

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 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 Burke called the meeting to order.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

Commissioner Burke called for a moment of silent reflection.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Commissioner Burke requested that those participating in the meeting please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

Members Absent:

Commissioner Erb.

Others Present:

Cris Fredrickson and Mark Taylor (911E), Helen Schmitt (Public), Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Jay Whitesel (Prison), Jim Pooler (Public Works/Building Maintenance), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), AC Stickel (Controller), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Scott Barger (Public), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Brian Walters (HR), Jim Ott (Sheriff), Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel), and Courtney Murphy and Jillian Haggerty (WTAJ-TV 10).

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 12, 2023		
Thursday, April 13, 2023	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session
Friday, April 14, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Blair County Airport Authority Meeting (Blair County Airport)
Monday, April 17, 2023		
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)

Public Comment:

Commissioner Burke called for public comment.

Kay Stephens ask the board to provide comment on agenda item pertaining to the Opioid Settlement and their thoughts on how the Opioid Settlement Funds might be spent.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Burke called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Webster no comments noted.

Commissioner Burke no comments noted.

Proclamations: National County Government Month April 2023
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 9-15, 2023

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation and shared a few brief comments:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
APRIL 2023**

WHEREAS, the nation’s 3,069 counties serving more than 330 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents’ lives; and

WHEREAS, Blair County, Pennsylvania, and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, county officials and employees carry out their duties in a professional manner and are not often recognized for their special training, skills and contributions; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Duly, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 11th day of April 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation.

Commissioner Webster read the following proclamation and shared a few brief words:

PROCLAMATION
National Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week – April 9th – 15th, 2023

WHEREAS emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services; and,

WHEREAS when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

WHEREAS the safety of our police officers, firefighters and paramedics is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Blair County 911E Center; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters and paramedics by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Blair County 911E Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and,

WHEREAS each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, declare the week of April 9th – 15th, 2023 as “National Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week”, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

Duly, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 11th day of April 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 168-2023:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/11/2023	230411WW	\$ 23,407.31
04/11/2023	230411SS	\$ 10,914.93
04/11/2023	230411CY	\$231,152.16 \$229,602.16

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- ~~Thomas and Chandra Jandora in the total amount of \$1,550.00.~~

b. Ratification of the following six-6 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/04/2023	230410FP	\$257,309.28
04/01/2023	230401FN	\$117,016.70
04/03/2023	230403WC	\$ 15,293.43
04/03/2023	230403RF	\$ 125.84
04/03/2023	230403HI	\$533,140.30
04/03/2023	230403FS	\$ 2,418.80

c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated April 6, 2023 in the total amount of \$827,436.98.

d. **2023 Budget Transfer:** Charges received from Justifacts for the month of March 2023.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$117.75	01107-42000 Assessment
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$136.10	01103BM-42000 Building Maintenance
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$80.75	01160-42000 Court Administration
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$143.10	01158-42000 District Attorney
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$235.50	34156-42000 Domestic Relations
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$247.50	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$117.75	01157-42000 Public Defender
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$328.25	44122-42000 Public Safety – 911
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$129.75	01602-42000 Public Safety – EMA
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$117.75	01103CS-42000 Public Works – Facilities
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$32.25	01103HW-42000 Public Works – Highway
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$80.75	01151-42000 Sheriff
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$92.10	40164-42000 Victim Witness

e. **Resignations:** Brittany T. Hudson, FT, Administrative Support, MDJ Blattenberger, \$11.98/hr., effective 04/07/23.

f. **Employment:** Rory M. Grassadonia, FT, Social Services Aide I, CYF, \$10.60/hr., effective 04/10/23; Diane L. Marlowe, FT, Custodian, Public Works H/M, \$14.42/hr., effective 04/10/23; and Brittany T. Hudson, PT, Temporary, Department Assistant, MDJ Blattenberger, \$11.98/hr., effective 04/10/23.

g. **Employee Status Change:** Christine M. Pitts, From, FT, Clerk Typist I/Clerical Stats, CYF, \$11.22/hr., To, FT, Clerk Typist II/Court Aide, CYF, \$11.22/hr., effective 03/17/23.

h. **Employee Salary Change:** Larry E. Zilch, PT, Historic Site Assistant I, Fort Roberdeau, from \$10.80/hr., to \$11.00/hr., effective 04/08/23.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the request for payment of the invoice to Thomas and Chandra Jandora in the total amount of \$1,550.00 is being removed from today’s agenda due to Commissioner Erb’s absence and the need for Commissioner Burke to abstain due to a conflict of interest and will appear on next Tuesday’s Consent Agenda. The warrant total has been adjusted to reflect this invoice removal. The adjusted warrant (230411CY) total amount is \$229,602.16.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 168-2023 with the adjustment as noted.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Department of Emergency Services:

i. Cris Fredrickson requested approval of an agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Emergency Services 911E, and Precision Frontier for annual support and maintenance for (1) FieldSeeker Windows Ultra Low Voltage (ULV) Adulticiding Concurrent Office User License and one (1) FieldSeeker Windows Ultra Low Voltage (ULV) Adulticiding Mobile Field Device Concurrent Mobile User License, in the amount of \$700.00 for period of 4/1/2023 through 12/31/2023.

Mrs. Fredrickson stated the device tracks mapping for mosquito spray events and is reimbursed through the Mosquito Borne Disease Control Grant Program.

Discussion followed.

ii. Cris Fredrickson requested approval for the submission of the DGM-16F Financial Status Report to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the Federal FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for the period of November 30, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

Mrs. Fredrickson stated that the prior year’s reimbursement amount was \$103,930.00, and the reimbursement amount for FY 2022 was \$94,159.47. She stated that the reimbursement amount this year was based on PEMA’s formula, and was lower this year because the Emergency Management Agency’s Administrative Assistant position was not filled for the entire year.

Discussion followed.

iii. Cris Fredrickson requested approval for the submission of an Application for the Federal FY 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), in the total amount of \$128,097.88, for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, to supplement the salaries and

benefits of emergency management personnel who perform essential emergency management functions.

Mrs. Fredrickson stated that the prior year's grant reimbursement amount was \$94,159.47. She stated that the current year's reimbursement is a flat rate of \$46,000.00, and then PEMA's formula based on county population. The grant reimburses the county up to half of the salary and benefits of the Emergency Management Director, Operations & Training Coordinator, and Administrative Support personnel.

Discussion followed.

- iv. Cris Fredrickson requested approval for the submission of the Federal FY 2023/2025, Year 1, Mid-Year Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) Status Report to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation, for transportation of hazardous materials incident planning and training projects completed during the grant period.

Discussion followed.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of a ¼-page four-4 color advertisement, in the Where & When Pennsylvania 2023 Travel Guide with two-2 seasonal listings in the summer and fall issues, in the total amount of \$1,382.00 to be paid by the Fort Roberdeau Association.

Mr. Nelson stated that this is an annual request. He stated the Fort Roberdeau Association would pay the advertisement.

Discussion followed.

Human Resources:

Brian Walters requested approval of Amendment 5 and its Appendices to the County of Blair Health Benefit Plan (Trustmark) in section specific to "Eligibility, Enrollment and Effective Date" and "Appendix" retroactively to January 1, 2023.

Mr. Walters stated that the amendment and its appendices to the county's health benefit plan permits county retirees who qualify for retiree medical coverage as defined in the plan to elect medical coverage upon retirement even if not previously enrolled in medical coverage prior to their effective date of retirement.

Discussion followed.

Prison:

- i. Jay Whitesel requested approval to renew and extend the Agreement for Professional Services dated February 5, 2008, between the County of Blair and Justice Benefits Incorporated (JBI) for professional assistance to the county exploring opportunities for Federal Financial Participation (FFP), reviewing prospects for expansion of existing Federal Financial Participation (FFP), and securing Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for the county, for an additional four-4 year period at no cost to the county.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Jay Whitesel requested approval of a proposal received from Allegheny Glass and Mirror for the purchase and installation of one ¼", 37 5/8" x 4 3/8", clear, laminated glass panel, in the Restricted Housing Unit (RHU), in the amount of \$122.00.

Mr. Whitesel stated that due to safety concerns not only for the inmates but also for prison staff, he requested that the board consider taking approval action on the proposal today so that the broken glass panel could be replaced.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 169-2023: Approving a proposal received from Allegheny Glass and Mirror for the purchase and installation of one ¼", 37 5/8" x 4 3/8", clear, laminated glass panel, in the Restricted Housing Unit (RHU), in the amount of \$122.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 169-2023.

Commissioners:

- i. Allison Senkevich requested approval for the second submission of a grant application for the 2022-2023 Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) Loss Prevention Grant Program, in the total amount of \$13,651.89.

Mrs. Senkevich stated that the grant application is a second submission for the county. She stated that projects requested in the grant application are for the following projects and amounts:

BenQ Projector System	\$ 1,062.89
Four Survival Armored Vests	\$ 3,500.00
<u>Five Door Swipes</u>	+ \$ 9,089.00
Total	\$13,651.89

Discussion followed.

- ii. Requesting approval for Commissioner Bruce Erb to execute all Exhibit K's for each settlement party and any other documents required to carry out the terms of the County's decision to participate in the proposed New National Opioid Settlements, and in his absence, Vice Chairperson Laura O. Burke to execute any and all documents requiring a physical signature.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that due to Commissioner Erb's absence this item would be held for discussion until the Business Session of Tuesday, April 13, 2023.

- iii. Allison Senkevich requested approval of a letter of support for the Blair County Convention Center and Explore Altoona's RFP to the CCAP to host the 2028 CCAP Annual Meeting/Conference.

Discussion followed.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board:

- i. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00, to purchase supplies to repair the water leak at Valley View Park.

Mrs. Harpster stated that the Public Works Department with the assistance of the Altoona Water Authority have determined the source of the water leak at Valley View Park. She stated that the county's plumber is ready to begin work on repairing the leak, and asked the board to consider approving today's allocation of funds request.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 170-2023: A resolution approving an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00, to purchase supplies to repair the water leak at Valley View Park.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 170-2023.

- ii. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in an amount not to exceed \$160.00 for the purchase of a battery for the Valley View Park Truck.

Mrs. Harpster requested that the board consider approval action on today's allocation request so that the truck can be repaired.

Resolution 171-2023: A resolution approving an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in an amount not to exceed \$160.00 for the purchase of a battery for the Valley View Park Truck.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 171-2023.

- iii. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in an amount not to exceed \$140.00 for the purchase of a seat cover for the Valley View Park Truck.

Mrs. Harpster stated that an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in the amount of \$100.00 was requested last year for the purchase of a seat cover for the truck, however, the Public Works Department could not find a seat cover in the \$100.00 price range, therefore the purchase was not made.

Discussion followed.

- iv. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 for miscellaneous emergency expenses that may arise throughout the year at Valley View Park.

Mrs. Harpster stated that this is an annual allocation request.

- v. Melissa Harpster requested approval to increase the pavilion and amphitheater rental fee beginning in 2023 from \$65.00 per day to \$70.00 per day.

Mrs. Harpster stated that the price increase is to offset the \$5.00 per rental fee to be collected by the Central Blair Recreation Commission (CBRC) should an agreement be reached in the very near future for CBRA to manager Valley View Park pavilion rentals for the county through their online reservation system.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk