

**WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021, 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 Erb called the meeting to order.

**Moment of Silent Reflection:**

Commissioner Erb called for a moment of silent reflection.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:**

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

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:**

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger, and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

**Members Absent:**

Solicitor Karn.

**Others Present:**

Molly Wink (JPO), Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Carol Dannanberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Trina Illig, Melissa Gillin and Theresa Rudy (Social Services), Jenn Sleppy and Sarah Chuff (Finance), Jim Pooler (Maintenance), Katherine Swigart and Brian Walters (HR), James Ott (Sheriff), Joseph Merrill (Altoona Police Department), Don Weakland (IT), Janice Meadows (Court Administration), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Helen Schmitt (Public) and Angela Wagner (Controller’s Office).

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Thursday, July 1, 2021

8:30 a.m.

\*Park & Recreation Adv. Bd. Mtg.  
(Conference Room 2B, second fl.)

10:00 a.m.

\*Commissioners Business Session  
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

Friday, July 2, 2021

Monday, July 5, 2021

Independence Day Observed--Courthouse Closed

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

10:00 a.m.

\*Commissioners Work Session  
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

9:00 a.m.

\*Retirement Board  
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

10:30 a.m.

\*Salary Board  
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

Thursday, July 8, 2021

10:00 a.m.

\*Commissioners Business Session  
(Commissioners Meeting Room)

Friday, July 9, 2021

Monday, July 12, 2021

**Public Comment:**

Commissioner Erb called for public comment. **There were no comments noted.**

**Commissioners Comments:**

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Webster announced the Star Spangled July 4<sup>th</sup> event to be held on Independence Day at Fort Roberdeau and extended an invitation for everyone to attend.

Commissioner Burke encouraged all County of Blair employees to use their accrued time to recharge and relax.

Commissioner Erb echoed Commissioner Webster and Commissioner Burke’s comments.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution #258-2021:**

- a. Payment of three-3 Warrant Lists as listed below:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
06/29/21	210629WW	\$435,794.90
06/29/21	210629SS	\$370,684.01
06/29/21	210629CY	\$ 88,753.23

- b. Ratification of three-3 Warrant Lists as listed below:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
06/22/21	210622FS	\$ 3,709.43
06/25/21	210625HR	\$21,441.22
06/29/21	210629FS	\$ 3,980.74

- c. **2021 Budget Transfer:** For charges received from East Coast.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$560.00	01105-44080 Human Resources

- d. **Blair County Industrial Development Authority and Blair County General Authority:** Requesting approval of the resignation of William Hoyne, Chairperson, from both Authorities effective 05/25/21 (term to expire 07/24/22); approval of the appointment of Troy Campbell to the Authorities for the period of 07/25/21 to 07/24/22, filling the unexpired term of William Hoyne; requesting approval for the reappointment of Michael Settimo to the Authorities and to the position of Chairperson of the Authorities for the period of 07/25/21 to 07/24/26; and for the reappointments of Mark Ritchey, Rex Metz, Bruno DeGol, Brian Irwin and Nick Gates to the Authorities for the period of 07/25/21 to 07/24/26.

- e. **Employment:** Logan H. Miller, Kenneth J. Dalto, Dylan M. Feather, Per Diem, Fill-In, Correction Officer, Prison, \$15.08/hr., effective 06/28/21; Cody J. Dugan, FT, Sheriff's Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.39/hr., effective 06/28/21; and Leslie A. Kelly, PT, Probation Officer Support, APO, \$10.82/hr., effective 06/28/21; Donna L. Nolan, From, FT, Lead Telecommunicator, 911 Center, \$17.02/hr., To, FT, Supervisor, 911 Center, \$21.40/hr., effective 06/26/21; and Trevor A. Hyle, From FT, Sheriff's Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.39/hr., To, Per Diem, Fill-In, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.03/hr., effective 07/05/21.
- f. **Terminations:** Shania D. Shultz, Per Diem, Fill-In, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.08/hr., effective 06/21/21.
- g. **Resignations:** Melissa L. Stump, and Scott A. Brumbaugh, FT, Casework Supervisor, \$36,279.36/yr., effective 06/30/21 and 07/02/21 respectively; and Susie J. Gutshall, FT, First Deputy-Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary, \$26,659.88/yr., effective 07/02/21.

Commissioner Burke noted a correction to letter g., resignations, she stated that Melissa L. Stump rescinded her resignation.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #258-2021 with change as noted.

### **Staff Reports & Special Business**

#### **Social Services:**

- a. Theresa Rudy requested approval for the submission of two-2 Applications to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) for Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHBG) COVID-19 Response Funding for the expansion of the UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital (WPH) Altoona Mobile Crisis Service, in the maximum amount of \$465,080.00; and the UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies Student Assistance Program (WBHA SAP), in the maximum account of \$258,176.00, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June, 30, 2023.

Mrs. Rudy stated that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has announced funding opportunities through the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHBG) COVID-19 Response Funding granted through the Consolidated Appropriations Action of 2021 in combination with funds from Pennsylvania's annual CMHSBG award.

Mrs. Rudy stated that the Blair County Department of Social Services submitted two (2) Letters of Interest in May 2021 asking consideration to be invited to complete applications for funding in the following program areas. (1) Mobile Crisis Capacity Building, and (2) Student Assistance Program (SAP) Support.

Mrs. Rudy stated that OMHSAS has informed the county that both projects have been conditionally accepted for funding and the county has been invited to submit full applications that are due no later than July 12, 2021. She stated that the application for the UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital (WPH) – Altoona Crisis may request a maximum amount of \$465,080 for Mobile Crisis expansion; and the UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies (WBHA) a maximum amount of \$258,176. The funding opportunities will be for a two-year period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2023.

Mrs. Rudy stated that there is no required county match of funds and any expenses that would exceed the grant amount would be covered through the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Mental Health (MH) allocation.

Mrs. Rudy requested approval for the Department of Social Services to submit the applications for this funding opportunity.

Discussion followed.

- b. Trina Illig requested approval to 1) Terminate a Sub-Recipient Agreement approved via Resolution 174-2019, dated April 30, 2019, under the County of Blair's Non-Entitlement FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds, in the amount of \$50,000.00, for the Borough of Roaring Spring to complete demolition/clearance activities; and 2) Enter into a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the County of Blair and Tyrone Township, under the County of Blair's Non-Entitlement FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds, in the amount of \$50,000.00, for activities associated with demolition/clearance to raze the Sinking Valley Grange Building, located in Tyrone Township.

Mrs. Illig requested approval to terminate a sub-recipient agreement previously approved via Resolution 174-2019 with Roaring Spring Borough and for approval to enter into a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Tyrone Township for FY 2017 CDBG Funds.

Mrs. Illig stated that the Sub-Recipient Agreement had originally allocated funding to the Roaring Spring Borough for demolition activities, in the amount of \$50,000.00, to remove a structure located at 261 Main Street, Roaring Spring. She stated that the funding allocation is no longer needed as the structure to be demolished was purchased through the Tax Claim Office and was removed privately.

Mrs. Illig stated that she is proposing to reallocate the \$50,000.00 to Tyrone Township for the removal of the Sinking Valley Grange Hall #484.

Discussion followed.

- c. Trina Illig requested approval to enter into Sub-Recipient Agreements under the County of Blair's FY 2019/2020 Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) and the agencies listed below:
  - Blair County Community Action Agency, in the amount of \$20,000.00.
  - Family Services, Inc., in the amount of \$10,000.00.
  - Catholic Charities, in the amount of \$10,000.00.
  - Blair HealthChoices, in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mrs. Illig stated that the funding is made available by the PHFA for FY 2019-2020 for the period of July 1, 2021 through July 29, 2022.

Discussion followed.

- d. Trina Illig requested approval to enter into a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the County of Blair and Family Services, Inc. under the County of Blair's FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds, in the amount of \$204,633.00, to undertake activities associated with the new Family Shelter, in the former Drenning Building, located on North Branch Avenue within the City of Altoona, PA.

Discussion followed.

- e. Melissa Gillin requested approval of a FY 2021/2022 renewal contract between the County of Blair and Blair Family Solutions LLC, in the maximum contract amount of \$25,000.00, funded through the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) for Mental Health Services.

Ms. Gillin stated that Solicitor Karn has revised the Social Services FY 2021-2022 boilerplate and business associates' agreement.

Discussion followed.

- f. Melissa Gillin requested approval of a FY 2020/2021 ninety-90 day contract extension between the County of Blair and United Way of Blair County, extending the terms and conditions of the contract until September 30, 2021, as stated in Article 1, Section B, and approval of Amendment #01, amending Article VI, Paragraph B of said contract, increasing the maximum allocation from \$179,862.00 to \$225,000.00.

Ms. Gillin stated that the United Way of Blair County contract extension was advised by the Commonwealth due to delay in state budgeting and funding of the Family Resource Center grant. She also stated that Amendment #01 is for the increase in the maximum allocation amount from \$179,862.00 to \$225,000.00.

Discussion followed.

#### **Human Resources:**

- a. Katherine Swigart requested approval of a Grievance Settlement Agreement between the County of Blair and Pennsylvania Social Services Union (PSSU) Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 668, effective June 16, 2021.

Discussion followed.

- b. Katherine Swigart requested approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the County of Blair and PSSU, SEIU, Local 668, Children and Youth Service Workers, effective January 1, 2021 through and including December 31, 2023.

Ms. Swigart stated that final review of the agreement has been completed by both labor council and management and the contract was ratified by union membership effective mid-May 2021.

Ms. Swigart provided a summary of noteworthy changes to the agreement to the Board of Commissioners.

Discussion followed.

- c. Brian Walters requested approval of Amendment #4 to the County of Blair's Employee Benefit Plan, redefining the terms "Employee Eligibility" and "Employee(s) Effective Date" as described therein, effective April 1, 2020.

Mr. Walters stated that L.R. Webber has advised that they never received a signed adoption of the County of Blair's Medical Plan Standard Plan Document (SPD) effective April 1, 2020, as amended retroactive to April 1, 2019. This retroactive Amendment (now to be Amendment No. 4) amended the section "Eligibility, Enrollment and Effective Date" by deleting subsections "Employee Eligibility" and "Employee(s) Effective Date" in their entirety and replacing them with an Appendix individually delineating these terms and conditions for Elected Officials and by each participating Union bargaining group.

Discussion followed.

#### **Court Administration:**

- a. Janice Meadows requested approval for the acceptance of a Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Indigent Defense Case Subgrant Award #2020-GO-CC-35647, in the total amount of \$40,000.00, to be used by the courts for a Capital Mitigation Specialist/Sentencing Advocate, for the period of June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Mrs. Meadows stated that the grant period ends on June 30, 2022 not June 30, 2021 as noted on the agenda.

Discussion followed.

- b. Janice Meadows requested approval for the submission of a budget modification of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) FY 2019 Drug Court Initiatives Grant #31123, moving a total of \$27,984.00 from category Personnel-Salaries of Drug Testers and \$2,723.00 from category Including Training for a total modification of \$30,708.00. Moving the amount of \$9,985.00 to a new category Probations Officers Time, and the amount of \$20,723.00 to Supplies and Operating Expense for the purchase of additional Drug Tests.

Discussion followed.

**Juvenile Probation:**

Jon Frank requested approval of a Student Assistance Program (SAP) Participation Agreement between the County of Blair and the Hollidaysburg Area School District for the period of August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Mr. Frank stated the request is an annual request and the agreement has been reviewed by the County Solicitor.

Discussion followed.

**Sheriff's Office:**

Sheriff Ott and Altoona Police Chief Joseph Merrill requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, Blair County Sheriff's Office and the City of Altoona, acknowledging and supporting the submission of a 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application by the City of Altoona and the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$20,206.00, with an allocation of funds to the City of Altoona, in the total amount of \$16,000.00, and an allocation of funds to the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$4,206.00.

Sheriff Ott stated that this is an annual request and the MOU has been reviewed by the County Solicitor. He stated that awarded funds would be used for the purchase of non-budgeted equipment items.

Discussion followed.

**Resolution #259-2021:** A resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, Blair County Sheriff's Office and the City of Altoona, acknowledging and supporting the submission of a 2021 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application by the City of Altoona and the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$20,206.00, with an allocation of funds to the City of Altoona, in the total amount of \$16,000.00, and an allocation of funds to the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount \$4,206.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #259-2021.

**Fort Roberdeau:**

Don Weakland presented concerning high speed data improvement for Fort Roberdeau and discussion of the following five-5 agreements for services received:

- Crowsnest Service
- Nextiva Service
- Crowsnest Professional Service Estimate
- Link Computer Corp.
- CDWG

Mr. Weakland stated that Fort Roberdeau is losing their telephone service on July 9. He stated that telephone service is vital to Fort operations and public safety. As an alternative IT has explored a solution which uses Crowsnest Broadband internet service beamed to the Fort to provide high-speed data connectivity never possible before. With this high-speed connection the county can leverage cloud-based VOIP phone service through Nextiva to replace the now existing Windstream phone service.

Mr. Weakland stated that Solicitor Karn has made changes to the standard Crowsnest Terms and Conditions for internet access and Crowsnest accepted those changes. The additional Crowsnest Professional Services Quote includes installation with no terms. The Nextiva terms were reviewed, and edits were suggested; however Nextiva's legal team rejected the suggested edits.

Mr. Weakland stated that due to the timing of the Windstream notice, the Board will need to consider approving the month-to-month service under the standard terms and conditions set forth by Nextiva. He stated that Vonage was explored as an alternative option, but no response was received from Vonage.

Mr. Weakland stated that alternatives to the proposed option are to explore landline service offerings from Verizon to keep phone service, but this alternative would not improve high speed communications for the Fort. He stated that there are no other high speed provider options at this time, with the exception of a high-latency satellite connection which IT does not recommend due to the cost and service available.

Mr. Weakland stated the following expenses would be incurred:

Wireless campus installation by Crowsnest	\$2,050.00
Monthly cost of Business/Professional Crowsnest Service (no commitment required)	\$ 115.00 month-to-month
Nextiva cloud VOIP phone service (no commitment required)	\$ 83.90 month-to-month
VOIP (ATA adapters 1 per phone)	\$ 350.00
Additional network switch for gift shop at the Fort	\$ 225.16

Mr. Nelson stated that \$2,275.16 would be funded by Fort Roberdeau Association; and the \$350.00 monthly fees would be covered by the general fund/Fort utility budget.

Discussion followed.

**Resolution #260-2021:** A resolution approving technology improvement project proposed for Fort Roberdeau for equipment necessary to provide high-speed data connectivity and teleco services in the amount not to exceed \$2,625.16 as a one-time expense with month-to-month services totaling \$198.90 approved; with

The County of Blair paying for the following:

- Crowsnest Internet Service           \$115.00/month to month
- Nextiva Phone Service               \$ 83.90/month to month

With the Fort Roberdeau Association paying for the following:

- Crowsnest Professional In the amount of \$2,050.00
- Link In the amount of \$ 350.00
- CDWG In the amount of \$ 225.16

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #260-2021.

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board:**

Melissa Harpster requesting approval of a quote received from Maier's Tree Service and Landscaping, in the total amount of \$11,200.00, for cutting and removing twenty-20 trees, and grinding out fifteen-15 stumps at Valley View Park.

Mrs. Harpster stated that three-3 quotes were requested for the removal of trees and grinding of stumps at Valley View Park. She stated that two-2 quotes were received with Maier's Tree Service and Landscaping being the lowest quote in the amount of \$11,200.00.

Mrs. Harpster stated that Solicitor Karn has reviewed and approved the quote and the Certificate of Liability Insurance. She stated that the Park and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that the Board of Commissioners accept the quote received from Maier's Tree Service and Landscaping.

Discussion followed.

**Old Business:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Meeting Adjourned,

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Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk