

**AGENDA  
WORK SESSION  
BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATION BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE ONLY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021, 10:00 A.M.**

*\*Public meetings are being held by conference call due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
4. **ROLL CALL**
5. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021	9:00 a.m.	*Retirement Board Mtg.
	10:30 a.m.	*Salary Board Mtg.
Thursday, March 4, 2021	8:30 a.m.	*Park & Recreation Adv. Bd. Mtg.
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session
	10:30 a.m.	*Special Salary Board Mtg.
Friday, March 5, 2021		
Monday, March 8, 2021		
Tuesday, March 9, 2021		
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 23 and 25, 2021.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
8. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**
9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution #77-2021:**

- a. Payment of the following three-3 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
03/02/2021	210302CY	\$62,332.25
03/02/2021	210302WW	\$183,248.49
03/02/2021	210302CO	\$16,980.70

- b. Ratification of the following four-4 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
03/01/2021	210301HI	\$567,218.93
<b>02/23/2021</b>	210223MW	\$106,698.92
<b>02/23/2021</b>	210223FS	\$772.48
<b>02/26/2021</b>	210226HR	\$23,536.03

- c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated February 25, 2021, in the total amount of \$790,907.08
- d. **Employment:** Robert A. Boston, Temporary, FT, Custodian, Public Works, \$14.42/hr., effective 02/22/21.
- e. **Terminations:** Charles E. Bagley, FT, Maintenance Technician/Equipment Operator, Public Works, \$19.28/hr., effective 02/23/21; and Rocky A. Greenland, FT, Public Works Director, \$61,724.00 /yr., effective 03/01/21.
- f. **Resignations:** Kyler A. Mearkle, FT, Caseworker II, CYF, \$32,558.50/yr., effective 02/19/21; Rebecca J. Huber, Caseworker I, CYF, \$30,381.00/yr., effective 02/22/21; Emily P. Butler, FT, APO Officer, APO, \$25,744.42/yr., effective 02/26/21; and Scott E. Simmons, FT, Assistant County Administrator, Commissioners Office, \$38,760.02/yr., effective 02/26/21.
- g. **Returning from Furlough:** David A. Brown, Robin Moore, Michelle L. Burket, Patricia D. Wolf, and Gary F. Sicola, PT, Probation Officer Support, APO, effective 03/01/21.

10. **STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS**

**Weekly COVID-19 Update:**

**Special Presentation:**

**Blair County Parks and Recreation:**

2020 Park and Recreation Grant Fund Recipient Plaque Presentations (Total of \$15,000.00 Awarded)

Spring Cove Youth Baseball

c/o Jessica Hetrick

\$3,000.00

For the purchase and installation of a storage shed at ballfield.

Morrison's Cove Memorial Park

c/o Chuck Gojmerac

\$3,000.00

For improvements to the outdoor basketball court, replacement of obsolete streetlights plus, the addition of LED streetlights.

Altoona Housing Authority

c/o Brad Kanuch

\$3,000.00

For the repair, sealcoating and line painting of the basketball court surface at Fairview Hills.

Northern Blair Recreation Commission

c/o Jamie Levinson

\$3,000.00

For the purchase of two-2 outdoor full-size regulation soccer goals.

Greenfield Township

c/o Arlene Kuntz

\$3,000.00

For the Claysburg Community Park Restroom ADA compliant project.

**A. Blair HealthChoices:**

Requesting approval of an agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Social Services, Community Care Behavioral Health Collaborative, Inc., and the Hollidaysburg Area School District for the coordination of care for students served at through the school district. The agreement shall be in effect upon execution through December 31, 2021, and thereafter shall continue on a month-to-month basis until any party provides written notice to all other parties to terminate said agreement at least thirty-30 days after such termination notice.

**B. Department of Emergency Services:**

Requesting approval of a 911 Emergency Communications Professional Consulting Agreement between the County of Blair, Department of Emergency Services and Mission Critical Partners (MCP), in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, including expenses for professional services for consulting services for a period of one-1 year beginning March 1, 2021 through March 1, 2022.

**C. Fort Roberdeau:**

a. Requesting approval of a Letter of Engagement between the Fort Roberdeau Association and Young, Oakes, Brown & Company (YOBCO) for audit of the Association’s financial statements for year ended December 31, 2020, in the estimated fee amount range of \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00.

b. Requesting approval of Supplemental Work Request #1 received from Keller Engineers, Inc., for completion of a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study of the unnamed tributary to Sinking Run, to determine that the parking lot by the Fort’s Visitor Center is outside the actual floodway, in the lump sum total of \$1,750.00 to be paid with DCNR grant award funds included for contingency line items.

**D. Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repairs Project:**

Requesting approval for the acceptance of the following bids received for review with award or rejection in accordance with the County Code thereafter.

Contractor	City	ST	Bid (Y or N)	Bid Bond (Y or N)	Bid Amount	Comment
Antares - Mark Reed	Alexandria	PA	N	-	-	
<b>C.E. Wood Construction, Inc.</b>	<b>Duncansville</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>\$289,982.00</b>	<b>Apparent Low Bid</b>
Carl Walker Construction	Pittsburgh	PA	Y	Y	\$297,000.00	
Patterson-Stevens, Inc.	Tonawanda	NY	N	-	-	
Mid-State Construction, Inc.	Altoona	PA	Y	Y	\$394,760.00	
SP & A	Pittsburgh	PA	N	-	-	
BCS Construction, Inc. - Kim McConnell	Altoona	PA	Y	Y	\$362,275.00	
Gordon L. DeLozier - Jacob DeLozier	Hollidaysburg	PA	N	-	-	
Ralph J. Albarano & Sons - Bill Longo	Duncansville	PA	Y	Y	\$377,500.00	
John Claar Excavating, Inc. - Chad Homan	Woodward	PA	Y	Y	\$306,900.00	
Allegheny Restoration - Bryan Yarnell	Greensburg	PA	N	-	-	
American Ornamental - Russell Pratt	Saltsburg	PA	N	-	-	
Swanson's Excavation & Fabrication	Bradford	PA	Y	Y	\$363,750.00	
Caliber Contracting Services, Inc.	Pittsburgh	PA	Y	Y	\$382,300.00	
Lawruk Building, Inc.	Altoona	PA	Y	Y	\$334,800.00	
Krena Leberfinger Commercial Builders	Altoona	PA	N	-	-	

**E. Blair County Association of Township Officials:**

Requesting the adoption of a Resolution requesting that any mandates through Federal Government agencies have sufficient monies to complete the mandated task allocated to the urban municipalities of Blair County, Pennsylvania to remove 1.4 million pounds of sediment from its streams and other waterways each year for the next five-5 years relative to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

12. **ADJOURN**

**WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021, 10:00 A.M.:**

Location: Participation in meeting is by telephone conference only.

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**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 stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

**Others Present:**

Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Sarah Chuff (Finance), AC Stickel (Controller), Amy Martin-Shanafelt (Blair HealthChoices), Mark Taylor (911/E), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Brian Wisner and Joe Keller (Keller Engineers), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Chuck Gojmerac and Galen Bickel (Park and Recreation Advisory Board), Brad Kanuch (Altoona Housing Authority), Jamie Levinson (Northern Blair Recreation Commission), Arlene Kuntz (Greenfield Township), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror) and Helen Schmitt (Public).

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021	9:00 a.m.	*Retirement Board Mtg.
	10:30 a.m.	*Salary Board Mtg.
Thursday, March 4, 2021	8:30 a.m.	*Park & Recreation Adv. Bd. Mtg.
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session
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Friday, March 5, 2021		
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**Approval of Minutes – February 23 and 25, 2021.**

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the minutes of February 23 and 25, 2021. 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.

Kay Stephens asked the board why the stair tower’s to the employee parking garage need to be repaired and ask what funds are being used to pay for this project.

Kay Stephens asked if there are still county employee’s furloughed and if so, when does the county expect to have all employees called back to work.

**Commissioners Comments:**

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Webster announced that all citizens who are filing a Pennsylvania Personal Income Tax Return or who might be receiving a refund could either make a donation to or donate part or all of any state tax refund to the State Military Relief and Assistance Program. She stated that any armed forces personnel who is a resident of Pennsylvania and has a direct and immediate emergency event that is out of their control might be eligible to apply for assistance from the program in an amount up to \$4,500.00.

Commissioner Burke stated that she would no longer reference the county’s employee health care plan when confronted by comments on low employee wages. She stated that while the county does provide a minimum wage of \$10 per hour and does pays \$10.25 per hour to many of its employees, she feels that it is time for the county to break the habit of saying employee’s low wages are offset by the county’s health insurance.

Commissioner Burke further stated that it could both be true, that we provide great health benefits and yet we do not pay our employees enough. She stated that a county employee making \$10.25 an hour, at 35 hours a week, earns \$18,655.00 a year or \$1,435.00 a month and if they pay \$650.00 a month in rent, \$160.00 in utilities and \$110.00 for internet and cellphone access, then they only have \$495.00 left for groceries, childcare, car payments and to cover required contributions to the pension and health care plans.

Commissioner Burke stated that the bottom line is that even with \$25.00 co-pays and a \$250.00 deductible county employees cannot afford to get sick, and even though the county pays about \$20,000.00 per employee for a family health insurance plan, she stated that it is not a sign that the county is paying its employees a living wage, but is merely evidence of how broken our health care system is.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution #77-2021:**

a. Payment of the following three-3 Warrant Lists:

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- g. **Returning from Furlough:** David A. Brown, Robin Moore, Michelle L. Burket, Patricia D. Wolf, and Gary F. Sicola, PT, Probation Officer Support, APO, effective 03/01/21.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #77-2021.

**STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS**

**Weekly COVID-19 Update:**

Mr. Taylor stated that Blair County during the past week has reported fewer cases, fewer deaths and fewer hospitalizations per day than during the prior week. He stated that all the area hospitals continue with vaccine administration as vaccine becomes available, however the fact remains that Blair County is still not receiving vaccine fast enough. He is hopeful now that Johnson and Johnson has received approval of their vaccine that the flow of vaccine into the county will increase.

Mr. Taylor stated that the task force is working to finalize plans for mass vaccinations at the Blair County Convention Center for when there is significant vaccine available for administration.

Mr. Taylor stated that even though things are looking better does not mean that residents should let their guard down and lessen their use of masking, social distancing, handwashing, etc.

Discussion followed.

**Special Presentation:**

**Blair County Parks and Recreation:**

2020 Park and Recreation Grant Fund Recipient Plaque Presentations (Total of \$15,000.00 Awarded)

Blair County Park and Recreation Advisory Board President, Joe Keller, stated that the Advisory Board under the direction of the Blair County Commissioners, from 2002 until present has provided financial support to community groups, non-profit and government organizations whose facilities are open to the general public free of charge when not in use by other groups or leagues, in excess of \$538,000.00.

The Commissioners Administrative Office Coordinator, Melissa Harpster, stated that the intent of the grant program is for awarded grant funds to be used to construct new recreational areas, add improvements to existing facilities, restore or replace obsolete equipment and stand-alone components of larger scale projects.

Mrs. Harpster stated that funds for the operation of Valley View Park and the grant program are generated through the Lakemont Park Partnership lease of Lakemont Park and additional rents through Lakemont Park.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, and the Blair County Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Mrs. Harpster extended congratulations to the following 2020 grant recipients and stated that a plaque would be mailed to each recipient and that the place must be placed at the project site:

- Spring Cove Youth Baseball  
c/o Jessica Hetrick  
\$3,000.00  
For the purchase and installation of a storage shed at ballfield.
- Morrison’s Cove Memorial Park  
c/o Chuck Gojmerac  
\$3,000.00  
For improvements to the outdoor basketball court, replacement of obsolete streetlights plus, the addition of LED streetlights.
- Altoona Housing Authority  
c/o Brad Kanuch  
\$3,000.00  
For the repair, sealcoating and line painting of the basketball court surface at Fairview Hills.
- Northern Blair Recreation Commission  
c/o Jamie Levinson  
\$3,000.00  
For the purchase of two-2 outdoor full-size regulation soccer goals.
- Greenfield Township  
c/o Arlene Kuntz  
\$3,000.00  
For the Claysburg Community Park Restroom ADA compliant project.

The grant recipients each expressed words of appreciation and thanks to both the Board of Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the grant opportunities afforded to them.

**Blair HealthChoices:**

Amy Martin-Shanafelt requested approval of an agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Social Services, Community Care Behavioral Health Collaborative, Inc., and the Hollidaysburg Area School District for the coordination of care for students served at through the school district. The agreement shall be in effect upon execution through December 31, 2021, and thereafter shall continue on a month-to-month basis until any party provides written notice to all other parties to terminate said agreement at least thirty-30 days after such termination notice.

Mrs. Martin-Shanafelt stated that the agreement is for the coordination of care for students within the Hollidaysburg Area School District needing behavioral health services.

Mrs. Martin-Shanafelt stated that the agreement is the same as last year, however, there has been additional language added to the agreement for continuation of the agreement on a month-to-month basis until any party provides written notice to all other parties to terminate the agreement at least thirty-30 days after such termination notice. She state that there are no costs to the county associated with the agreement.

Discussion followed.

**Department of Emergency Services:**

Mark Taylor requested approval of a 911 Emergency Communications Professional Consulting Agreement between the County of Blair, Department of Emergency Services and Mission Critical Partners (MCP), in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, including expenses for professional services for consulting services for a period of one-1 year beginning March 1, 2021 through March 1, 2022.

Mr. Taylor stated that professional consulting services for the 911 Emergency Communications Center were provided for many years by the firm MCM. Mr. Taylor stated that MCP is currently handling the projects under the 15% Statewide Interconnectivity Grant and stated he feels it is time to move the center’s professional consulting services agreement to MCP.

Mr. Taylor stated that MCP has full knowledge of the projects associated with the grant and understands Next Gen911. He stated that the services provided by MCP would come with a significate cost savings as services provided by MCM were in the amount of \$40,000.00, whereas costs for services with MCP will be on an as needed basis in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Mr. Taylor stated that he feels very comfortable recommending the services of MCP.

Discussion followed.

**Fort Roberdeau:**

- a. Glenn Nelson requested approval of a Letter of Engagement between the Fort Roberdeau Association and Young, Oakes, Brown & Company (YOBCO) for audit of the Association’s financial statements for year ended December 31, 2020, in the estimated fee amount range of \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00.

Mr. Nelson stated that this is an annual request and that Solicitor Karn has reviewed the Letter of Engagement. He stated that the Fort Roberdeau Association would pay the fee.

Discussion followed.

- b. Glenn Nelson requested approval of Supplemental Work Request #1 received from Keller Engineers, Inc., for completion of a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study of the unnamed tributary to Sinking Run, to determine that the parking lot by the Fort’s Visitor Center is outside the actual floodway, in the lump sum total of \$1,750.00 to be paid with DCNR grant award funds included for contingency line items.

Discussion followed.

**Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repairs Project:**

Brian Wisner requested approval for the acceptance of the following bids received for review with award or rejection in accordance with the County Code thereafter.

Contractor	City	ST	Bid (Y or N)	Bid Bond (Y or N)	Bid Amount	Comment
Antares - Mark Reed	Alexandria	PA	N	-	-	
<b>C.E. Wood Construction, Inc.</b>	<b>Duncansville</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>\$289,982.00</b>	<b>Apparent Low Bid</b>
Carl Walker Construction	Pittsburgh	PA	Y	Y	\$297,000.00	
Patterson-Stevens, Inc.	Tonawanda	NY	N	-	-	
Mid-State Construction, Inc.	Altoona	PA	Y	Y	\$394,760.00	
SP & A	Pittsburgh	PA	N	-	-	
BCS Construction, Inc. - Kim McConnell	Altoona	PA	Y	Y	\$362,275.00	
Gordon L. Delozier - Jacob DeLozier	Hollidaysburg	PA	N	-	-	
Ralph J. Albarano & Sons - Bill Longo	Duncansville	PA	Y	Y	\$377,500.00	
John Claar Excavating, Inc. - Chad Homan	Woodward	PA	Y	Y	\$306,900.00	
Allegheny Restoration - Bryan Yarnell	Greensburg	PA	N	-	-	

American Ornamental - Russell Pratt	Saltsburg	PA	N	-	-	
Swanson's Excavation & Fabrication	Bradford	PA	Y	Y	\$363,750.00	
Caliber Contracting Services, Inc.	Pittsburgh	PA	Y	Y	\$382,300.00	
Lawruk Building, Inc.	Altoona	PA	Y	Y	\$334,800.00	
Krena Leberfinger Commercial Builders	Altoona	PA	N	-	-	

Mr. Wisner stated that sealed bids were opened at 1 pm on Friday, February 26, 2021 for the Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repairs Project. He stated that a total of nine-9 competitive bids were received with the apparent low bidder being C.E. Wood Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$289,982.00.

Mr. Wisner requested that the board consider the acceptance of the bids received for review with award or rejection in accordance with the County Code thereafter.

Mr. Wisner stated that the stair tower repairs were not evaluated or included in a prior parking garage rehabilitation project. He stated that the openness of the stair towers and the amount of deicing materials used in the past created a large amount of deterioration to the stair tower steps.

Mr. Wisner stated that galvanized materials would be used in the repairs project. He stated that the bids received are 35% below the original amount estimated. The cost of the project will be paid from the 2017 Bond.

Discussion followed.

**Resolution #78-2021:** A resolution approving the acceptance of the nine-9 bids received for review with award or rejection in accordance with the County Code thereafter.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #78-2021.

**Blair County Association of Township Officials:**

Commissioner Erb requested the adoption of a Resolution requesting that any mandates through Federal Government agencies have sufficient monies to complete the mandated task allocated to the urban municipalities of Blair County, Pennsylvania to remove 1.4 million pounds of sediment from its streams and other waterways each year for the next five-5 years relative to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Commissioner Erb stated that the Blair County Association of Township Officials requested that each Blair County Township as well as the City of Altoona prepare a letter or resolution for submission to Congressman John Joyce with the goal that he in turn will take the issue to the House to obtain relief for the Pennsylvania townships, municipalities and cities that continually have unfunded mandates thrust upon them.

Commissioner Erb read the following proposed Resolution for adoption:

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DEP) through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an unfunded mandate to urban municipalities within Blair County, Pennsylvania to remove 1.4 million pounds of sediment from its streams and other waterways each year for the next five-5 years related to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4); and

**WHEREAS**, sediment reduction has been determined by DEP to be necessary in meeting the goals to clean up the Chesapeake Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, collectively, Blair County Municipalities annual cost per year for five (5) years is \$1,316,503.00, which has been allocated amongst the various urbanized municipal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, We, The Blair County Board of Commissioners, stand united with the various municipal governments located within Blair County, Pennsylvania, recognizing that unfunded mandates passed on to municipal governments are budget busters; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not healthy to continue to pass costs such as these onto the hardworking taxpayers of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, wherein revenue sources are limited; and

**NOW**, We, The Blair County Board of Commissioners, respectfully requests that any mandates through Federal Government Agencies have sufficient monies for municipalities to complete the mandated tasks required, and hereby ask for your legislative assistance in this matter, this 4th day of March 2021.

Discussion followed:

**Resolution #79-2021:** A resolution approving that any mandates through Federal Government agencies have sufficient monies to complete the mandated task allocated to the urban municipalities of Blair County, Pennsylvania to remove 1.4 million pounds of sediment from its streams and other waterways each year for the next five-5 years relative to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #79-2021.

**Old Business:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk