

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025, 10:01 A.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER:

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent prayer.

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 Socie.

THEIRS PRESENT:

licia Tiraceve and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempse (Finance), A. C. Stickel (Controller), Mindy Hostler (CYF), Sue Ammerman (911/EMA), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Tricia Johnson (Social Services), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Paul Shaffer (Public Works/Highway), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Brooke Lafferty (Prison), Carol Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Socie confirmed there were no Executive Sessions held since the last Board of Commissioners Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for Commissioners Comments.

Commissioner Webster announced that she recently received a letter that someone was applying for a permit to drill a new well in Juniata Township, which would create new Marcellus Shale Funds for us.

Commissioner Webster also brought to everyone's attention that if you look up in the sky shortly after sundown, you could be able to see five of the planets lined up; two of the planets you will need a telescope to view. This is a rare and scinating occurrence.

ommissioner Kessling asked that with the extremely cold temperatures, you please continue to check on your neighbors and keep your animals inside.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 16– 2025:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
1/21/2025	250121WW	1,231,753.17
1/21/2025	250121CY	331,820.36
1/21/2025	250121SS	728,522.44

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Blair Senior Services in the total check amount of \$150,370.00.
- Holidaysburg Borough in the total check amount of \$21,127.13.

b. Ratification of the following nine-9 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
1/2/2025	250102FN	117,021.84
1/3/2025	250103HR	10,807.17
1/3/2025	250103VR	2,470.00
1/6/2025	250106FS	1,179.07
1/7/2025	250107TC	149,778.12
1/3/2025	250103HI	593,756.03
1/15/2025	250115RF	134.99
1/03/2025	250103WC	662.97
1/16/2025	250116HR	10,281.06

c. 2025 Budget Transfer: To cover the legal fees from McNees Wallace:

From	\$	To
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01101GCO-44080 General County Operations \$2,340.00 113201-44080 CYF

d. 2025 Budget Transfer: To cover the fees for a new hot water tank:

From	\$	To
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01103BM-43070 Building Maintenance \$639.00 01161PA-46070 MDJ Aigner

e. **Bridge #33/Old Mill Run Bridge Replacement Project:** Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #7, Part 1, Preliminary Design, in the total amount of \$6,271.61, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

f. **Blair County Airport Authority:** Requesting approval for the reappointment of Herbert S. Bolger, Jr. for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029.

g. **Blair County Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board:** Requesting approval for the appointments of Randall Manning and Jennifer Drass for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

- h. **Blair County Hospital Authority:** Requesting approval for the appointment of Barry Allen for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029.
- i. **Blair County Library System Board:** Requesting approval for the appointments of Andrea Bolan, Cathy Sell, and Michael Fay for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.
- j. **Blair County Social Services Advisory Board:** Requesting approval for the appointments of Jeffrey Colbert and Kenneth J. Dean, and the reappointments of Jane Petroski and Susanna M. Tomlinson for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.
- k. **Fort Roberdeau Association:** Requesting approval for the appointment of Kathie Beatty for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.
- l. **Employments:** Consiglio, Nicholas, FT, Fiscal Operations Officer – Court, Court Administration, \$2,018.81 biweekly, effective 1/21/2025. Savino, Austin, FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$15.52/hr., effective 1/21/2025. Zimmerman, Natasha, FT, Administrative Support - MDJ Jones, MDJs, \$11.58/hr., effective 1/21/2025. Butterbaugh, Faye, Intern - Credit Only, Juvenile Probation, effective 1/21/2025. Dance, Paige, Intern - Credit Only, District Attorney, effective 1/21/2025. DeAntonio, Nickolas and DeRosa, Lucia, Intern - Credit Only, Sheriff, effective 1/21/2025.
- m. **Status Changes:** McCarthy, Paige, FT, Criminal Case Manager, Court Administration, \$17.59/hr. to FT, Case Manager - Public Defender, Public Defender, \$17.59/hr., effective 1/15/2025. Mosel-Miller, Tracy, FT, Payroll Administrator, Controller, \$15.11/hr. to FT, Accounts Payable Coordinator, Controller, \$14.78/hr., effective 1/17/2025.
- n. **Resignations:** Hanna, Christopher, FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$15.51/hr., effective 1/17/2025. Gabella, Michael, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$22.66/hr., effective 1/22/2025. Socie, Sherry, FT, Chief Clerk/County Administrator, Commissioners, \$3,184.25 biweekly, effective 2/3/2025.

Chief Clerk Socie noted two (2) correction to the Consent Agenda. Item j should state an appointment of Jane Petroski to the Blair County Social Services Advisory Board and in item l, the interns are not county employees.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payments to Blair Senior Services and Hollidaysburg Borough.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 16-2025 with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Prison:

- i. Brooke Lafferty requested approval of the Bid Specifications and the advertisement for the Invitation to Bid for milk products for the Blair County Prison for the contract period of March 1, 2025 through March 1, 2030.

Resolution 17-2025: Approving the Bid Specifications and the advertisement for the Invitation to Bid for milk products for the Blair County Prison for the contract period of March 1, 2025 through March 1, 2030.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 17-2025.

- ii. Brooke Lafferty requested approval of the Bid Specifications and the advertisement for the Invitation to Bid for Food and Non-Food Items for the Blair County Prison for the contract period of March 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

Resolution 18-2025: Approving the Bid Specifications and the advertisement for the Invitation to Bid for Food and Non-Food Items for the Blair County Prison for the contract period of March 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 18-2025.

Elections:

Sarah Seymour requested approval of an Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and Elections Systems & Software, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, for coding the 2025 Municipal Primary and Election ballot with coding fees as outlined in the contract and twelve (12) days of on-site support, in the total amount of \$24,600.00.

Ms. Seymour added that this would be paid out of the Election Integrity grant.

Resolution 19-2025: Approving the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and Elections Systems & Software, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, for coding the 2025 Municipal Primary and Election ballot with coding fees as outlined in the contract and twelve (12) days of on-site support, in the total amount of \$24,600.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 19-2025.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of a contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Fort Roberdeau, and Barash Media for a ¼ page, 4-color advertisement in the Blair County Chamber 2025 Membership Directory and Buyers' Guide, at the negotiated rate of \$695.00. This will be paid out of the Fort 42100 Advertising & Publication Budget.

Resolution 20-2025: Approving the contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Fort Roberdeau, and Barash Media for a ¼ page, 4-color advertisement in the Blair County Chamber 2025 Membership Directory and Buyers' Guide, at the negotiated rate of \$695.00. This will be paid out of the Fort 42100 Advertising & Publication Budget.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 20-2025.

Highway:

- i. Paul Shaffer requested approval of the Submission of Form U-CS and Non-Hazardous Waste Certification by Merlo, Inc. to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the removal of the Pyritic Shale at County Bridge #69, which is not hazardous waste, to the Wayne Twp. Landfill in McElhattan, PA.

Mr. Shaffer added that this is what we had to do with the rock from bridge #70. It is an acid rock.

Resolution 21-2025: Approving the Submission of Form U-CS and Non-Hazardous Waste Certification by Merlo, Inc. to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the removal of the Pyritic Shale at County Bridge #69, which is not hazardous waste, to the Wayne Twp. Landfill in McElhattan, PA.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 21-2025.

- ii. Paul Shaffer requested approval of an Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair and Allegheny Trucks Inc. for vehicle repairs and maintenance as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Commissioner Kessling thanked Mr. Shaffer for all the work he had been doing in both the Highway and Facilities departments.

Resolution 22-2025: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair and Allegheny Trucks Inc. for vehicle repairs and maintenance as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 22-2025.

Children, Youth and Families:

- i. Mindy Hostler requested the approval of the 2024 Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Kid's Court Child Care & Learning Center, Inc. for products/services set forth in Exhibit A in the total amount of \$629.00.

Commissioner Burke stated she did not recall seeing an agreement for a specific daycare before and asked if this was an unusual situation.

Ms. Hostler stated this is used in unusual situations for childcare for kids in placement prior to them going through the County Assistance office for childcare assistance.

Resolution 23-2025: Approving the 2024 Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Kid's Court Child Care & Learning Center, Inc. for products/services set forth in Exhibit A in the total amount of \$629.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 23-2025.

- ii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 24/25 renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Bethany Christian Services.

Commissioner Burke asked that since Bethany does not have our preferred insurance set up, would they be our last resort?

Ms. Hostler responded that they would be our last resort.

Resolution 24-2025: Approving the FY 24/25 renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Bethany Christian Services.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 24-2025.

iii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc.

Commissioner Burke asked that this item be held until the next Board of Commissioners meeting since the Service Agreement was missing from the Agenda Packet.

iv. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair and Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc., to expand the Warm Hand Off program to include the Blair County Children Youth and Families office to facilitate referrals to a Blair Drug and Alcohol Program care coordinator for individuals presenting with substance abuse disorders; define the structure of the program; and identify each Party's obligations within the Program.

Commissioner Burke expressed excitement that they will have a care coordinator present when families are in the office; if they have an issue related to substance abuse, they can be referred right there for assessment

Resolution 25-2025: Approving the the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair and Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc., to expand the Warm Hand Off program to include the Blair County Children Youth and Families office to facilitate referrals to a Blair Drug and Alcohol Program care coordinator for individuals presenting with substance abuse disorders; define the structure of the program; and identify each Party's obligations within the Program.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 25-2025.

Public Safety/EMA:

Sue Ammerman requested approval of the Mosquito-borne Disease Control (MBDC) Grant Agreement (C990004834) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, in the amount of \$53,929.00, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Kessling stated that Public Safety Director Mark Taylor recently suffered a heart attack and asked Ms. Ammerman for an update.

Ms. Ammerman stated that he was recently released from the hospital.

Commissioner Kessling asked that everyone keep Mr. Taylor and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Commissioner Kessling continued by stating that last year they found West Nile in one or two places within the county, so this program is working, and it does help.

Resolution 26-2025: Approving the Mosquito-borne Disease Control (MBDC) Grant Agreement (C990004834) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, in the amount of \$53,929.00, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 26-2025.

Finance o/b/o Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program:

Lindsay Dempse requested approval of the 2025 Certification of County Funds for the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation program in the amount of \$159,659.00.

Resolution 27-2025: Approving the 2025 Certification of County Funds for the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation program in the amount of \$159,659.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 27-2025.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Burke asked that the agenda item "Requesting rejection of the proposed reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act bill, also known as the "Stronger Workforce for America Act," and the subsequent Sena amendments that are being proposed" be held until the next Board of Commissioners Meeting while she edits the response letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

Adjourn:

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


Sherry Socie, Chief Clerk