

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: TUESDAY APRIL 30, 2024 1:00 P.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by Zoom. To participate in the meeting, please dial 1-309-205-3325 or 1-646-876-9923, enter meeting number 988 9066 9264, and enter the meeting passcode 423423.*

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent reflection.

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 Hemminger.

OTHERS PRESENT:

resident Judge Wade Kagarise, Lindsay Dempse (Finance), Allison Senkevich and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Tricia Johnson and Cindy James (Social Services), Mindy Hostler and Brooke McCready (CYP), Ashleigh Wearhoo (Evolution Counseling), Carol Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Erin Kay (Contact Altoona), Kay Stevens (Altoona Mirror), Helen Schmitt (Public), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Hemminger confirmed an Executive Session was held on Thursday, April 25th, at 2:00 p.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, and Christopher Gabriel from Gabriel Fera P.C., to discuss one-1 personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 4/25

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for public comment.

Kay Stevens from the Altoona Mirror asked where are people are to go to apply for a job since the County no longer has a Human Resource Director.

Commissioner Burke responded that job openings will continue to be posted on the county website and processed by the current staff in Human Resources department, as the County does not accept paper applications.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kessling called for commissioner comments. There were no comments.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation:

Proclamation
May is Mental Health Month 2024
"Light it up Green"

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being as all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and,

WHEREAS, there is a strong body of research that supports specific tools that all Americans can use to better handle challenges, and protect their health and well-being; and,

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation with prevention being an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and,

WHEREAS, statistics show: 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness, 1,814,000 adults in PA have a mental health condition, 1 in 20 U.S adults experience serious mental illness, 447,000 adults in PA have a serious mental illness, 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6 to 17 experience a mental health disorder each year, and 98,000 youth in PA aged 12 to 17 have depression; and,

WHEREAS, with early and effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and,
WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as Mental Health Month in Blair County. We call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Blair County to commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania this 30th day of April 2024.

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

David Kessling, President

Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

Attest:

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk

Laura O. Burke, Secretary

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessler, and unanimously approved to accept the Proclamation as prepared.

Cindy James, Mental Health Coordinator from Social Services, expressed her appreciation for the Commissioners' recognition and support of Mental Health Month. Ms. James mentioned that green ribbons and green lights will be lit in downtown Hollidaysburg, Altoona, and Tyrone to highlight Mental Health Month. Ms. James closed by listing several events taking place this month to raise public awareness including a movie called "My Ascension" at the Altoona Library on May 18th and Mental Health Awareness Night at the Altoona Curve on May 30th which will feature several agencies and organizations to share information about mental health resources in the community.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 211 – 2024:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/30/2024	240430WW	287,753.02
04/30/2024	240430CY	341,517.47
04/30/2024	240430SS	969,571.28

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/25/2024	240425CY	20.00
04/25/2024	240425HR	2,240.75
04/24/2024	240424RA	286.75
04/22/2024	240422FS	2,292.26

c. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover maintenance costs on county vehicles:

From	\$	To
01103HW-44730 Highway	\$30.00	113201-44730 CYF

d. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover charges from HealthForce for February and March 2024:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$110.00	012012-42000 APO Satellite
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	01101-42000 Commissioners
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$110.00	01112-42000 Controller
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$140.00	01160CO-42000 Custody
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$330.00	113201-42000 CYF
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	01158-42000 District Attorney
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$140.00	34156-42000 Domestic Relations
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	02106610-42000 Elections
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	01202-42000 JPO
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$635.00	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$110.00	01153-42000 Prothonotary
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	01602-42000 Public Safety – EMA
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	01602708-42000 Public Safety – EMA
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$55.00	011192-42000 Records Management
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$440.00	01151-42000 Sheriff

e. **Termination:** Hampton, Casey J., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 04/25/24. Swigart, Katherine, FT, Director, Human Resources, \$77,690.60/yr., effective 04/29/24.

f. **Resignations:** Ross, Sarah D., FT, Caseworker, CYF, \$20.00/hr., effective 05/3/2024. McCormick, Robert J., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$22.66/hr., effective 05/08/24.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessler, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 211-2024.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

District Attorney:

District Attorney Peter Weeks requested approval of an Indemnification Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office, and Altoona/Logan Township Mobile Emergency Medical Department Authority (AMED).

District Attorney Weeks explained that this agreement would allow him to deputize Attorney Daniel Stants to prosecute late payment of AMED fees at no cost to the county.

Resolution 212-2024: Approving the Indemnification Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office, and Altoona/Logan Township Mobile Emergency Medical Department Authority (AMED).

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 212-2024.

Children, Youth and Families:

i. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the 2023 Contract Amendment between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Computer Aid Inc. (CAI) in the amended total amount of \$211,871.20.

Resolution 213-2024: Approving the 2023 Contract Amendment between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Computer Aid Inc. (CAI) in the amended total amount of \$211,871.20.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 213-2024.

ii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the 2024 Contract between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Computer Aid Inc. (CAI) in the total estimated amount of \$378,970.00 (\$227,382.00 – State funded and \$151,558.00 – County funded) with costs varying upon hours worked during the course of the year.

Chief Clerk Hemminger inquired about the increase in cost between the 2023 and 2024 contract.

Ms. Hostler explained that fiscal consulting costs increased (\$16,000); they hired an extra SCI worker (\$60,000), and went from 1-one Part Time Field Coach to 2-two Full Time Field Coaches (\$83,600.00).

Commissioner Burke added that she felt two-2 full time Field Coaches were a good investment.

Ms. Hostler also mentioned that the State contribution and County contribution totals were cited incorrectly. She later provided clarification on the correct figures as such: \$303,176.00 – State funded and \$75,794.00 – County funded.

Resolution 214-2024: Approving the 2024 Contract between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Computer Aid Inc. (CAD) in the total estimated amount of \$378,970.00 (\$303,176.00 – State funded and \$75,794.00 – County funded) with costs varying upon hours worked during the course of the year.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 214-2024.

Social Services:

Tricia Johnson requested approval of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for the purchase of property through the First Time Home Buyer's Program in the total amount of \$3,000.00.

Commissioner Webster stated that she was happy that the County has available funds to assist with this program.

Ms. Johnson added that the public might not have been aware of this resource due to the decrease in the purchase of homes caused by the COVID pandemic.

Resolution 215-2024: Approving an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for the purchase of property through the First Time Home Buyer's Program in the total amount of \$3,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 215-2024.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of the quote between the County of Blair, on behalf of Fort Roberdeau, and Press Geek for 15,000 Fort Roberdeau 2024 brochures in the total amount of \$1,300.00.

Mr. Nelson announced that Explore Altoona offered to cover \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of these brochures.

Chief Clerk Hemminger asked if Mr. Nelson was able to get a quote from Copy Rite since the County already has an existing printing contract with them.

Mr. Nelson responded that he spoke with Elaine at Copy Rite and she would not be able to maintain the picture quality that the brochures require, and therefore, Copy Rite could not fulfill the order.

Resolution 216-2024: Approving the quote between the County of Blair, on behalf of Fort Roberdeau, and Press Geek for 15,000 Fort Roberdeau 2024 brochures in the total amount of \$1,300.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 216-2024.

Court Administration:

President Judge Wade Kagarise requested approval for the submission of a federal grant request.

President Judge Kagarise went on to further explain that this item is specifically a funding request through the House Appropriations' Committee under the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding program. He said that the Court Administration just learned of the funding through Congressman John Joyce's office last week and that the submission needs to be made by 6:00 p.m. today.

President Judge Kagarise added that, if awarded, the funding would provide the Adult Probation & Parole Office with new portable radios and a new Police Interceptor Sports Utility Vehicle to conduct supervision and oversight. The funding request is for the total amount of \$293,130.00, of which a 10-25% local match is required.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted that since all funds must be expended in the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, the local match could be contemplated in the 2025 budget.

Resolution 217-2024: Approving the submission of the Federal FY 2025 Community Project Funding Request by Court Administration, on behalf of Adult Probation and Parole, to the House Appropriations' Committee in the total amount of \$293,130.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 217-2024.

Finance:

Lindsay Dempsey requested approval of Agreement B and a Government Account Application for an E-ZPass Government Agency account through the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's E-ZPass Program.

Ms. Dempsey said this agreement would allow the County to have a countywide fleet management account that could possibly save hundreds of dollars per year, as not all departments are currently using E-ZPass.

Commissioner Burke expressed her appreciation for the practical and efficient approach that the Finance and Purchasing department are utilizing to uncover opportunities for cost savings.

Resolution 218-2024: Approving Agreement B and a Government Account Application for an E-ZPass Government Agency account through the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's E-ZPass Program.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 218-2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioners:

Requesting approval of a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repair Project dated October 20, 2023.

Commissioner Webster requested that this item continue to be held for a future meeting pending her outstanding discussion with the solicitor.

Adjourn:

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



Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk