

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 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 Chief Clerk Hemminger.

Members Absent:

Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Jim Ott (Sheriff) and Lindsay Dempsie (Finance).

Public Comment:

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

CCAP Priority:

Commissioner Burke

County Inmates with Mental Health Issues

Commissioner Burke provided the following overview of the CCAP Priority on County Inmates with Mental Health Issues:

Our goal is for people with mental health issues to have access to services and diversionary programs to keep them out of jail. For individuals with mental health issues who do end up incarcerated, we need services to provide treatment that will help them avoid further interactions with the criminal justice system. This benefits the individuals by providing them proper treatment in a less traumatizing way and it benefits the County and its taxpayers by reducing costs.

County prisons are the largest providers of mental health services in the state. We receive people into the jail who suffer from behavioral health problems, substance use disorder, and many different mental health issues. According to data the Warden provided to me last spring, we sometimes have as high as 82% of our inmates with either a "serious or severe" mental health issue. At the time of the data provided to me, 65% of inmates were considered to have a "serious" issue and 17% had a "severe" issue.

Most jails are not equipped to address the needs of these inmates. The Blair County Prison is particularly ill equipped to meet these needs. This inadequacy leads to poor outcomes for those who come to us with a mental illness – whether they stay incarcerated or whether they are released back to their community in a worsened state. We know that our case managers, corrections officers, and other prison staff are doing their best, but they do not have the tools, programs, or facilities needed to take care of these types of issues within the prison. We need the support of the state to identify alternatives to incarceration, better diversionary programs, re-entry options, and access to state hospital beds when needed. This may require regional collaboration and collaboration with private providers to maintain continuity of care of inmates upon their release.

I do not want to steal Commissioner Erb's thunder for his presentation on the county mental health base funding, BUT there is cause and effect and overlap between these two issues. We sometimes hear of the need to mental health court, but, in reality, we need to divert people before they reach the stage of arrest and court involvement. If we had adequate services in the community, we would not need a mental health court or the level of in-prison services or re-entry services that we do.

Unfinished Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 195-2023: Approving the submission of the FY 21/22 Act 148 4th Quarter Expenditure Report to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 195-2023.

Resolution 196-2023: Approving a FY 20/21 and 21/22 (renewal) Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Pathways for the periods of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 196-2023.

Resolution 197-2023: Approving a FY 22/23 (renewal) Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Adelphoi Village 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 197-2023.

Resolution 198-2023: Approving the following three (3) Agreements for Payment of Legal Services between 1) the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Larry Lashinsky, Esq.; 2) the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Fanelli Willet Law Offices; and 3) the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Foor, Stokan, Huff, Kormanski and Naugle. Fees for said agreements are outlined therein, and terms are 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 198-2023.

Resolution 199-2023: Approving the submission of the second and final invoice for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Security Grant to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, in the amount of \$23,787.15.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 199-2023.

Resolution 200-2023: Approving a Purchase Agreement/Equipment and Software Maintenance Agreement between the County of Blair and Pitney Bowes for the purchase of one (1) Omation 210 Envelope Opener with installation and training, in the total amount of \$5,337.36, and a standard equipment service agreement, in the annual amount of \$527.00. Said purchase will be paid with Election Integrity Grant Program Funds.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 200-2023.

Resolution 201-2023: Approving a Software Support Agreement between the County of Blair and Optical Storage Solutions, Inc., for twenty-one (21) full Landex Licenses, one (1) Hot Site Disaster Recovery Site and Record Alert Services for the Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds Office, in the total amount of \$24,585.00; and two (2) full Landex Licenses for the Assessment Office, in the total amount of \$1,280.00. Term is for the period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 201-2023.

Resolution 202-2023: Approving a quote received from Joseph T. Berrena for labor/work required pertaining to HVAC, Refrigeration, Generator, Electrical, Plumbing, Laundry Equipment, and Food Service Equipment at the Blair County Prison at the following rates for the period of one (1) year with an option for extension:

- \$90.00/hr., straight time
- \$90.00/hr., OT and Holiday
- \$55.00/Truck Charge

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 202-2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Blair County Park and Recreation Advisory Board:

Nicole Hemminger requested approval for the appointment of Bill Sell to the Advisory Board filling the to expire term of Tim Hite for the period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026; and for the reappointment of Fred Miller for the period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 203-2023: Approving the appointment of Bill Sell to the Advisory Board filling the to expire term of Tim Hite for the period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026; and for the reappointment of Fred Miller for the period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Erb, and nay Commissioner Burke. Motion passed two-to-one to adopt Resolution 203-2023.

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,