



BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Thursday, December 4, 10:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, BASEMENT

1. 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:

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

4. MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke and Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave.

5. OTHERS PRESENT:

Jen Cutshall (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsie, Brandon Meck (Finance), Emily States (EMA), DeAnna Heichel (Assessment), Tricia Johnson (Social Services), Scott Bailey, Jennifer Walters (Adult Probation), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Ray Benton (Coroner), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Eric Malloy (CYF), James Ott (Sheriff), Jim Carothers (Treasurer), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Nate Taylor (Public Access), Ann Merritts (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Connor Goetz (WTAJ), Bill Forsht, Reynolds Baldwin (Public)

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

An Executive session was held on December 1, 2025 at approximately 11:00 a.m. with the Commissioners, Chief Clerk, Assistant Chief Clerk and Finance Director regarding two (2) properties. An Executive session was held on December 3, 2025 at approximately 1:00 p.m. with the Commissioners, Chief Clerk, HR director and Assistant HR Director regarding two (2) positions.

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 11/20/2025

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes as prepared.

8. APPROVAL OF THE 2026 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES - 10/6/25, 10/7/25, 10/8/25, 10/9/25, 10/10/25, 10/14/25, 10/15/25, 10/17/25, 10/21/25, 10/24/25, 10/28/25, 10/31/25, 11/12/25, 11/14/25, 11/18/25

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes as prepared.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Coroner Ray Benton spoke about two of today's agenda items, the removal & transportation and storage of decedents for the Blair County Coroner's Office. He noted that his job is to investigate and speak for those who do not have a voice, the decedents. According to Coroner Benton, the language within the first agenda items is incorrect, and that Clear Creek Company intends to honor their contract for storage; they only chose to discontinue their removal & transportation services to the County. As far as awarding a contract to Forsht, the Coroner noted he has provided the Commissioners with notification of issues with the location as well as photos, and stated the location is dirty, full of junk vehicles, their location is outside the allowable temperature requirements and has no temperature warning system. He also stated that he spoke with a funeral director who indicated at one point a body had been placed outside of a cooler, which is unacceptable. Coroner Benton stated he is doing his best to provide a respectable place for decedents and their families and would not use Forsht's services for his own family.

Bill Forsht, of Forsht Livery Service, stated that a cooler was placed in his location temporarily due to Covid. It was not the best facility, but it served its purpose. He also reminded the Commissioners that you get what you pay for, and he will do his best to provide the best services possible for the money he will be getting paid. He also noted that he has had issues with Mr. Benton

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burke stated that she recently returned from the Fall CCAP Conference. There were three priorities selected for 2026 legislative action: (1) increasing mental health funding; (2) help for timely reassessments; and (3) 911 surcharge reauthorization. Her committee brought forward an agenda item seeking help from the State during future budget impasses, but it was not selected to move forward.

Commissioner Webster noted two important anniversaries this week, the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party and the anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

11. CONSENT AGENDA.

Resolution 540– 2025:

a. Ratification of the following fifteen (15) Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
11/04/2025	251104WC	\$2,949.14
11/17/2025	251117FS	\$1,386.41
11/17/2025	251117RF	\$1,218.99
11/20/2025	251120HR	\$2,385.78
11/25/2025	251125EO	\$65,475.31
11/25/2025	251125UT	\$33,252.71
11/25/2025	251125WW	\$1,416,042.66
11/25/2025	251125CY	\$880,220.15
11/25/2025	251125SS	\$524,155.61
11/24/2025	251124FS	\$1,034.48
11/26/2025	251126WX	\$6,927.74
11/25/2025	251125RF	\$2,338.94
12/02/2025	251202SS	\$1,666,220.82
12/02/2025	251202UT	\$33,807.97
12/02/2025	251202WW	\$364,729.79

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Hollidaysburg Borough in the total check amounts of \$25,545.03 (Warrant 251125UT) and \$8,465.50 (Warrant 251125WW)
- Julia Burke in the total check amount of \$156.61 (Warrant 251125EO)
- Blair Senior Services in the total check amounts of \$4,677.62 (Warrant 251125SS), \$188,224.00 (Warrant 251125WW), and \$602.58 (Warrant 251202SS)
- Blair Health Choices in the total check amount of \$43,601.44 (Warrant 251125SS)

b. Ratification of total Payroll for the paycheck dated 11/28/2025 in the total amount of \$965,198.46.

c. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover September 2025 fees from Simpli|Verified for pre-employment background checks:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$49.45	012011-42000 APO
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	01152-42000 Coroner
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$58.45	01160-42000 Court Admin
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$58.45	01160CO-42000 Custody
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	01103CS-42000 Custodian
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$143.35	113201-42000 CYF
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$58.45	01158-42000 District Attorney
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$34.45	01157-42000 Public Defender
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$487.70	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$249.00	44122-42000 Public Safety 911
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	011192-42000 Records Management

d. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover October and November 2025 fees from Simpli|Verified for pre-employment background checks:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	012011-42000 APO
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$49.45	01161FM-42000 MDJ Tyrone
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	01202-42000 PO
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$567.85	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	44122-42000 Public Safety 911
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	01150-42000 Register and Recorder
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$58.45	01151-42000 Sheriff
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$50.45	01603-42000 Veterans Affairs

e. **Commissioners:**

- Requesting approval to ratify the naming of the roadway through Valley View Park "Pavilion Lane."
- Requesting approval to name the access road from Pleasant Valley Blvd. to the Honorable Judge Fred B. Miller Soccer Fields parking lot at Valley View Park to "Judge Miller Way."

f. **Fort Roberdeau Association Board:** Requesting approval of the appointments of Maverick Fleck and Richard Sutter to the Board. Requesting the approval of the reappointments of Jennifer Fleck, Helen Jean Sinal and Stan Kortala to the Board. All terms are effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

g. **Agricultural Land Preservation Board:** Requesting approval of the appointments of Maverick Fleck and Thomas Gearhart to the Board for the terms of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. Requesting the reappointment of Samuel T. Lewis to the Board for the term of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, filling the remainder of Palmer Brown's term.

h. **Hospital Authority:** Requesting approval of the appointment of John Getty to the Board. Requesting the approval of the reappointments of Lisa Mancinelli and Shane Crawford to the Board. All terms are effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030.

i. **Library Systems Board:** Requesting approval of the appointment of Sharon Erb to the Board. Requesting the approval of the reappointments of Marty Dombrowski and Susan Heuston to the Board. All terms are effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029.

j. **Social Services Advisory Board:** Requesting approval of the appointments of Jennifer Drass and Bonita Shreve to the Board. Requesting the reappointments of Christopher Cohn, Susan Franco and Stephen Martyuska to the Board. All terms are effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

k. **Resignations:** Conrad, Brayden, FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$19.35/hr., effective 11/21/2025. Standridge, Melissa, FT, Department Support, Prothonotary, \$13.10/hr., effective 11/21/2025.

l. **Terminations:** Biles, Dylan, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 11/14/2025.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstentions to the payments to Hollidaysburg Borough, Julia Burke, Blair Senior Services and Blair Health Choices.

Resolution 540-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

911:

Emily States requested approval of Exhibit A as an addendum to the existing multi-county agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services-911, and RBA Professional Data Services for Regional Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Support, for the period August 31, 2025 through August 31, 2026, in the total fixed fee amount of \$40,257.04.

Resolution 541-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Drug and Alcohol:

Commissioner David Kessling, on behalf of Blair Drug and Alcohol, requested approval to submit an application for the FY 25-26 Intermediate Punishment, Probation with Restrictive Conditions Grant #47615 and Intermediate Punishment Plan to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, in the total grant amount of \$315,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Resolution 542-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Burke, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Assessment:

DeAnna Heichel requested approval of an Amendment to the CAMA Software Subscription Agreement (Resolution 32-2025) between the County of Blair and Vision Government Solutions, Inc. for implementation of the DataScout Web solution to replace the previously selected Vision Web Hosting Solution for public data access at no cost to the County.

Resolution 543-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Burke, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Human Resources:

- i. Sandy Holencik requested approval of the County of Blair Workmen's Compensation Trust Fund Insurance Policy Renewal as presented by Highstreet Insurance & Financial Services (Warren Gingrich Insurance Agency) for the policy period dated August 1, 2025 through August 1, 2028, in the total amount of \$3,020.00.

This item was placed on hold at the request of Brian Walters. No vote.

- ii. Brian Walters requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair and Pennsylvania Counties Health Insurance Cooperative (PCHIPC) to set aside \$724,125.00 of our current reserve for the purpose of funding 90% of our maximum premium rate for participation in the PCHIPC funding model for costs of our self-insured medical plan.

Resolution 544-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster with unanimous approval to adopt.

Treasurer:

Jim Carothers requested approval for the payment of an annual invoice received from ePaymentNow.com for the printing and mailing of the 2026 Dog License Renewal Notices, in the total amount of \$5,575.00.

Resolution 545-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Adult Parole and Probation:

Cott Bailey requested approval to submit the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) continuing County Adult Probation and Parole Grant application for FY 25/26 in the total grant amount of 90,794.00.

Resolution 546-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of the Quote dated November 18, 2025, from Lallemand Construction LLC for clearing of trees and construction of a stone retaining wall to support the ADA compliant observation platform overlooking the lead mine exhibit in the amount of \$7,890.00. Funds are from a 2025 Richard Sutter donation.

Resolution 547-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Children, Youth and Families:

Eric Malloy requested approval of the Contract for Consulting Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Matthew S. Wood for the period of December 4, 2025 through December 31, 2026, at the rates listed below:

Travel	\$75.00/hour of travel	
In-Person and Remote Consulting Services	\$150.00 / hour	
Mileage (at the federal IRS reimbursement rate)	\$0.70/mile	
Reimbursement for Travel expenses as necessary (tolls, parking fees, hotel stays)	As expended	

Resolution 548-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Burke, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Social Services:

- i. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Skills of Central PA, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$300,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.
- ii. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Peerstar for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$15,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.
- iii. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Child Advocates for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$65,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.
- iv. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and NAMI for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$90,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.
- v. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and Health, Opportunity, Purpose and Empowerment (H.O.P.E.) for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$100,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.
- vi. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contract between the County of Blair and UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, dba UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$1,300,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.
- vii. Ms. Johnson requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Renewal contract between the County of Blair and UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the maximum amount of \$2,200,000.00. This is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.

Resolution 549-2025: Approving the seven (7) FY 2025/2026 Renewal Contracts between the County of Blair and the vendors listed above. Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

- viii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the Reciprocal Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Social Services, and Westmoreland County, for a Blair County resident who is being Discharged from the Torrance State Hospital to Westmoreland County for up to a year after the discharge date, and upon completion of that year, Westmoreland County will assume responsibility for that resident. Also requesting approval to authorize Tricia Johnson, Director, Blair County Department of Social Services, to sign said Agreement.

Resolution 550-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

Commissioners:

- i. Alicia Tiracave requested approval for the award, rejection or rebidding of the bids received for the Convention Center Boulevard Brush Run (County Bridge 86) project to RAM Construction Services of Michigan, Inc.

Contractor	Bid Total
RAM Construction Services of Michigan, Inc.	\$134,126.72
The Truesdell Corporation	\$154,154.00
Cottle's Asphalt Maintenance, Inc.	\$160,183.00
MEKIS Construction Corporation	\$177,003.20

Resolution 551-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

ii. Ms. Tiracave requested the ratification of a letter issued to Brent Altmanshofer, President, Phoenix Fire Company, regarding two parcels of land.

Resolution 552-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

iii. Ms. Tiracave requested the ratification of a letter issued to Phil Robertson, Esquire, regarding one parcel of land.

Resolution 553-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

iv. Ms. Tiracave requested approval of the Agreements of Sale between the County of Blair, Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department, and Michael and Samantha Jo Kurtz, for three parcels in the Borough of Hollidaysburg.

Resolution 554-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

v. Ms. Tiracave requested approval to accept the withdrawal of the contracts awarded to Clear Creek Company, for the removal & transportation, and storage of decedents for the Blair County Coroner, effective December 3, 2025, pursuant to the letters received from Clear Creek Company dated October 3, 2025.

Resolution 555-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

vi. Ms. Tiracave requested approval to award the remainder of the contract for storage of decedents for the Blair County Coroner to the second-place bidder, Forsht Livery Service, for the remainder of the contract period, December 4, 2025 through June 10, 2026.

Resolution 556-2025: Motioned by Commissioner Kessling and seconded by Commissioner Webster, with unanimous approval to adopt.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DJOURN

otioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adjourn day's meeting.


Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk

