



BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 10:05 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, BASEMENT

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER:**
Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent prayer.
3. **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, Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsie, Brandon Meck (Finance), A.C. Stickel, Angela Wagner (Controller), Melissa Gillin (Social Services), Nick Burket (Public Works – Facilities), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Ann Merrits, Carol A. Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Connor Goetz (WTAJ), Nate Taylor (Public Access)
6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
None
7. **APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 10/30/2025**
Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes as prepared.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
None
9. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**
Commissioner Burke thanked all those that assisted with the elections process, including the custodians who set everything up and took everything down afterward.

Commissioner Webster echoed Commissioner Burke's comments and thanked everyone.

Commissioner Kessling read a letter received from Norfolk Southern awarding the County a \$15,000 grant to support safety initiatives including a drone project as part of Norfolk Southern's Safety First Program. He stated that he is very happy the County was able to receive the grant.

10. CONSENT AGENDA Resolution 510-- 2025:

a. Ratification of the following thirteen (13) Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/14/2025	251014WW	\$348,366.00
10/09/2025	251021UT	\$22,676.08
10/20/2025	251020FS	\$1,404.42
10/27/2025	251027FS	\$1,557.86
10/29/2025	251029DA	\$19,298.25
10/15/2025	251015RF	\$4,075.79
10/30/2025	251030HR	\$10,321.61
11/04/2025	251104WW	\$200,750.63
10/30/2025	251030RF	\$3,471.07
11/04/2025	251104TC	\$227,376.97
11/04/2025	251104SS	\$212,413.70
11/04/2025	251104UT	\$7,737.19
11/04/2025	251104AC	\$357,219.46

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Blair Senior Services in the total check amounts of \$183,399.00, \$164,967.00, and \$154,137.00.
- Hollidaysburg Borough in the total check amounts of \$22,676.08 and \$16,029.91.
- b. Ratification of total payroll for the paycheck dated 10/31/2025 in the total amount of \$974,751.22.
- c. Agricultural Land Preservation Board: Requesting approval of the re-appointment of Commissioner Army E. Webster to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board as Commissioner Representative for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.
- d. Blair County Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board: Requesting approval of the appointment of Angie Best to the Board for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.
- e. Bridge #33/Old Mill Run Bridge Replacement Project: Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #1, Part 2, Final Design, in the total amount of \$26,136.46, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.
- f. County Road 101 Road Closure Request: Requesting approval to conduct the Claysburg Christmas in the Park Parade on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Parade will begin at Legion Field, 124 Church St, and end at the Claysburg Little League Field, 1026 Bedford St.
- g. Commissioners: Requesting approval of a Letter of Support to Eric Luchansky, Director of Community Development, City of Altoona, for the Sixth Avenue Revitalization project.
- h. Employments: Shaffer, Teely, FT, Director, Veterans' Affairs, \$24.69/hr., effective 11/10/2025.
- i. Status Changes: Prahler, Brandon, FT, Caseworker II, CYF, \$ 22.88/hr., to FT, Caseworker III, CYF, \$22.88/hr., effective 11/03/2025.
- j. Resignations: Willson, Christopher, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 9/14/2025.
- k. Retirements: Cerett, Andrew, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 10/24/2025.
- k. Retirements: Brumbaugh, Lisa, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$22.99/hr., effective 10/30/2025.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention to the payments to Blair Senior Services and Hollidaysburg Borough due to conflicts of interest.

Commissioner Burke also voted nay on the appointment of Angie Best to the Blair County Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board.

Commissioner Webster noted her abstention to her re-appointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board as Commissioner Representative for the term of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 510-2025 with the abstentions and nay vote as noted.

Elections:

Sarah Seymour requested approval for the Payment of the Invoice received from Election Systems and Software, LLC, for the replacement of batteries in the DS200 Precinct Scanners and Express Vote ballot marking devices, and to amend Resolution 241-2025 to reflect the corrected price of \$39,635.00.

Resolution 511-2025: Approving the Payment of the Invoice received from Election Systems and Software, LLC, for the replacement of batteries in the DS2000 Precinct Scanners and Express Vote ballot marking devices, and to amend Resolution 241-2025 to reflect the corrected price of \$39,635.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 511-2025.

Public Works – Facilities:

Nick Burket requested approval for the Payment of the Invoice received from the Borough of Hollidaysburg in the amount of \$8,465.50 for permitting fees for the Blair County Parking Garage.

Commissioner Burke noted a conflict with this item and abstained from a vote on the matter.

Commissioner Kessling stated that Hollidaysburg Borough was contacted in an attempt to obtain a lower price for the permit but said nothing could be done as the Borough is a pass-through in this case.

Resolution 512-2025: Approving the Payment of the Invoice received from the Borough of Hollidaysburg in the amount of \$8,465.50 for permitting fees for the Blair County Parking Garage.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 512-2025 with the abstention as noted.

Finance:

Lindsay Dempsie requested approval to authorize Will Ross of T&F Exploration, LP to lock in the natural gas hedge prices at a maximum rate of \$4.35/Dth for November-December 2026 at 100%, January – December 2027 at 50%, and January – October 2028 at 25%.

Ms. Dempsie noted that this is being done to realize future savings and reduce pricing on natural gas service.

Resolution 513-2025: Authorizing Will Ross of T&F Exploration, LP to lock in the natural gas hedge prices at a maximum rate of \$4.35/Dth for November – December 2026 at 100%, January – December 2027 at 50%, and January – October 2028 at 25%.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 513-2025.

Social Services:

Melissa Gillin requested approval of a Property Owner/Contractor Agreement for the AHTF Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program between the County of Blair, Department of Social Services, Bobbi Jo Almeida, and Tornatore Painting & Wallcovering for exterior scraping and painting of the house located at 510 11th St., Altoona, PA, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000.00.

Ms. Gillin noted that monies for this program are collected through the Recorder of Deeds Office.

Commissioner Webster stated, for public awareness, that this money does not come from the General Fund.

Resolution 514-2025: Approving a Property Owner/Contractor Agreement for the AHTF Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program between the County of Blair, Department of Social Services, Bobbi Jo Almeida, and Tornatore Painting & Wallcovering for exterior scraping and painting of the house located at 510 11th St., Altoona, PA, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 514-2025.

Commissioners:

Alicia Tiracave requested approval of the 2026-2028 Solicitor Fee Proposal from Gabriel Fera PC.

Resolution 515-2025: Approving the 2026 – 2028 Solicitor Fee Proposal from Gabriel Fera PC.

Commissioner Burke voted nay to the 2026 – 2028 Solicitor Fee Proposal from Gabriel Fera PC.

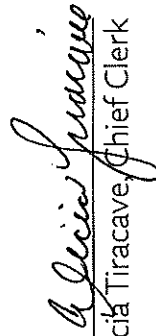
Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 515-2025 with the nay vote as noted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN

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


Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk

