

COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025, 10:04 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, Commissioner Burke and Chief Clerk Tiracave.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsey (Finance), Nicholas Burket (Public Works – Facilities), Angela Wagner (Controller), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Sue Ammerman (EMA/911), Judge Wade Kagarise, Sam Dunkle (Court Administration), Sue St. Martin (Tax Claim), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Julia Burke (Public Defender), Cindy Joe (Social Services), Shannon Tucker (CYF), Jennifer Walters (Adult Parole), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Carol A. Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Peter Folen, Karen Morder, Caitly Morder, Larry Wilson (Alliance of Therapy Dogs), Joe Dodson (Mayor), Brady Dodson, Georgina Dodson, Kelly Corl, Clare Burk, Terry Corl (Public)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

None

PROCLAMATION:

Commissioner Webster read the following Proclamation:

Proclamation
National Therapy Animal Day
April 30, 2025

WHEREAS, April 30 is designated as National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams in the County of Blair play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the therapy animal teams of PAW ZONE provide their services to the agencies and the courts of Blair County; and

WHEREAS, the therapy animal teams of Canines for Christ – Keystone Chapter also provide their services throughout Blair County; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate and thank the animal teams of PAW ZONE and Canines for Christ – Keystone Chapter for their service to Blair County; and

WHEREAS, we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming therapy animal volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Blair, does hereby proclaim April 30, 2025, as “National Therapy Animal Day” in the County of Blair, and encourages our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to accept the Proclamation as prepared.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 184– 2025:

a. Ratification of the following six-6 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
4/21/2025	250421EH	\$18,824.89
4/14/2025	250414FS	\$3,552.10
4/17/2025	250417HR	\$7,148.80
4/22/2025	250422SS	\$185,224.10
4/22/2025	250422CY	\$529,117.00
4/22/2025	250422WW	\$574,240.05

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Hollidaysburg Borough in the total check amount of \$23,336.90.

- b. Ratification of total Payroll for the paycheck dated 4/11/2025 in the total amount of \$962,345.82.
- c. **Bridge #69:** Requesting approval to name County Bridge #69 the Sgt. 1st Class Thomas V. Dodson Memorial Bridge.
- d. **Bridge #33/Old Mill Run Bridge Replacement Project:** Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #10, Part 1, Preliminary Design, in the total amount of \$15,230.20, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.
- e. **Employments:** Akers, Jeremy, FT, Custodian, Building Maintenance, \$17.39/hr., effective 4/21/2025. Smith, Cameron, FT, Clerk Typist II – Fiscal, Children, Youth and Families, \$14.06/hr., effective 4/21/2025. Robinson, Shaniquah, FT, Social Services Aide I, Children, Youth and Families, \$14.42/hr., effective 4/21/2025.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payment to Hollidaysburg Borough in the total check amount of \$23,336.90.

Commissioner Kessling requested that the members of the Dodson family approach the Commissioners' Desk and then presented the family with a copy of the sign renaming County Bridge #69 to the Sgt. 1st Class Thomas V. Dodson Memorial Bridge.

Commissioner Burke noted that the bridge is within eyesight of the house where Sgt. 1st Class Dodson grew up.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 184-2025 with the abstention noted above.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Park & Recreation Advisory Board:

Lori Guyer requested approval of the FC814 Field Use Calendar for 2025.

Resolution 185-2025: Approving the FC814 Field Use Calendar for 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 185-2025.

Court Administration:

Judge Wade Kagarise requested approval for the Payment of the Agreement received from SBM Electronics Inc. for the continued maintenance of five (5) Liberty Court Recording software mixers for the period of December 31, 2024 through December 30, 2025, in the amount of \$1,025.00.

Resolution 186-2025: Approving the Payment of the Agreement received from SBM Electronics Inc. for the continued maintenance of five (5) Liberty Court Recording software mixers for the period of December 31, 2024 through December 30, 2025, in the amount of \$1,025.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 186-2025.

Public Defender:

Julia Burke requested ratification of the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Public Defender's Office, and Robin A. Altman, M.D., for her services as a Forensic Child/Adolescent/Adult Psychiatrist and expert witness, in the advanced payment amount of \$5,000.00 per case and additional fees as outlined within the contract.

Ms. Burke noted that the Public Defender's Office changed the way it deals with expert fees. From her understanding, these services have already been provided and the fees paid; however the contract was never signed. She is requesting that the contract be signed so everything is legal.

Resolution 187-2025: Ratifying the Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Public Defender's Office, and Robin A. Altman, M.D., for her services as a Forensic Child/Adolescent/Adult Psychiatrist and expert witness, in the advanced payment amount of \$5,000.00 per case and additional fees as outlined within the contract.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 187-2025.

Victim Witness:

Commissioner Kessling, on behalf of Allison Seidel, requested approval for the submission of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrant (#46628) application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in the total amount of 100,193.00, for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

Resolution 188-2025: Approving the submission of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrant (#46628) application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in the total amount of 100,193.00, for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 188-2025.

Public Safety / 911E:

- i. Sue Ammerman requested approval of a renewal contract between the County of Blair, Department of Emergency Services/911E, and Rave Mobile Safety for implementation of the Smart911 Operating System for the period of March 22, 2025 to March 21, 2026, in the amount of \$20,000.

Resolution 189-2025: Approving the renewal contract between the County of Blair, Department of Emergency Services/911E, and Rave Mobile Safety for implementation of the Smart911 Operating System for the period of March 22, 2025 to March 21, 2026, in the amount of \$20,000.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 189-2025.

- ii. Sue Ammerman requested approval of a Service Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County 911 Center, and Ravine Industries for embroidered logo uniform shirts and fleece, in an amount not to exceed \$2,800.00 for one (1) year.

Resolution 190-2025: Approving the Service Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County 911 Center, and Ravine Industries for embroidered logo uniform shirts and fleece, in an amount not to exceed \$2,800.00 for one-year.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 190-2025.

- iii. Sue Ammerman requested approval to Rescind Resolution 602-2024.

Resolution 191-2025: Approving the rescission of Resolution 602-2024.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 191-2025.

- iv. Sue Ammerman requested approval of the Quote dated March 17, 2025, between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services E-911, and SBM Electronics for the Blair County 911 Recorder Upgrade in the total amount of \$74,329.72.

Ms. Ammerman clarified that the prior agenda item that was just approved, the Recission of Resolution 602-2024, was done because the amount was incorrect. This new request corrects the amount.

Resolution 192-2025: Approving the Quote dated March 17, 2025, between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services E-911, and SBM Electronics for the Blair County 911 Recorder Upgrade in the total amount of \$74,329.72.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 192-2025.

Children, Youth, and Families:

- i. Shannon Tucker requested. approval of the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and New Life Adolescents, LLC.

Commissioner Kessling questioned why there was no amount listed.

Commissioner Burke noted that there are likely multiple services provided under this Agreement and they go by an attachment to the contract.

Resolution 193-2025: Approving the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and New Life Adolescents, LLC.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 193-2025.

- ii. Shannon Tucker requested approval of a Children, Youth and Families Services Special Fund disbursement for C & G Tutoring to provide eight (8) summer sessions each of Math and English in the total amount of \$360.50 at the recommendation of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board.

Resolution 194-2025: Approving a Children, Youth and Families Services Special Fund disbursement for C & G Tutoring to provide eight (8) summer sessions each of Math and English in the total amount of \$360.50 at the recommendation of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 194-2025.

- iii. Shannon Tucker requested approval of the FY 25/26 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services as court appointed additional counsel between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Mark Zearfaus, Esquire, at the rate of \$90.00 per hour.

Resolution 195-2025: Approving the FY 25/26 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services as court appointed additional counsel between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Mark Zearfaus, Esquire, at the rate of \$90.00 per hour.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 195-2025.

- iv. Shannon Tucker requested approval of the 2025 renewal Agreement and Terms between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Simple In/Out, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in the annual amount of \$539.99.

Shannon Tucker noted that Simple In/Out is a tracker feature that is used to track who is in the office and who is in the field and is a safety feature for Case Management.

Resolution 196-2025: Approving the 2025 renewal Agreement and Terms between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Simple In/Out, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in the annual amount of \$539.99.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 196-2025.

- v. Shannon Tucker requested approval of the FY 2025-2026 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Mary Ann Probst, Esquire, Attorney of Fort, Stokan, Huff, Kormanski, & Naugle, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at the rate of \$2,300.00/per month for Guardian ad litem services.

Resolution 197-2025: Approving the the FY 2025-2026 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Mary Ann Probst, Esquire, Attorney of Fort, Stokan, Huff, Kormanski, & Naugle, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at the rate of \$2,300.00/per month for Guardian ad litem services.

Shannon Tucker noted that Ms. Probst is an attorney on behalf of the children.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burkert, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 197-2025.

Public Works / Facilities:

- i. Nick Burkert requested approval of the Proposal received from Empire to maintain the electronic access system for the Blair County Courthouse, Highway Department, and 911 Center for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027 in the total amount of \$82,962.00, with an annual amount of \$27,642.00.

Resolution 198-2025: Approving the Proposal received from Empire to maintain the electronic access system for the Blair County Courthouse, Highway Department, and 911 Center for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027 in the total amount of \$82,962.00, with an annual amount of \$27,642.00.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 198-2025.

- ii. Nick Burkert requested approval of the Quote received from Craig Fencing LLC. to supply and install one (1) vehicle safety loop at the existing entrance gate at the highway yard in the total amount of \$1,000.00.

Resolution 199-2025: Approving the Quote received from Craig Fencing LLC. to supply and install one vehicle safety loop at the existing entrance gate at the highway yard in the total amount of \$1,000.00.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 199-2025.

Public Works / Highway:

- i. Paul Shaffer requested approval of a Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Highway Department, and Hoover's Spraying LLC for treatment with herbicide for vegetation along County owned Bridges and on the right-of-way of the County Roads in the total amount of \$5,947.20.

Resolution 200-2025: Approving a Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Highway Department, and Hoover's Spraying LLC for treatment with herbicide for vegetation along County owned Bridges and on the right-of-way of the County Roads in the total amount of \$5,947.20.

- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 200-2025.

- ii. Paul Shaffer requested approval of the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold, by and between the County of Blair, Blair County Public Works – Highway, and John Stuckey Ford, Inc. d/b/a Stuckey Ford for services as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Resolution 201-2025: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold, by and between the County of Blair, Blair County Public Works – Highway, and John Stuckey Ford, Inc. d/b/a Stuckey Ford for services as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 201-2025.

Adult Probation and Parole:

Jennifer Walters requested approval of the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold, by and between the County of Blair, Blair County Adult Probation and Parole, and Morrison Communications Inc., for office surveillance camera equipment and service as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Resolution 202-2025: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold, by and between the County of Blair, Blair County Adult Probation and Parole, and Morrison Communications Inc., for office surveillance camera equipment and service as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 202-2025.

Social Services:

Cindy James requested approval of the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Social Services, and Woody's on the Blvd to provide lunches, drinks, and utensils during CISM Training on April 30th and May 1st and 2nd, for a maximum of 32 people per day, in the amount of \$15.00 per person.

Resolution 203-2025: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair, Blair County Department of Social Services, and Woody's on the Blvd to provide lunches, drinks, and utensils during CISM Training on April 30th and May 1st and 2nd, for a maximum of 32 people per day, in the amount of \$15.00 per person.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 203-2025.

Tax Claim:

Due 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 (Fee added when taxes are returned to the Tax Claim Bureau as delinquent)	\$15.00 per tax piece delinquent (max per property \$45.00)
Installment Plan Default Letters (Fee added to cover printing & mailing of letters for defaulted payment plans)	\$5.00 per letter
First Class Reminder Notice Fee (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)	\$5.00 per letter
Return & Claim Notice Mailer Fee (Fee added to cover printing & mailing of a CM, RRR notice of a new tax with the Tax Claim Bureau)	\$16.00 per notice / per property
Upset Sale Notice Mailer Fee (Fee added to cover printing & mailing of CM, RRR and RD warning notice of pending Upset Sale)	\$16.00 per owner / per property
10 Day Notice of Sale Fee (Fee added to cover printing & mailing 1 st Class Mail, PM additional notices warning of Upset Sale)	\$5.00 per letter
Upset Sale – Preparation of Sale Fee (Fee added to prepare properties eligible for Upset Sale)	\$25.00 per property
Electronic Database Search Fee	\$15.00 per property
Posting Fee	
	\$30.00 per posting per notice type for 2025
	\$32.50 per posting per notice type for 2026
	\$35.00 per posting per notice type for 2027
(Return & Claim Notices & Upset Sale Notices)	
(Fee added to cover creation & deployment of tax notice posting per property)	
Personal Service Fee for Upset Sale (Fee to cover the cost of creating & deploying a personal service on all owner-occupied properties scheduled for Upset Sale)	\$35.00 per attempt/per property impacted (max \$70.00)
Upset Sale Advertising Fee (Fee to cover the cost of publishing Upset Sale Notice)	\$150.00 per property
Judicial Sale Ad Fee (Fee added to cover the cost of required Judicial Sale Ad)	\$150.00 per property

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of the quote received from Altoona Soft Water to provide water treatment service at Fort Roberdeau for the period of May 2025 through October 2025, in the estimated amount of \$1,025.00.

Resolution 205-2025: Approving the quote received from Altoona Soft Water to provide water treatment service at Fort Roberdeau for the period of May 2025 through October 2025, in the estimated amount of \$1,025.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 205-2025.

Commissioners:

- i. Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave requested approval of the Grant Cooperation Agreement between the County of Blair and the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) collectively with Bedford, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties.

Resolution 206-2025: Approving the Grant Cooperation Agreement between the County of Blair and the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) collectively with Bedford, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 206-2025.

- ii. Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave requested approval to rescind Resolution 177-2025 approving the County of Blair to submit an application for the 2024-2025 PCorp Loss Prevention Grant Program for the projects listed below in the amount of \$11,278.55.

Commissioner Burke questioned which projects are covered under this request.

Ms. Tiracave commented that the projects are listed in item iii.

Resolution 207-2025: Approving the rescission of Resolution 177-2025 approving the County of Blair to submit an application for the 2024-2025 PCorp Loss Prevention Grant Program for the projects listed below in the amount of \$11,278.55.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 207-2025.

- iii. Chief Clerk Tiracave requested approval for the County of Blair to submit an application for the 2024-2025 PCorp Loss Prevention Grant Program for the projects listed below in amount of \$10,399.20:

1. Two (2) Taser 10 Bundles for the Blair County Prison by Axon Enterprise Inc.

Resolution 208-2025: Approving the County of Blair to submit an application for the 2024-2025 PCorp Loss Prevention Grant Program for the projects listed below in the amount of \$10,399.20:

1. Two (2) Taser 10 Bundles for the Blair County Prison by Axon Enterprise Inc.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 208-2025.

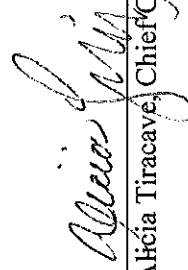
OLD BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

The next Board of Commissioners' meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room.

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


Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk

