

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: JANUARY 6, 2020, 2:00 P.M.:**

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement, Courthouse New Addition.

Members Present: Commissioner Bruce R. Erb, Commissioner Laura O. Burke, Commissioner Amy E. Webster, Chief Clerk/County Administrator Nicole M. Hemminger and Solicitor Nathan Karn.

Others Present: Jenn Sleppy and Sarah Chuff (Finance), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Tracy Plessinger (Blair County Airport Authority), Nicholas Sefchok (JJAN Financial), Jim Hudack, Ken Dean (Social Services), Helen and Lou Schmitt (Public), DeAnna Heichel, Wendy Pielmeier and Dale Crum (Assessment Office), Don Weakland (IT), Katherine Swigart and Robin Gindlesperger (HR), Laura Karr (Public), Jim Carothers (Treasurer), Paul Shaffer (Highway), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Angela Wagner and A.C. Stickel (Controller's Office), Joseph Zolna (Public), Robert Scholl (Public), Rocky Greenland (Public Works), Jeff Muriceak (Public) and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office).

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror Reporter asked if when the agenda item of adoption of a Resolution for Appointment of the Board of Assessment Appeals comes up in today's meeting if the commissioners could comment as to whether or not any of them had interest of serving on the board.

**APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:**

The first order of business was the election of a Temporary Chairman.

Commissioner Erb stated that as past practice the minority party commissioner serves as the Temporary Chairman of the Organization Meeting.

**Resolution 1-2020:** A resolution appointing Commissioner Laura O. Burke as Temporary Chairman.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:**

Commissioner Burke pooled for a motion for the election of a permanent Chairman.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb to adopt Resolution 2-2020. Votes as follows: Commissioner Burke – Aye, Commissioner Erb – Aye, Commissioner Webster – Nay. Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 2-2020.

**Resolution 2-2020:** A resolution approving appointing Commissioner Bruce R. Erb as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Webster stated that she wished to voice her objection to the appointment of Commissioner Erb as Chairman. She stated that although not law, it has always been past tradition in that the party with the most votes following the election serves as chairman, and that she is surprised that the tradition is not being followed. She stated that she has addressed the matter with both Commissioner's Erb and Burke and understands their position on the matter, however wanted to voice her objection publicly.

Commissioner Erb responded that the county is in an extremely unusual circumstance with two new commissioners and a newly appointed Chief Clerk. He stated that in his opinion it only makes sense that the member who has the most experience in office fill the position as chairman of the board. He also stated that by statue, the chairman of the board of commissioners must also serve as chairman of both the retirement and salary boards, of which both need a "steady hand" and guidance.

Commissioner Burke responded that her motion in support of retaining Commissioner Erb as Chairman of the Board was not meant as a detriment to Commissioner Webster and was instead based on Commissioner Erb having four years of experience chairing the boards.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion for the election of a permanent Vice-Chairman.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke to adopt Resolution 3-2020. Votes as follows: Commissioner Erb – Aye, Commissioner Burke – Aye, Commissioner Webster – Nay. Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 3-2020.

**Resolution 3-2020:** A resolution approving appointment Commissioner Laura O. Burke as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY:**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion for the election of a permanent Secretary.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb to adopt Resolution 4-2020. Votes as follows: Commissioner Burke – Aye, Commissioner Erb – Aye, Commissioner Webster – Nay. Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 4-2020.

**Resolution 4-2020:** A resolution approving appointment of Commissioner Amy E. Webster as Secretary of the Board of Commissioners.

**APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CLERK/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion to appoint Nicole M. Hemminger as Chief Clerk/County Administrator to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to appoint Nicole M. Hemminger as Chief Clerk/County Administrator to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

**Resolution 5-2020:** A resolution approving appointment of Nicole M. Hemminger as Chief Clerk/County Administrator to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

**APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR:**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion to appoint Nathan W. Karn, Sr., as Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to appoint Nathan W. Karn, Sr., as Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

**Resolution 6-2020:** A resolution approving the appointment of Nathan W. Karn, Sr., as Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

**APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SOLICITOR:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to appoint Jeffrey A. Muriceak, as Assistant Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to appoint Jeffrey A. Muriceak as Assistant Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

**Resolution 7-2020:** A resolution appointing Jeffrey A. Muriceak as Assistant Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

**REGULAR MEETING DATE:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to establish 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, as the regular meeting day and time of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, to be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement, Blair County Courthouse.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to establish 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, as the regular meeting day and time of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, to be held in the Public Meeting Room, Basement, Blair County Courthouse.

**Resolution 8-2020:** A resolution establishing 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, as the regular meeting day and time of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, to be held in the Public Meeting Room, Basement, Blair County Courthouse.

**STRICT ECONOMY:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to adopt a resolution pledging the Blair County Commissioners administration of a strict economy.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution pledging the Blair County Commissioners administration of a strict economy.

**Resolution 9-2020:** A resolution pledging the Blair County Commissioners administration of a strict economy.

**DEPOSITORIES:**

Commissioner Erb asked that Chief Clerk/County Administrator Hemminger present discussion concerning the Resolution designating the various banks used as Depositories for County Funds.

Mrs. Hemminger stated that information in the Resolution presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration listed some accounts that have been closed and is missing some accounts that have been added. She apologized stating that the Resolution from 2016 was pulled forward to be used as sample in drafting the 2020 Resolution; however, it was not edited/updated prior to today's meeting.

Commissioners Webster and Burke stated that they would rather wait on voting on the adoption of the Resolution until they have had time to review a corrected Resolution listing the various banks used as Depositories for County Funds.

Discussion followed.

**LAURA O. BURKE OFFICES:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to adopt a resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Laura O. Burke is liaison to.

Motion by Commissioner Erb seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution designating the various offices that shall fall under the liaison of Commissioner Laura O. Burke.

**Resolution 11-2020:** A resolution designating the various offices that shall fall under the liaison of Commissioner Laura O. Burke.

**BRUCE R. ERB OFFICES:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to adopt a resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Bruce R. Erb is liaison to.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution designating the various offices that shall fall under the liaison of Commissioner Bruce R. Erb.

**Resolution 12-2016:** A resolution designating the various offices that shall fall under the liaison of Commissioner Bruce R. Erb.

**AMY E. WEBSTER OFFICES:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to adopt a resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Amy E. Webster is liaison to.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution designating the various offices that shall fall under the liaison of Commissioner Amy E. Webster

**Resolution 13-2020:** A resolution designating the various offices that shall fall under the liaison of Commissioner Amy E. Webster.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to adopt a resolution to retain existing employees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners

Motion by Commissioner Burke seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution to retain existing employees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners.

**Resolution 14-2020:** A resolution retaining existing employees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners.

**ALTOONA AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Erb polled for a motion to appoint David McFarland, Director, Blair County Planning Commission to the Altoona Area Transportation Study Commission as an alternate member representing the Blair County Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to appoint David McFarland, Director, Blair County Planning Commission to the Altoona Area Transportation Study Commission as an alternate member representing the Blair County Board of Commissioners.

**Resolution 15-2020:** A resolution appointing David McFarland, Planning Director, Blair County Planning Commission to the Altoona Area Transportation Study Commission as an alternate member representing the Blair County Board of Commissioners.

**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO):**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion for authorization to appoint Commissioner Laura O. Burke and Commissioner Amy E. Webster as the two (2) primary members and Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk/County Administrator and himself, Commissioner Bruce R. Erb as the two (2) alternate members to the MPO.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to appoint Commissioner Laura O. Burke and Commissioner Amy E. Webster as the two (2) primary members and Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk/County Administrator and himself, Commissioner Bruce R. Erb as the two (2) alternate members to the MPO.

**Resolution 16-2020:** A resolution approving to appoint Commissioner Laura O. Burke and Commissioner Amy E. Webster as the two (2) primary members and Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk/County Administrator and himself, Commissioner Bruce R. Erb as the two (2) alternate members to the MPO.

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS:**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion for authorization to appoint Robert Scholl, Chairman, Justin Wiley and Stephen Gearhart to a two-year term to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Commissioner Erb stated that the process for selection of the Board of Assessment Appeals was conducted differently in that Blair County residents interested in serving on the board were asked to complete a one-page application and return it along with a one-page resume.

Commissioner Erb stated that a total of seven (7) applications and resumes were received from individuals interested in serving on the Board of Assessment Appeals, and that all applications and resumes were thoroughly reviewed for appointment consideration.

Commissioner Erb asked if Commissioners Burke or Webster would care to respond to Ms. Stephens' comment presented earlier under public comment.

Commissioner Webster stated, "Yes, she had indicated that she was interested in serving in that capacity." However, she is also aware that the laws pertaining to reassessment have recently changed and that the Board of Assessment Appeals will be required to attend training in the spring. She also stated that due to the time allotment and the scheduling conflicts with many of the other boards and commissions, she did not feel that it would be responsible of her to eliminate herself from those meetings and commitments. Therefore, she decided not to submit an application for appointment to the board at this time.

Commissioner Burke stated that as much as she would have liked to have been able to serve on the board she could not justify the needed time allotment with doing so. She also stated that her main concern was the conflict in times as the bulk of the assessment appeals occur at the same time as the county's budgeting process.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Scholl, Chairman, Justin Wiley and Stephen Gearhart to a two-year term to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

**Resolution 17-2020:** A resolution approving the appointment of Robert Scholl, Chairman, Justin Wiley and Stephen Gearhart to a two-year term to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL STORMWATER COMMITTEE (ISC):**

Commissioner Erb pooled for a motion for authorization to appoint Nicole Hemminger to the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee and Grant Wills as alternate.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved the appointment of Nicole Hemminger to the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee and Grant Wills as alternate.

**Resolution 18-2020:** A resolution approving the appointment of Nicole Hemminger to the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee and Grant Wills as alternate.

**2020 TAX REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE (TRAN):**

Jenn Sleppy presented discussion concerning quotes received and awarding of quote.

Mrs. Sleppy stated that she solicited quotes from ten (10) lending institutions within Blair County for a tax exempt, non-bank qualified borrowing in an amount of up to \$10,000,000.00. She stated that three (3) institutions declined; four (4) institutions were no responses, and three (3) institutions responded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Bank	Non-compliant to specifications – with added fees
M&T Bank	Offered four (4) different variable rate options ranging from 2.05% to 2.38% and a fixed rate option of 2.38%
First National Bank	Offered a fixed rate option at 1.87%

Mrs. Sleppy recommended to the Board of Commissioners awarding the TRAN to First National Bank for an amount up to \$10,000,000.00, to be drawn down on an as needed basis, based on cash flow needs, throughout 2020.

Solicitor Karn stated that while looking at the Resolution provided in his board materials the Resolution does not contain the proper language of Tax Exempt and Non-Bank Qualified. He advised that the Board should only take action to Accept and Award the TRAN at today's meeting. The Resolution approving the Note can be voted on at the next regularly scheduled Commissioner's meeting, once revised.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 19-2020.

**Resolution 19-2020:** A resolution approving the acceptance and award of the proposal received from First National Bank, 224 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 for a Non-Bank Qualified Tax Revenue Anticipation Note, in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 at the Tax Exempt Rate of 1.87% fixed, for the period of one (1) year.

Meeting Adjourned,

---

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk/County Administrator