

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 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, Commissioner Webster, and Administrative Coordinator Melissa Harpster.

Members Absent:

Chief Clerk Hemminger, Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Allison Senkevich (Commissioners Office joined via telephone), AC Stickel (Controller), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing) and Carol Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

CCAP 2023 COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRIORITY:

Promoting Election Integrity

Commissioner Erb provided the following overview of the CCAP 2023 County Government Priority on Promoting Integrity:

“Pennsylvania counties take great pride in administering secure, fair, and accurate elections. It is our first priority to do so in compliance with federal laws and particularly the laws of the commonwealth.

Unfortunately, there are those across Pennsylvania and in Blair County who have suggested that, counties are disenfranchising voters by playing loose with these laws and creating their own rules.

The reality is that the lack of consistencies in election processes among counties is a direct function of the law within which we are forced to work through absolutely no fault of our own.

Since the enactment of Act 77 of 2019, counties have identified areas of the Election Code that need to be addressed and clarified in the wake of multiple court decisions and appeals to help us meet our responsibilities for election administration, to do so efficiently, and to provide timely and accurate results.

For the past three years, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has had a clear-cut priority to enact extended pre-canvassing and to move back mail-in application deadlines.

Extending the pre-canvassing period would allow ample time for the county to prepare mail-in and absentee ballots for tabulation, resulting in accurate results being available as soon as possible.

Moving back the deadline for absentee and mail-in ballot applications to 15 days prior to the election (from the current 7) would give voters confidence that there is plenty of time for the county to process the application and for the ballot to be mailed from the county to the voter and back.

Both of these changes would significantly improve the election experience for both the county and the voters.

In my other role as a member of Pennsylvania’s Election Law Advisory Board, we have been working to advance recommendations to the General Assembly that will improve mail-in voting.

Our annual report to the legislature released in January recommended that the deadline to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot should be changed to between 12 and 15 days prior to the election.

In this and our previous report, we recommended extending the timeframe in which counties pre-canvass mail-in and absentee ballots so that they are ready for tabulation when the polls close on Election Day.

Our Board meeting yesterday included discussion of improved training for county election directors and voter identification, both issues that need to be addressed if the commonwealth hopes to restore voter confidence.

I cannot stress enough that counties want clear, explicit rules when it comes to election procedure.

But, as long as Pennsylvania’s Election Code remains as it is, counties are forced to bear the responsibility of implementing practices they believe are the best interpretation of flawed law.

While counties have the critical responsibility to oversee the administration of elections, the time is well overdue for a clear state law to help increase the public’s confidence in the integrity of our elections.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 259-2023: Approving a FY 2022/2023 Purchase of Service Agreement and a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Blair Family Solutions.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 259-2023.

Resolution 260-2023: Approving a FY 2022/2023 Purchase of Service Agreement and a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and the Children's Home of Pittsburgh.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 260-2023.

Resolution 261-2023: Approving the Agreement and Terms for the annual purchase of the Simple In/Out technology system used by the Blair County Children, Youth and Families Department, in the annual amount of \$540.00 (\$45.00 monthly) for the period of 03/30/23 through 03/30/24.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 261-2023.

Resolution 262-2023: Approving a Customer Support Agreement between the County of Blair on behalf of the District Attorney's Office and Informant Technologies for premium support level licensed software, in the total annual amount of \$1,395.00, for the period of 08/01/23 through 07/31/24.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 262-2023.

Resolution 263-2023: Approving the submission of an Internet User Application/Licensing Agreement for Government Agencies to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) establishing an account for the County of Blair to obtain driver histories for the purpose of employment and insurance, and authorization for Commissioner Bruce R. Erb to sign the application/licensing agreement. (No cost to the county).

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 263-2023.

Resolution 264-2023: Approving payment of the following outstanding invoices for items/services/purchases made outside of the county's purchasing policy:

Vendor	Invoice Number	Amount Due
Valley Proteins	3243061	\$ 325.00
Schultz	23-1183	\$ 1,027.48
Schultz	23-1094	\$ 420.82
Schultz	23-0949	\$ 165.00
Schultz	23-1100	\$ 325.00
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	W0110334	\$ 42.72
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	W0110333	\$ 75.47
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	W0110335	\$ 50.64
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	W0110336	\$ 61.68
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	W0110337	\$ 54.88
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	W0110338	\$ 38.48
McCoy's Lawn & Garden	CT145625	\$ 351.58

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 264-2023.

Resolution 265-2023: Approving a Service Agreement between the County of Blair and Schultz Company for plumbing, HVAC, commercial appliance and related equipment installation and/or repair services as needed by the county. All services provided will be based upon a time and materials basis, with the time billed at the rates established within the agreement. No work will be performed without a Schultz quote signed by the Building Maintenance Director and/or the Chief Clerk authorizing Schultz to proceed with the work.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 265-2023.

Resolution 266-2023: Approving a Letter of Support for submission of the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) by the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC).

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 266-2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,