

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: JANUARY 2, 2024, 9:00 A.M.:

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement, Courthouse New Addition.

Members Present: Commissioner David Kessling, Commissioner Laura O. Burke, Commissioner Amy E. Webster, Assistant County Administrator Allison Senkevich and Solicitor Nathan W. Karn.

Others Present: Lindsay Dempsey and Brandon Meck (Finance), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), DeAnna Heichel and Wendy Pielmeier (Assessment Office), Katherine Swigart and Melena Koegler (Human Resources), Paul Shaffer (Highway), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Angela Wagner and A.C. Stickle (Controller's Office), and Chief Clerk Hemminger (Remote).

CALL TO ORDER:

Allison Senkevich called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

Allison Senkevich called for a moment of silent reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Allison Senkevich requested that all present stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allison Senkevich called for public comment.

No public comment noted.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion for the election of a Chairman.

Resolution 1-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Commissioner David Kessling as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Burke expressed her concern about the decision of electing Chair being based on tradition and that she believes tradition is another way of saying “that’s how we’ve always done it”.

Commissioner Kessling appreciated Commissioner Burke’s concern, but still feels tradition needs to be followed.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling to adopt Resolution 1-2024.
Votes as follows: Commissioner Webster – Aye, Commissioner Kessling – Aye, Commissioner Burke – Nay.
Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 1-2024.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion for the election of a Vice-Chairman.

Resolution 2-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Commissioner Amy E. Webster as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster to adopt Resolution 2-2024.
Votes as follows: Commissioner Webster – Aye, Commissioner Kessling – Aye, Commissioner Burke – Nay.
Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 2-2024.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion for the election of a Secretary.

Resolution 3-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Commissioner Laura O. Burke as Secretary of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling to adopt Resolution 3-2024.
Votes as follows: Commissioner Webster – Aye, Commissioner Kessling – Aye, Commissioner Burke – Nay.
Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 3-2024.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CLERK/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to appoint Nicole M. Hemminger as Chief Clerk/County Administrator to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Resolution 4-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Nicole M. Hemminger as Chief Clerk/County Administrator to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 4-2024.

APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to appoint Nathan W. Karn, Sr., as Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Resolution 5-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Nathan W. Karn, Sr., as Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 5-2024.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SOLICITOR:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to appoint Jeffrey A. Muriceak, as Assistant Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Resolution 6-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Jeffrey A. Muriceak as Assistant Solicitor to the Commissioners of the County of Blair.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessler and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 6-2024.

REGULAR MEETING DATE:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to establish 1:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, as the regular meeting days and time of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, to be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement, Blair County Courthouse.

Resolution 7-2024: A resolution establishing 1:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, as the regular meeting days and time of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, to be held in the Public Meeting Room, Basement, Blair County Courthouse.

Motion by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 7-2024.

STRICT ECONOMY:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to adopt a resolution pledging the Blair County Commissioners administration of a strict economy.

Resolution 8-2024: A resolution pledging the Blair County Commissioners administration of a strict economy.

Commissioner Webster asked for clarification from Solicitor Karn on this resolution.

Solicitor Karn explained that by adopting this resolution the Commissioners are pledging to monitor spending during the year to ensure it follows the established purchasing policies and procedures that allows the County to stay in budget.

Commissioner Webster stated her concern was that certain departments are over budget and others are under budget and that the balance of both is in check.

Motion by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 8-2024.

DEPOSITORIES:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to adopt a resolution designating that various banks be used as depositories for County Funds.

Resolution 9-2024: A resolution approving that various bank be used as depositories for County funds.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 9-2024.

LAURA O. BURKE OFFICES:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to adopt a resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Laura O. Burke will be the point of contact.

Resolution 10-2024: A resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Laura O. Burke will be the point of contact.

Motion by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 10-2024.

DAVID KESSLING OFFICES:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to adopt a resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner David Kessler will be the point of contact.

Resolution 11-2024: A resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner David Kessler will be the point of contact.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 11-2024.

AMY E. WEBSTER OFFICES:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to adopt a resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Amy E. Webster will be the point of contact.

Resolution 12-2024: A resolution designating the various offices to which Commissioner Amy E. Webster will be the point of contact.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 12-2024.

APPOINTMENTS:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to adopt a resolution to retain existing employees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners

Resolution 13-2024: A resolution retaining existing employees under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 13-2024.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO):

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to appoint Commissioner Amy E. Webster and Commissioner David Kessling as the two (2) primary members and Commissioner Laura O. Burke and Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger as the two (2) alternate members to the MPO.

Resolution 14-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Commissioner Amy E. Webster and Commissioner David Kessling as the two (2) primary members and Commissioner Laura O. Burke and Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger as the two (2) alternate members to the MPO.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 14-2024.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS:

Allison Senkevich called for a motion to appoint Stephen R. Gearhart, Chairman, Terrance E. Tomassetti and David S. Clary to a two-year term to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Commissioner Webster reminded the public that this is one of the issues that she has advocated for the Commissioners to adopt the Board of Review and no the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Commissioner Burke mentioned she appreciated Commissioner Webster's reasoning, but mentioned that the current board members have done an excellent job.

Resolution 15-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Stephen R. Gearhart, Chairman, Terrance E. Tomassetti and David S. Clary to a two-year term to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke to adopt Resolution 15-2024. Votes as follows: Commissioner Kessling – Aye, Commissioner Burke – Aye, Commissioner Webster – Nay. Motion carried two to one to adopt Resolution 15-2024.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL STORMWATER COMMITTEE (ISCI):


Allison Senkevich called for a motion to appoint Nicole Hemminger to the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee and Grant Wills as alternate.

Resolution 16-2024: A resolution approving the appointment of Nicole Hemminger to the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee and Grant Wills as alternate.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 16-2024.

President Dave Kessling announced an Executive Session will be held following the adjournment of the Organizational Meeting to discuss the retention a specific employee in light of Resolution 13-2024.

Meeting Adjourned,


Allison Senkevich, Assistant County Administrator

