

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioner’s 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 Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Allison Senkevich (Commissioners Office), Helen Schmitt (Public), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Tricia Maceno, Cindy James, and Ginny Christy (Social Services), Molly Wink (Juvenile Probation), Paul Shaffer (Public Works – Highway), Cindy James (Social Services), Lori Craine (Blair HealthChoices), Donna Fisher (Blair Conservation District), Jamie Henry (SASMG), Angela Wagner and A.C. Stickel (Controller), Rebecca Robinson, Lindsay Dempsey, and Brandon Meck (Finance), Chris Tatar (Sheriff), Sue St. Martin (Tax Claim), and Sherry Socie (Blair Planning).

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, May 3, 2023	9:00 a.m.	*Retirement Board (Commissioners Meeting Room)
	10:30 a.m.	*Salary Board (Commissioners Meeting Room)
Thursday, May 4, 2023	8:30 a.m.	*Park & Recreation Advisory Bd. (Commissioners Meeting Room)
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)
Friday, May 5, 2023		
Monday, May 8, 2023		
Tuesday, May 9, 2023	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)

Public Comment:

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

Special Announcement:

Commissioner Erb mentioned there was a special announcement in regards to the Tyrone Township Primary Election ballot.

Commissioner Erb stated petitions for the 6-year term of supervisors in Tyrone Township for 2023 Primary Election ballot were not made available to those interested in running. The current supervisor’s term expires at the end of 2023. Because of the error, write-ins will not be consolidated at May 16, 2023 Primary Election. Despite the fact that the office will appear on the ballot but no one will have been nominated. The Democratic and Republican Parties will be able to nominate a candidate for supervisor for a 6-year term at the November election later this year.

Solicitor Nathan Karn mentioned there are many candidates on the ballot in Municipal Election years. Supervisors have staggered 6-year terms, one being elected every two years. The error was due in part to somebody who was appointed to fill an unexpired term but then also ran for a partial term and so there was no opportunity for anyone to circulate petitions. A notice will be posted on Election Day but this is the fairest way to handle the error. At the Election in November, each party will be able to submit their nominations and interested candidates can also run write-in campaigns as well.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Webster had no comments.

Commissioner Burke had no comments.

Commissioner Erb reminded the public about the upcoming Election in the next few weeks and that the last day to request a mail-in ballot application is May 9th.

Proclamation – May 2023 Mental Health Month “Light it up Green”

Commissioner Erb read the following proclamation:

***May is Mental Health Month 2023
“Light it up Green”***

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone’s overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong body of research that supports specific tools that all Americans can use to better handle challenges, and protect their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation; and

WHEREAS, with early and effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2023 as Mental Health Month in Blair County. We call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Blair County to commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, on this 2nd day of May 2023.

*One in five U.S. adults experience mental illness.
1,814,000 adults in PA have a mental health condition.*

*One in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness.
447,000 adults in PA have a serious mental illness.*

One in six U.S. youth aged 6 to 17 experience a mental health disorder each year.

98,000 youth in PA, aged 12 to 17 have depression.

Commissioner Erb invited Cindy James, Program Specialist in Social Services and Lori Craine from Blair HealthChoices to comment on “Light It up Green”. They discussed that this program was primarily in Hollidaysburg last year, but this year they were able to expand the project into downtown Altoona to bring awareness to mental health and to decrease the stigma around mental health issues.

Ms. Craine also mentioned the partnership with the Altoona Curve and the Suicide Prevention Task Force and their sponsoring the game on May 26 and mental health awareness.

Ms. James mentioned they have 28 vendors who have volunteered to man educational booths at the Curve game. She also mentioned a Lunch and Learn on May 15. They are also promoting the initiative for the new 988 hotline with coasters, magnets, literature, to spread awareness in Hollidaysburg businesses which were paid for by grant funds.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation.

Consent Agenda - Resolution #204-2023:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
05/02/2023	230502WW	\$390,270.40
05/02/2023	230502SS	\$567,714.79
05/02/2023	230502CY	\$ 18,500.04

- b. Ratification of the following three-3 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/27/2023	230427RP	\$ 375.00
04/25/2023	230425RF	\$ 463.54
04/24/2023	230424FS	\$ 3,680.21

- c. **Blair County Bridges 87, 88, 89, 92/Box Culvert Project:** Requesting approval for payment of Application #3 received from Francis J. Palo, Inc., in the total amount due of \$305,083.95.
- d. **District Attorney’s Office:** Requesting approval of one-1 Toledo College of Law student intern, Sawyer Kline, for the period of May 8, 2023 through August 11, 2023. Internship is 462 hours for credit only and at no cost to the county.
- e. **Public Defender’s Office:** Requesting approval of one-1 Penn State University student intern, Dailyn Tiffany Hampton, for the period of May 22, 2023 through August 1, 2023. Internship is 120 hours for credit only and at no cost to the county.
- f. **Fort Roberdeau:** Requesting approval of one-1 Penn State Altoona student intern, Skyler McCaulley, for the period of May 15, 2023 through mid-August 2023. Internship is 120 hours for credit only and at no cost to the county.
- g. **Blair County Planning Commission:** Requesting approval of the appointment of Nicola F. Ardizzone (City Representative), filling the unexpired term of Randy Isenberg, for the period of May 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.
- h. **Employment:** Martin R. Sekerak, Jr., Temporary, FT, Summer Employee, Public Works/Highway, \$12.50/hr., effective 05/01/23; and Jacob A. Stiffler, FT, Custodian, Public Works/Facilities, \$14.42/hr., effective 05/01/23.
- i. **Resignations:** Vanessa A. Peterman, FT, Department Clerk I, Domestic Relations, \$11.03/hr., effective 04/24/23; Michelle L. Pompa, FT, Parole and Probation Officer, APO, \$16.90/hr., effective 04/25/23; Domenic J. Roefaro, FT, Deputy, Sheriff’s Office, \$15.75/hr., effective 04/25/23; and Germaine L. Crocker, FT, Administrative Support, Tax Claim, \$12.34/hr., effective 04/27/23.
- j. **Employment Status Change:** Jason S. Douglas, From FT, Telecommunicator, Public Safety-911, \$18.13/hr., 40 hrs. per week, To PT, Telecommunicator, Public Safety-911, \$18.13/hr., 29 hrs. per week; Shirley R. Crawl, From FT, Tax Claim Coordinator, Tax Claim, \$17.06/hr., 35 hrs. per week, To PT, Tax

Claim Coordinator, Tax Claim, \$17.06/hr., 29 hrs. per week through 01/05/24, effective 05/01/23; and Chloe E. Duraso, From FT, Department Clerk II, Domestic Relations, \$11.75/hr., To FT, Case Manager, Domestic Relations, \$15.52/hr., effective 05/01/23.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the appointment of Nicole F. Ardizzone for the Blair County Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 204-2023 with the abstention as noted.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Farmland Preservation:

- i. Donna Fisher requested approval of a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair, through the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and Keller Engineers, Inc., for surveying the James & Linda Negley Farm, located in Huston Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania in the lump sum total of \$4,675.00.
- ii. Donna Fisher requested approval of a Proposal of Service Contract between the County of Blair, through the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and Keller Engineers, Inc., for surveying the Detwiler-McCutcheon Farm, located in Tyrone Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania in the lump sum total of \$5,450.00.

Ms. Fisher mentioned the Negley Farm is the 60th farm and the Detwiler-McCutcheon Farm is the 61st farm to be preserved with the 9,000+ acres of farmland preserved in Blair County.

Discussion followed.

Planning Commission:

Sherry Socie requested approval for the resubmission of a COVID-SFR Local Law Enforcement Support Sub-grant Application (39099) to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, in the reduced budget amount for of \$4.3 million, for portable radios and related hardware, for the project period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Ms. Socie discussed the specific revisions made to the original grant submission. Some of the revisions include changes to the project contact name, removing the requested items from the Sheriff's department due to them not being applicable to this particular grant, detailed descriptions of personal items, employee benefits, travel, time and operating expenses, etc. With these changes, the grant application is ready for final submission.

Discussion followed.

Department of Emergency Services:

- i. Cris Frederickson requested approval of a no-cost period of performance extension of September 1, 2020 through August 2024, granted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) Award (EMW-2020-SS-00064) between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the South Central Mountains Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force (SCMRCTTF).

Ms. Frederickson discussed the performance extension would allow an urban search and rescue exercise to take place.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Cris Frederickson requested approval of the annual license agreement and Tier II Commodity Hazard Vulnerability Analysis between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services and Aristatek, for eight (8) PEACWMD licenses with Tier II Integration and Commodity Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, in the total amount of \$5,950.00, for the period of April 15, 2023 through April 14, 2024.

Ms. Frederickson mentioned the purchase of the Aristatek software is used in planning, training, and response in emergency situations that may involve hazardous materials.

Ms. Frederickson also mentioned the vulnerability analysis software is funded 80% by HAZMAT funds and 20% through Act 165 funds.

Discussion followed.

Southern Alleghenies Service Management Group:

James Henry requested approval of the FY 22/23 Intellectual Disability and Early Intervention Contract between the County of Blair and the Southern Alleghenies Service Management Group (SASMG) for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Discussion followed.

Children, Youth and Families:

Lindsay Dempsey requested approval of a FY 22/23 (renewal) Purchase of Service Agreement and a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and Pentz Run Youth Services, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Discussion followed.

Juvenile Probation

Molly Wink requested approval of a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office and Blair Family Solutions, LLC for the coordination of services for a period of five (5) years from the date of signature. LOA shall automatically renew for subsequent one (1) year terms unless otherwise amended or terminated.

Discussion followed.

Tax Claim:

- i. Sue St. Martin requested approval of a Resolution approving the following fees for the Blair County Tax Claim Bureau, and rescinding all prior Resolutions regarding such fees, effective immediately:

Filing	Fee	\$15.00 per tax piece delinquent (max per property \$45.00)
(Fee added when taxes are returned to the Tax Claim Bureau as delinquent)		
Installment Plan Default Letters	Fee	\$4.00 per letter
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of letters for defaulted payment plans)		
First Class Reminder Notice	Fee	\$4.00 per letter
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of a tax reminder letter after new taxes have been returned delinquent and in November to remind owners they still have back taxes)		
Return & Claim Notices Mailer	Fee	\$15.00 per notice / per property
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of a CM, RRR notice of a new tax with the Tax Claim Bureau)		
Upset Sale Notice Mailer	Fee	\$16.00 per owner / per property
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing of CM, RRR, and RD warning notice of pending Upset Sale)		
10 Day Notice of Sale	Fee	\$5.00 per letter
(Fee added to cover printing & mailing 1 st Class Mail, PM additional notices warning of Upset Sale)		
Upset Sale – Preparation of Sale Fee	Fee	\$25.00 per property
(Fee added to prepare properties eligible for Upset Sale)		
Electronic Database Search	Fee	\$15.00 per property
Posting	Fee	\$27.50 per posting, per notice type for 2023 \$30.00 per posting, per notice type for 2024
(Return & Claim Notices & Upset Sale Notice) (Fee added to cover the creation & deployment of tax notice posting per property)		
Personal Service Fee for Upset Sale	Fee	\$30.00 per attempt/per property impacted (max per property \$60.00)
(Fee to cover the cost of creating & deploying a personal service on all owner-occupied properties scheduled for Upset Sale)		
Upset Sale Advertising	Fee	\$150.00 per property
(Fee added to cover the cost of publishing Upset Sale Notice)		
Judicial Sale Ad	Fee	\$150.00 per property
(Fee added to cover the cost of required Judicial Sale Ad)		
Overbid Lien Search/Bringdown Fee	Fee	\$150.00
Judicial Sale Title Search	Fee	\$400.00 Standard; \$250.00 Trailers
(Fee added to properties for a Judicial Sale that need a title search)		
Judicial Sale Personal Service	Fee(s)	-US Postal Service Charge for CM, RRR per service Out-of-State -\$ 50.00 per service within Blair County
-Amount charged by out of county Sheriff per service upon Out-of-County party (within PA) (Fee added to cover cost of the serving all owners, lien holders and judgment holders on properties in the Judicial Sale done by the Sheriff's Office or acting agent)		
Bidder Registration	Fee under 501-A	\$25.00 per application
(Fee collected from anyone one wishing to bid at any tax sale as per section 502-A of (RETSL))		
Judicial Sale Writs of Scire Facias Advertising Fee	Fee	- Calculated by dividing advertising cost by # of properties affected by ad. (Fee added to advertise 3 weeks in a row in the Altoona Mirror and Blair County Legal Bulletin any owners or lien holders not able to be located during Judicial Sale Personal Service)
Deed Preparation	Fee	\$25.00 per Deed/Bill of Sale
(Fee added to Sale Price to cover the cost of creating a Tax Claim Bureau Deed to Trailer Bill of Sale on properties sold at a tax sale or from the County's Repository)		

Discussion followed.

- ii. Sue St. Martin requested approval to Amend the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Tax Claim Bureau and Palmetto Posting, Inc., dated February 11, 2020, for posting and/or serving delinquent tax notices on properties on which delinquent and valorem property taxes are owed as follows with all other terms and conditions remaining in full force and effect:

1. The sentence on page 4, section 2.5 that relates to time frames for attempting personal service shall be deleted and replaced with the following: The allowable time frames for attempting personal service are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2. Section 4.1 is deleted and replaced with the following:

4.1 In consideration of the contractor's performance of the services as described herein, the county shall pay to the contractor as follows:

- a. Posting of Notice of Return and Claim: \$27.50 per post in 2023 and \$30 per post in 2024 and thereafter if the Agreement is renewed
- b. Posting of Notice of Public Tax Sale: \$27.50 per post in 2023 and \$30 per post in 2024 and thereafter if the Agreement is renewed
- c. Personal Service for Owner-Occupied Properties: \$30 per property
- d. Subsequent Visit for Personal Service or posting if the person is not served: \$30 per each additional visit

On owner occupied properties, there is no additional charge if the service is successful on the first attempt; however, County agrees to pay Contractor for subsequent visits as set forth above.

Ms. St Martin mentioned that the fee increases are at no cost to the County.

Discussion followed.

Prison:

Abbie Tate requested approval of a Service Contract between the County of Blair and Centre Communications, Inc., for installations (both vehicle and building), vehicle up fitting, programming and repairs to communications equipment at the rates attached to contract.

Discussion followed.

Bridge #73 Repair Project:

Paul Shaffer requested approval of Change Order #2 received from Quality Bridge and Fab, Inc., in the credit amount of -\$4,950.00, and recommendation of the final payment to Quality Bridge and Fab, Inc., in the total amount of \$25,325.00.

Discussion followed.

Blair County Bridges 87, 88, 89, 92/Box Culvert Projects:

- i. Paul Shaffer requested approval of Change Order #1 received from Francis J. Palo, Inc., additional guiderail repairs to Bridge #1 and Bridge #6, in the total increased amount of \$12,600.00.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Paul Shaffer requested approval of Change Order #2 received from Francis J. Palo, Inc., for the sharing of office space, in the credit amount of -\$4,000.00.

Discussion followed.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk