

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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 Tiracave.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

I Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsie and Brandon Meck (Finance), Angela Wagner (Controller), Tricia Johnson (ial Services), Emilie Deffenbaugh (Fort Roberdeau), Sam Dunkle (Court Administration), Mark Taylor (Public Safety- A), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Nicholas Burket (Public Works/Facilities), Devin Saylor (Assessment), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Scott Durban (Trust Fund), and Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Tiracave confirmed there was an Executive Session held on February 24, 2025 at approximately 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Burke, and Commissioner Webster regarding bargaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kay Stephens asked why there is additional billing for the Mansard roof.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

None

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 71-- 2025:

a. Ratification of the following seven-7 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
02/21/2025	250225WW	407,923.53
02/21/2025	250225TC	5,066.25
02/21/2025	250225CY	46,073.54
02/21/2025	250225SS	28,744.64
02/19/2025	250219EH	21,392.05
02/19/2025	250219FS	962.03
02/21/2025	250224FS	1,584.15

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

* Blair Senior Services in the total check amount of \$167,943.00.

b. Ratification of total Payroll for the paycheck dated 2/21/2025 in the total amount of \$825,182.78.

c. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for Hazard Mitigation reimbursement expenses:

From	\$	To
01602-42060 Emergency Management	\$179.52	01602608-44030 HMGP
d. <u>2025 Budget Transfer:</u> To cover the fees for legal fees from Babst Calland:	\$	To
From	\$	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$243.04	011062-44080 Elections
e. <u>2025 Budget Transfer:</u> To cover the fees for maintenance on county vehicles:	\$	To
From	\$	To
01103HW-44730 Highway	\$950.00	01202-44830 JPO

f. **Bridge #33/Old Mill Run Bridge Replacement Project:**

Requesting approval of ECMS submittion Invoice #8, Part 1, Preliminary Design, in the total amount of \$12,765.88, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 93% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

g. **Employments:** Patterson, Rhett, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 2/24/2025. McCall, Bailey, FT, Caseworker I, Children, Youth and Families, \$20.60/hr., effective 2/24/2025. Cohoon, Desiree, FT, District Court Administrative Support – Aigner, Magisterial District Justices, \$11.58/hr., effective 2/24/2025. Fox, Paula, FT, District Court Administrative Support – Jones, Magisterial District Justices, \$11.58/hr., effective 2/24/2025. Mayer, Laurie, FT., Payroll Administrator, Controller, \$1,620.00 biweekly, effective 2/24/2025.

h. **Resignations:** Oakes, Kevin, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 2/14/2025. Marshall, Dustin, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$22.66/hr., effective 2/14/2025. Selter, Lacey, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 2/21/2025.

Commissioner Burke expressed her abstention to the payment to Blair Senior Services in the total check amount of \$..7,943.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 71-2025 with the abstention as noted by Commissioner Burke.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Elections:

Emilie Deffenbaugh requested approval of the 2025 Fort Roberdeau Farmland Lease Agreement and to advertise for bid the lease of approximately 145 acres of farmland located in Tyrone Township adjacent to Fort Roberdeau.

Resolution 72-2025: Approving the 2025 Fort Roberdeau Farmland Lease Agreement and to advertise for bid the lease of approximately 145 acres of farmland located in Tyrone Township adjacent to Fort Roberdeau.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 72-2025.

Social Services:

- i. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the FY 23/24 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Center for Community Action for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in the maximum amount of \$2,650,000.00. This will provide the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP 2) and is funded by the ERAP 2 Fund.

Resolution 73-2025: Approving the FY 23/24 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Center for Community Action for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in the maximum amount of \$2,650,000.00. This will provide the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP 2) and is funded by the ERAP 2 Fund.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 73-2025.

- ii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the FY 24/25 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Center for Community Action for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the maximum amount of \$1,300,000.00. This will provide the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP 2), Housing Assistance Program (HAP), and Mental Health SSI Representative Payee Programs, and is funded by the Human Services Block Grant and ERAP 2 Fund

Resolution 74-2025: Approving the FY 24/25 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Center for Community Action for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the maximum amount of \$1,300,000.00. This will provide the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP 2), Housing Assistance Program (HAP), and Mental Health SSI Representative Payee Programs, and is funded by the Human Services Block Grant and ERAP 2 Fund

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 74-2025.

- iii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the County of Blair Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement to TEAM Effort, for low to moderate income family home renovations, in the total amount of \$20,000.00.

Scott Durbin added that Team Effort visited and identified a list people in our area that are in need of help. Between 750 to 800 people volunteer each year. There will be 3 ½ days of volunteer work and 1 1/2 days for the volunteers to enjoy the area. This is money well spent doing amazing things.

Commissioner Kessling stated that he appreciates the work you are doing. This is a game changer in peoples' lives. Thank you.

Resolution 75-2025: Approving the County of Blair Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement to TEAM Effort, for low to moderate-income family home renovations, in the total amount of \$20,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 75-2025.

- iv. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the County of Blair Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program allocation to supplement funding of the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation program throughout Blair County that will be administered through the Community Development programs in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00.

Resolution 76-2025: Approving the County of Blair Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program allocation to supplement funding of the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation program throughout Blair County that will be administered through the Community Development programs in the amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 76-2025.

- v. Tricia Johnson requested approval of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with roof replacement, soffit/fascia, and down spout repairs at 321 4th Avenue, Altoona in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Commissioner Burke asked if the following disbursements were recommended by the board.

Scott Durbin replied that the board saw a need in code compliance. They saw that people did not have enough money to do anything. He is excited to see applications for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund ready to "hit the streets" and help people who cannot afford the repairs. They keep getting code violations for things they cannot afford to fix.

Commissioner Webster responded that this is a great stopgap measure.

Resolution 77-2025: Approving the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with roof replacement, soffit/fascia, and down spout repairs at 321 4th Avenue, Altoona in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 77-2025.

- vi. Tricia Johnson requested approval of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with sewer repairs at 312 9th Street, Altoona in the amount of \$3,100.00.

Resolution 78-2025: Approving the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with sewer repairs at 312 9th Street, Altoona in the amount of \$3,100.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 78-2025.

- vii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with front porch roof and siding repairs at 525 6th Avenue, Altoona in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Resolution 79-2025: Approving the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with front porch roof and siding repairs at 525 6th Avenue, Altoona in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 79-2025.

- viii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with paint and siding repairs at 820 4th Avenue, Altoona in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Resolution 80-2025: Approving the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Disbursement for assistance with paint and siding repairs at 820 4th Avenue, Altoona in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 80-2025.

Public Safety - EMA:

- i. Mark Taylor requested approval for the Acceptance of the FFY 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Agreement (C950004781) by and between the County of Blair, County of Blair Department of Emergency Services, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and the South Central Mountains Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force (SCMRTF) for projects and equipment shared by SCMRTF during the performance period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027, in the amount of \$409,295.00.

Commissioner Kessling asked if this is a match or a grant.

Mr. Taylor responded that it is a grant.

Resolution 81-2025: Accepting the FFY 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Agreement (C950004781) by and between the County of Blair, County of Blair Department of Emergency Services, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and the South Central Mountains Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force (SCMRTF) for projects and equipment shared by SCMRTF during the performance period of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027, in the amount of \$409,295.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 81-2025.

Finance:

Lindsay Dempsey requested approval for the Adoption of a Reimbursement Resolution making a declaration of official intent for capital expenditures to be reimbursed from subsequent tax-exempt borrowings

Resolution 82-2025: Approving the Adoption of a Reimbursement Resolution making a declaration of official intent for capital expenditures to be reimbursed from subsequent tax-exempt borrowings

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 82-2025.

Public Works - Facilities:

Nicholas Burkett requested approval of Change Order #2 (Resolution 401-2024) between the County of Blair and David M. Maines Associates Inc. for the additional labor and facility to construct the mansard roofing system in the amount of \$557,470.00. The total project cost is \$1,338,789.00.

Commissioner Webster explained that the original roof replacement was for the section over courtroom #1. The mansard goes around the building and the flat fascia. That is the portion that was added to the contract.

Resolution 83-2025: Approving Change Order #2 (Resolution 401-2024) between the County of Blair and David M. Maines Associates Inc. for the additional labor and facility to construct the mansard roofing system in the amount of \$557,470.00. The total project cost is \$1,338,789.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 83-2025.

Commissioners:

- i. Commissioner Kessling requested approval of the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison, and Overwatch Innovations to develop and implement a computer software system for one year, beginning April 1, 2025, at no cost to the County for the first year.

Resolution 84-2025: Approving the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison, and Overwatch Innovations to develop and implement a computer software system for the Blair County Prison for one year, beginning April 1, 2025, at no cost to the County for the first year.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 84-2025.

- ii. Commissioner Kessling requested approval of the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison, and Overwatch Innovations to provide a staffing analysis of the security posts and positions at the Blair County Prison for one year, beginning April 1, 2025, in the amount of \$31,299.60.

Resolution 85-2025: Approving the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison, and Overwatch Innovations to provide a staffing analysis of the security posts and positions at the Blair County Prison for one year, beginning April 1, 2025, in the amount of \$31,299.60.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 85-2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURN:

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



Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk