

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by conference call. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

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

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, and Commissioner Webster.

Members Absent:

Solicitor Karn, Assistant Solicitor Muriceak, and Chief Clerk Hemminger.

Others Present:

Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Peter Weeks (District Attorney), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Jim Ott (Sheriff), AC Stickel (Controller), Jim Pooler (Public Works/Maintenance), Andrae Holsey (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People NAACP), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), and Lindsay Dempsie (Finance).

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment. **There were no comments noted.**

CCAP Priority:

Commissioner Webster
911 Funding and Reauthorization

Commissioner Webster provided the following overview of the CCAP Priority on 911 Funding and Reauthorization:

Counties have been tasked with providing public safety, specifically emergency management and the operations of the 911 system. This system allows citizens to call when they are in danger or in an emergency situation and need help. In order to meet the needs of Pennsylvanians, the counties are working with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the legislature, and organizations with expertise in telecommunications equipment and services to expand and perfect the technology and to plan for, develop, and fund the needs for the counties.

Emergency services technology has evolved into more reliable systems, but these are expensive. PA counties, including Blair, are in need of technology upgrades. Traditionally, this has been funded through taxes on the use of phone landlines and cable services, but with the increase of cell phones and computers, those revenue sources are quickly vanishing. As a result, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), and the county members are working with PEMA, legislative committees, emergency management professionals, and other interested parties on reforms for funding the system.

PEMA continues to push for resource sharing, collaboration, and consolidation of systems to sustain the high cost of the 911 systems. The funding subcommittee met on March 9. Director Jeff Boyles shared the new projections for the state legislature to increase the 911 surcharge (to \$2.03), but 2.75% will now go to the 988 system, which is the Suicide and Crisis Line.

Here in Blair County, we were able to obtain funding because we are a part of an emergency management cooperative that has made it possible to obtain funding as a group, rather than trying to pay for the upgrades from taxpayer dollars. We used the funding to invest in the new Next Generation 911 (NG911) system, and its installation here is complete. We are working with the legislature and PEMA to resolve the funding issue before the funding expires in 2024.

Unfinished Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 205-2023: Approving a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair, through the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and Keller Engineers, Inc., for surveying the James & Linda Negley Farm, located in Huston Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania in the lump sum total of \$4,675.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 205-2023.

Resolution 206-2023: Approving a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair, through the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and Keller Engineers, Inc., for surveying the Detwiler-McCutcheon Farm, located in Tyrone Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania in the lump sum total of \$5,450.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 206-2023.

Resolution 207-2023: Approving the resubmission of a COVID-SFR Local Law Enforcement Support Sub-grant Application (39099) to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, in the reduced budget amount for of \$4.3 million, for portable radios and related hardware, for the project period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 207-2023.

Resolution 208-2023: Approving a no-cost period of performance extension of September 1, 2020 through August 2024, granted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) Award (EMW-2020-SS-00064) between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the South Central Mountains Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force (SCMRCTTF).

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 208-2023.

Resolution 209-2023: Approving the annual license agreement and Tier II Commodity Hazard Vulnerability Analysis between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services and Aristatek, for eight (8) PEACWMD licenses with Tier II Integration and Commodity Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, in the total amount of \$5,950.00, for the period of April 15, 2023 through April 14, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 209-2023.

Resolution 210-2023: Approving the FY 22/23 Intellectual Disability and Early Intervention Contract between the County of Blair and the Southern Alleghenies Service Management Group (SASMG) for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 210-2023.

Resolution 211-2023: Approving a FY 22/23 (renewal) Purchase of Service Agreement and a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and Pentz Run Youth Services, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 211-2023.

Resolution 212-2023: Approving a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office and Blair Family Solutions, LLC for the coordination of services for a period of five (5) years from the date of signature. LOA shall automatically renew for subsequent one (1) year terms unless otherwise amended or terminated.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 212-2023.

Resolution 213-2023: Approving a Resolution approving the following fees for the Blair County Tax Claim Bureau, and rescinding all prior Resolutions regarding such fees, effective immediately:

Filing Fee \$15.00 per tax piece delinquent (max per property \$45.00)
(Fee added when taxes are returned to the Tax Claim Bureau as delinquent)

Installment Plan Default Letters \$4.00 per letter
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of letters for defaulted payment plans)

First Class Reminder Notice Fee \$4.00 per letter
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of a tax reminder letter after new taxes have been returned delinquent and in November to remind owners they still have back taxes)

Return & Claim Notices Mailer Fee \$15.00 per notice / per property
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of a CM, RRR notice of a new tax with the Tax Claim Bureau)

Upset Sale Notice Mailer Fee \$16.00 per owner / per property
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of CM, RRR, and RD warning notice of pending Upset Sale)

10 Day Notice of Sale Fee \$5.00 per letter
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing 1st Class Mail, PM additional notices warning of Upset Sale)

Upset Sale – Preparation of Sale Fee \$25.00 per property
(Fee added to prepare properties eligible for Upset Sale)

Electronic Database Search Fee \$15.00 per property

Posting Fee \$27.50 per posting, per notice type for 2023
\$30.00 per posting, per notice type for 2024
(Return & Claim Notices & Upset Sale Notice) (Fee added to cover the creation & deployment of tax notice posting per property)

Personal Service Fee for Upset Sale \$30.00 per attempt/per property impacted (max per property \$60.00)
(Fee to cover the cost of creating & deploying a personal service on all owner-occupied properties scheduled for Upset Sale)

Upset Sale Advertising Fee \$150.00 per property
(Fee added to cover the cost of publishing Upset Sale Notice)

Judicial Sale Ad Fee \$150.00 per property
(Fee added to cover the cost of required Judicial Sale Ad)

Overbid Lien Search/Bringdown Fee \$150.00

Judicial Sale Title Search Fee \$400.00 Standard; \$250.00 Trailers
(Fee added to properties for a Judicial Sale that need a title search)

Judicial Sale Personal Service Fee(s) -US Postal Service Charge for CM, RRR per service Out-of-State
-\$ 50.00 per service within Blair County
-Amount charged by out of county Sheriff per service upon Out-of-County party (within PA)
(Fee added to cover cost of the serving all owners, lien holders and judgment holders on properties in the Judicial Sale done by the Sheriff's Office or acting agent)

Bidder Registration Fee under 501-A \$25.00 per application
(Fee collected from anyone one wishing to bid at any tax sale as per section 502-A of (RETSL))

Judicial Sale Writs of Scire Facias Advertising Fee – Calculated by dividing advertising cost by # of properties affected by ad.
(Fee added to advertise 3 weeks in a row in the Altoona Mirror and Blair County Legal Bulletin any owners or lien holders not able to be located during Judicial Sale Personal Service)

Deed Preparation Fee \$25.00 per Deed/Bill of Sale
(Fee added to Sale Price to cover the cost of creating a Tax Claim Bureau Deed to Trailer Bill of Sale on properties sold at a tax sale or from the County’s Repository)

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 213-2023.

Resolution 214-2023: Approving to Amend the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Tax Claim Bureau and Palmetto Posting, Inc., dated February 11, 2020, for posting and/or serving delinquent tax notices on properties on which delinquent and valorem property taxes are owed as follows with all other terms and conditions remaining in full force and effect:

1. The sentence on page 4, section 2.5 that relates to time frames for attempting personal service shall be deleted and replaced with the following: The allowable time frames for attempting personal service are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2. Section 4.1 is deleted and replaced with the following:

4.1 In consideration of the contractor’s performance of the services as described herein, the county shall pay to the contractor as follows:

- a. Posting of Notice of Return and Claim: \$27.50 per post in 2023 and \$30 per post in 2024 and thereafter if the Agreement is renewed
- b. Posting of Notice of Public Tax Sale: \$27.50 per post in 2023 and \$30 per post in 2024 and thereafter if the Agreement is renewed
- c. Personal Service for Owner-Occupied Properties: \$30 per property
- d. Subsequent Visit for Personal Service or posting if the person is not served: \$30 per each additional visit

On owner occupied properties, there is no additional charge if the service is successful on the first attempt; however, County agrees to pay Contractor for subsequent visits as set forth above.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 214-2023.

Resolution 215-2023: Approving a Service Contract between the County of Blair and Centre Communications, Inc., for installations (both vehicle and building), vehicle up fitting, programming and repairs to communications equipment at the rates attached to contract.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 215-2023.

Resolution 216-2023: Approving Change Order #2 received from Quality Bridge and Fab, Inc., in the credit amount of -\$4,950.00, and recommendation of the final payment to Quality Bridge and Fab, Inc., in the total amount of \$25,325.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 216-2023.

Resolution 217-2023: Approving Change Order #1 received from Francis J. Palo, Inc., additional guiderail repairs to Bridge #1 and Bridge #6, in the total increased amount of \$12,600.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 217-2023.

Resolution 218-2023: Approving Change Order #2 received from Francis J. Palo, Inc., for the sharing of office space, in the credit amount of -\$4,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 218-2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

District Attorney's Office:

District Attorney Pete Weeks requested approval of a Letter of Engagement for Professional Services between the County of Blair, Blair County District Attorney's Office and Saxton & Stump Lawyers and Consultants, for legal services performed with the Motion for Recusal of the Blair County District Attorney's Office and the Application for Dismissal of Charges pending in the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County in the Commonwealth vs. Michael B. Cohen case, for the fees outlined in said Letter of Engagement.

District Attorney Weeks mentioned this contract is for up to \$10,000 and an estimated 2-5 hours of work.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 219-2023 Approving the Letter of Engagement for Professional Services between the County of Blair, Blair County District Attorney's Office and Saxton & Stump Lawyers and Consultants, for legal services performed with the Motion for Recusal of the Blair County District Attorney's Office and the Application for Dismissal of Charges pending in the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County in the Commonwealth vs. Michael B. Cohen case, for the fees outlined in said Letter of Engagement.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 219-2023.

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk