halloween Event for the period of October 17, 2025, through October 18, 2025, in the total amount of \$375.00.

Commissioner Webster asked if this was being done only for safety purposes.

Glenn Nelson confirmed that the lights are for safety in the parking area during the event.

Public Works – Facilities:

- i. Nicholas Burket requested approval of the Proposal received from Wise Roofing and Coating LLC dated August 8, 2025, for the repair of the White Oak Hall pavilion roof at Fort Roberdeau in the amount of \$3,600.00.

Resolution 426-2025: Approving the Proposal received from Wise Roofing and Coating LLC dated August 8, 2025, for the repair of the White Oak Hall pavilion roof at Fort Roberdeau in the amount of \$3,600.00.

Commissioner Kessling commented that this work is needed due to a tree falling on the pavilion. He noted that it's good to have it fixed, and thanked Glenn Nelson for his efforts in seeing this through.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 426-2025.

- ii. Nicholas Burket requested approval of the Service Agreement between the County of Blair and Oakes Plumbing Inc. for plumbing services for the period of August 18, 2025, through August 18, 2026, in the amounts as listed below:

Hourly Plumbing Rate	\$95.00 (Normal Business Hours 7:00 am – 3:30 pm)
Emergency Plumbing Rate	\$150.00
After Hours Plumbing Rate	\$142.50
Holiday Plumbing Rate	\$190.00

Resolution 427-2025: Approving the Service Agreement between the County of Blair and Oakes Plumbing Inc. for plumbing services for the period of August 18, 2025, through August 18, 2026, in the amounts as listed below:

Hourly Plumbing Rate	\$95.00 (Normal Business Hours 7:00 am – 3:30 pm)
Emergency Plumbing Rate	\$150.00
After Hours Plumbing Rate	\$142.50
Holiday Plumbing Rate	\$190.00

Commissioner Kessling questioned if this agreement is being made to obtain after-hours service when needed.

Nicholas Burket confirmed that the services will be utilized after hours or in an emergency when County staff are unavailable. He also noted that the previous contract was much more expensive.

Commissioner Kessling thanked Nicholas Burket for his efforts.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 427-2025.

Elections:

Sarah Seymour requested approval to accept the Election Integrity Grant Program Contract #C000094589 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development, in the total amount of \$420,908.93, for the grant period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Resolution 428-2025: Approving the acceptance of the Election Integrity Grant Program Contract #C000094589 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development, in the total amount of \$420,908.93, for the grant period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Commissioner Burke requested clarification on whether this grant covers expenses for the 2025 general election and the 2026 primary election.

Sarah Seymour responded in the affirmative to Commissioner Burke's request.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 428-2025.

Commissioners:

- i. Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave requested approval to certify Discover Blair County, an affiliate member organization of the Blair County Alliance for Business and Economic Growth as the tourist promotion agency for the County of Blair, with full power and authority to represent the County in all matters relevant to and for all purposes of the Tourism Promotion Act.

Resolution 429-2025: Approving the certification of Discover Blair County, an affiliate member organization of the Blair County Alliance for Business and Economic Growth, as the tourist promotion agency for the County of Blair, with full power and authority to represent the County in all matters relevant to and for all purposes of the Tourism Promotion Act.
Commissioner Kessling commented that this has been a very long, 18-month process, and everyone is glad to see it come to an end.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 429-2025.

- ii. Ms. Tiracave requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair and Discover Blair County, an affiliate member organization of the Blair County Alliance for Business and Economic Growth.

Resolution 430-2025: Approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair and Discover Blair County, an affiliate member organization of the Blair County Alliance for Business and Economic Growth.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 430-2025.

- iii. Ms. Tiracave requested approval of the 2025/2026 Volunteer AD&D Program renewal application with CCAP for the period of October 1, 2025, through October 1, 2026, as outlined below:

- Medical Maximum \$100,000
- Accidental Death Maximum \$25,000
- Accidental Dismemberment Maximum \$25,000
- Deductible Amount \$0
- Number of Community Volunteers 99 x \$3.45 = \$341.55

- Number of Court Referred Alternative Sentencing Volunteers 0 x \$4.60 = \$0
- Number of Work Release Volunteers 0 x \$4.60 = \$46.00
- Number of Juvenile Tobacco Volunteers 0 x \$2.90 = \$0

Total Premium Due	<u>\$400.00</u>
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Resolution 431-2025: Approving the 2025/2026 Volunteer AD&D Program Renewal application with CCAP for the period of October 1, 2025, through October 1, 2026, as outlined below:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Medical Maximum \$100,000 | |
| • Accidental Death Maximum \$25,000 | |
| • Accidental Dismemberment Maximum \$25,000 | |
| • Deductible Amount \$0 | |
| • Number of Community Volunteers | 99 x \$3.45 = \$341.55 |
| • Number of Court Referred Alternative Sentencing Volunteers | 0 x \$4.60 = \$0 |
| • Number of Work Release Volunteers | 0 x \$4.60 = \$46.00 |
| • Number of Juvenile Tobacco Volunteers | 0 x \$2.90 = \$0 |

Total Premium Due	<u>\$400.00</u>
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Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 431-2025.

- iv. Ms. Tiracave requested approval for the submission of a Resolution to the Governor and State Legislature Addressing the Consequences of Missed Commonwealth Budget Deadlines.

Resolution 432-2025: Approving the submission of a Resolution to the Governor and State Legislature Addressing the Consequences of Missed Commonwealth Budget Deadlines.

Ms. Tiracave noted that this item is a follow up to Commissioner Webster's previous comments.

Commissioner Burke noted that looking at the budget presentation, which covers 2021-2025, between Federal and State, we receive approximately \$15M a year. Some of this money comes thru the State, not directly to us. When we talk about the impact of the budget, these are the funds we're talking about, which cover mental health funding, drug and alcohol funding, housing, Children and Youth. We feel even when we have a budget we're not getting enough funding to serve the people of the County the way we should be, and when we have no budget, it hampers the ability to serve the public and puts pressure on property taxpayers, which is something we don't want to do. It is disturbing that those that are elected are not doing their duty to serve the people that voted for them.

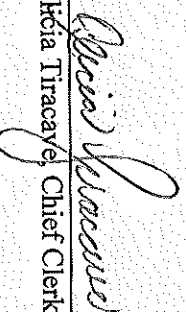
Commissioner Kessling echoed the comments of Commissioners Burke and Webster and added that when the State is unable to pass a budget, the neediest are those that suffer the most. When you sit in this office and you understand the finances and the strain to the County, it is unbelievable the amount of pressure puts on us. Some counties are fortunate to have funds put aside, which Blair County does, but many counties are not as fortunate, which forces them to take out loans and pay interest that is not reimbursed. As Elected Officials, we're not telling them what to do, but asking them to do their job and pass the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

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


Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk