

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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, and Chief Clerk Tiracave.

OTHERS PRESENT:

ori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Angela Wagner (Controller), Tricia Johnson, Trina Illig, and Aelissa Gillin (Social Services), Joseph Cox III (Juvenile Probation Office), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Cris Fredrickson (Public Safety/EMA), Nicholas Burket (Public Works/Facilities), Shannon Tucker (Children, Youth and Families), Devin Saylor (Assessment), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Brooke Lafferty (Prison), Sherry Socie (Blair Planning Commission), Kenneth Dean (ReEntry Coalition), John D. Grove, Bob DuPont, and Ernest Fuller (Prison Society), Brian Endler and Greg Shrock (TransSystems), Carol A. Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Tiracave confirmed there was an Executive Session held on February 13, 2025 at approximately 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Burke, and Commissioner Webster regarding one open position.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

None

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 49– 2025:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
02/18/2025	250218WW	438,700.14
02/18/2025	250218CY	223,262.24
02/18/2025	250218SS	39,727.50

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Holidaysburg Borough in the total check amount of \$21,344.88.

b. Ratification of the following five-5 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
02/11/2025	250211EH	18,805.15
02/10/2025	250210FS	359.69
02/10/2025	250131PC	27,147.84
02/10/2025	50210ML	28,167.06
02/13/2025	250213HR	11,775.81

c. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees maintenance on county vehicles:

From	\$	To
01103HW-44730 Highway	\$725.99	113201-44730 CYF
01103HW-44730 Highway	\$1,318.54	01151-44730 Sheriff

d. **Employments:** Burns, Elizabeth, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 2/10/2025. Martin, River, FT, Telecommunicator Trainee, 911 Center, \$13.88/hr., effective 2/18/2025.

e. **Status Changes:** Smithbower, David, FT, Telecommunicator, 911 Center, \$17.73/hr., to FT, Lead Telecommunicator, 911 Center, \$19.23/hr., effective 2/1/2025. McCauley-Dean, Britiani and Magnetti, Justin, FT, Telecommunicator Trainee, 911 Center, to FT, Telecommunicator, 911 Center, \$16.30/hr., effective 2/15/2025.

f. **Retirement:** Mearkle, Timothy, FT, Corporal, Sheriff, \$19.04/hr. effective 2/14/2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt resolution 49-2025.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Prison:

- Brooke Lafferty requested approval for the award, rejection, or rebidding of the bids received for two (2) milk products for the Blair County Prison.

Vendor	Pint Price	Gallon Price	Action
Richey's Dairy	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00	Awarded

Resolution 50-2025: Approving the award, rejection, or rebidding of the bids received for two (2) milk products for the Blair County Prison.

Vendor	Pint Price	Gallon Price	Action
Richey's Dairy	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00	Awarded

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 50-2025.

- ii. Brooke Lafferty requested approval for the award rejection, or rebidding of the bids received for food and non-food items for the Blair County Prison.

Vendor	Item	Action
Feesers, Inc.	See attached document.	Awarded as noted.
Bimbo Bakery, Inc.	See attached document.	Awarded as noted.
US Foods	See attached document.	Awarded as noted.

Resolution 51-2025: Approving the award, rejection, or rebidding of the bids received for food and non-food items for the Blair County Prison.

Vendor	Item	Action
Feesers, Inc.	See attached document.	Awarded as noted.
Bimbo Bakery, Inc.	See attached document.	Awarded as noted.
US Foods	See attached document.-	Awarded as noted.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 51-2025.

Elections:

Sarah Seymour requested approval to advertise for the printing of election ballots.

Resolution 52-2025: Approving to advertise for the printing of election ballots

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 52-2025.

Public Works / Facilities:

- i. Nicholas Burket requested approval of an Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair and Craig Fencing LLC for repairs of the gate controls at the 911 Center parking lot in th total amount of \$1,000.00.

Resolution 53-2025: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair and Craig Fencing LLC for repairs of the gate controls at the 911 Center parking lot in the total amount of \$1,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 53-2025.

- ii. Nicholas Burket requested approval of the Quote received from Commercial Technical Services Inc. (CTS) for a three (3)-year elevator inspection services contract for the courthouse and prison, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, in the total amount of \$4,500.00.

Resolution 54-2025: Approving the Quote received from Commercial Technical Services Inc. (CTS) for a three (3)-year elevator inspection services contract for the courthouse and prison, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, in the total amount of \$4,500.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 54-2025.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of the Agreement between the County of Blair and the Fort Roberdeau Foundation for general operations and fundraising projects on behalf of Fort Roberdeau.

Resolution 55-2025: Approving the Agreement between the County of Blair and the Fort Roberdeau Foundation for general operations and fundraising projects on behalf of Fort Roberdeau.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 88-2025.

Social Services:

- i. Trina Illig requested approval to submit a request to the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) to extend the three (3)-year expenditure rule on the FFY 2021 Community

Development Block Grant Contract #C000082572 from February 6, 2025 to December 31, 2025. This would allow additional time to expend the funds prior to the contract end date of February 6, 2026.

Resolution 56-2025: Approving to submit a request to the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCEd) to extend the three (3)-year expenditure rule on the FFY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Contract #C000082572 from February 6, 2025 to December 31, 2025. This would allow additional time to expend the funds prior to the contract end date of February 6, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 56-2025.

- ii. Trina Illig requested approval to submit a FFY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Contract #C000082572, Budget Revision to reallocate remaining funds in the amount of \$6,042.52 from the 822- 824 Washington Avenue Demolition & Clearance Project to Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation within Tyrone Borough.

Ms. Illig stated that these were two existing projects. There were remaining funds from another project that we are just reallocating to these activities, instead of sending the money back.

Commissioner Webster responded that Ms. Illig does a good job reallocating these funds.

Ms. Illig continued by saying that these are 4 (4)-year contracts, and the 2021 grant is in its last year. The first three years are for expenditures, and the last year is reserved for closeouts. When we are in the last year, due to the shortage of contractors and how long it takes, there really isn't time to line up new contractors.

Resolution 57-2025: Approving to submit a FFY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Contract #C000082572, Budget Revision to reallocate remaining funds in the amount of \$6,042.52 from the 822- 824 Washington Avenue Demolition & Clearance Project to Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation within Tyrone Borough

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 57-2025.

- iii. Melissa Gillin requested approval of the FY 2024/2025 renewal Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Social Services, and Central PA Behavioral Health Collaborative, dba Blair HealthChoices for mental health services, in the total amount of \$580,000.00. This program is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.

Resolution 58-2025: Approving the FY 2024/2025 renewal Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Social Services, and Central PA Behavioral Health Collaborative, dba Blair HealthChoices for mental health services, in the total amount of \$580,000.00. This program is funded by the Human Services Block Grant.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 58-2025.

- iv. Melissa Gillin requested approval of the FY 24/25 renewal Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Social Services, and Child Advocates of Blair County, Inc. for mental health and Teacher/child intensive behavior coaching services in the maximum total amount of \$65,000.00. This program is funded by the Human Services Block Grant Human Services Development Fund (HSDf).

Resolution 59-2025: Approving the FY 24/25 renewal Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Social Services, and Child Advocates of Blair County, Inc. for mental health and Teacher/child intensive behavior coaching services in the maximum total amount of \$65,000.00. This program is funded by the Human Services Block Grant Human Services Development Fund (HSDf).

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 59-2025.

Public Safety / EMA:

- i. Cris Fredrickson requested approval of the completion, signature, and submission of the online Tier II forms, Fee Exemption, and Certification documents for chemicals onsite at the Blair County 911E Center for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Resolution 60-2025: Approving the completion, signature, and submission of the online Tier II forms, Fee Exemption, and Certification documents for chemicals onsite at the Blair County 911E Center for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 60-2025.

- ii. Cris Fredrickson requested approval for the submission of the DGM-16F Final Financial Status Report to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the FFY 2024 Emergency Management

Performance Grant (EMPG) in the total amount of \$61,966.00 for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

Resolution 61-2025: Approving the submission of the DGM-16F Final Financial Status Report to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the FFY 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the total amount of \$61,966.00 for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 61-2025.

Juvenile Probation Department:

i. Joseph Cox requested approval of the FY 23/24 Financial Statement for funds expended under the Juvenile Services Grant for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in the total amount of \$146,839.00.

Resolution 62-2025: Approving the FY 23/24 Financial Statement for funds expended under the Juvenile Services Grant for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, in the total amount of \$146,839.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 62-2025.

ii. Joseph Cox requested approval of a Grant Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commissioner (JCJC), for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the total amount of \$146,839.00.

Commissioner Webster stated that at least the number does not go down.

Resolution 63-2025: Approving the Grant Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commissioner (JCJC), for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the total amount of \$146,839.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 63-2025.

iii. Joseph Cox requested approval to submit the 23/24 Equitable Compensation Letter to the Juvenile Courts Judges' Commission (JCJC).

Resolution 64-2025: Approving to submit the 23/24 Equitable Compensation Letter to the Juvenile Courts Judges' Commission (JCJC).

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 64-2025.

Children, Youth and Families:

i. Shannon Tucker requested approval of a FY 2024/2025 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Pressley Ridge.

Commissioner Kessling asked if this was foster care.

Ms. Tucker stated this was for foster care and home studies.

Resolution 65-2025: Approving the FY 2024/2025 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Pressley Ridge.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 65-2025.

ii. Shannon Tucker requested approval of the Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and the Law Office of Aimee Willet for the period of December 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$2,100.00/month for Guardian ad Litem Services and a fee of \$200.00 for the as-needed preparation of a Power of Attorney.

Ms. Tucker added that Attorney Willet is the County's Guardian Ad Litem for children.

Resolution 66-2025: Approving the Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and the Law Office of Aimee Willet for the period of December 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$2,100.00/month for Guardian ad Litem Services and a fee of \$200.00 for the as-needed preparation of a Power of Attorney.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 66-2025.

- iii. Shannon Tucker requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth, and Families, the Solicitor supporting CYF, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries (Diakon), and its subcontractor, Voco (formerly known as Family Design Resources, Inc. (FDR, Inc.), for the SWAN Legal Service Initiative (SWAN LSI) Paralegals(s) for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Ms. Tucker stated that they are the paralegals for the Children, Youth and Families office that write all the petitions and do all the appropriate filings with the courts.

Resolution 67-2025: Approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth, and Families, the Solicitor supporting CYF, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries (Diakon), and its subcontractor, Voco (formerly known as Family Design Resources, Inc. (FDR, Inc.), for the SWAN Legal Service Initiative (SWAN LSI) Paralegals(s) for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 67-2025.

Finance:

Lindsay Dempsey requested approval of the First Amendment to the Grant Agreement (C000081908-A1) between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the Blair County Commissioners to extend the term of the agreement from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Ms. Dempsey added that this is for County Road 101.

Commissioner Webster state that she is so happy we have funds available for these roads and bridges.

Resolution 68-2025: Approving the First Amendment to the Grant Agreement (C000081908-A1) between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the Blair County Commissioners to extend the term of the agreement from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 68-2025.

Commissioners:

- i. Commissioner Kessling requested approval to advertise an Ordinance signifying the Intention of Blair County, Pennsylvania to organize the Blair County Trail, Park, and Recreation Authority under the provisions of the Municipality Authorities Act of 1945, as amended.

Commissioner Kessling added that this is one of those days that it is nice to be a Commissioner and to be able to move something forward that the community wants.

Resolution 69-2025: Approving to advertise an Ordinance signifying the Intention of Blair County, Pennsylvania to organize the Blair County Trail, Park, and Recreation Authority under the provisions of the Municipality Authorities Act of 1945, as amended.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 69-2025.

- ii. Commissioner Kessling requested approval to accept the Prison Feasibility Study.

Commissioner Webster stated she is excited to see the results.

Resolution 70-2025: Approving to accept the Prison Feasibility Study.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 70-2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

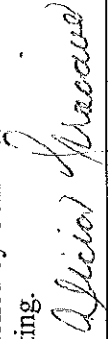
PRESENTATION:
TransSystems Inc.

Brian Engler and Greg Schrock from TransSystems Inc. gave a presentation of the Prison Feasibility Study by TransSystems Inc. First, TransSystems completed a feasibility study to assess the needs and viability of the current prison. Next, they began the concept development of a new prison facility. This was followed by assessing the various proposed sites and ranking them in consideration of their suitability. Lastly, cost estimates and a timeline were presented.

RECONVENE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

ADJOURN:

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



Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk