

**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, and Chief Clerk Hemminger.

Members Absent:

Solicitor Karn and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Others Present:

Jim Pooler (Public Works/Building Maintenance), Eric Kay (Veterans' Affairs), Angela Wagner (Controller's Office), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Jack McCune (WTAJ-TV 10), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Tricia Maceno (Social Services) and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office).

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 05/09/23 and 05/11/23

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 05/09/23 and 05/11/23.

There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Eric Kay, Veterans' Affairs Director and Jim Pooler, Public Works/Building Maintenance Supervisor, requested that the board consider allowing the exterior lighting of the courthouse to be light red, white and blue May 27 through May 30, 2023 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

Jack McCune, WTAJ-TV 10 Reporter, stated he would like information concerning the third provisional certificate of compliance issued to Children, Youth and Families.

CCAP 2023 County Government Priority:

Children and Youth with Complex Behavioral Health Issues

Commissioner Burke provided the following overview of the CCAP 2023 County Government Priority:

Addressing the Needs of Children and Youth with Complex Behavioral Health Issues:

We have talked before about the increase in the number of complex cases that CYF & Social Services work on and the degree of complexity involved in the cases. This increase in complexity is a large part of the burn out experienced by workers in many related industries including nursing, teaching, and social work. In professions where the goal is to help people, and especially children, there are tremendous barriers preventing us from achieving success.

Simply defined complex cases are those where a child experiences an intersection between mental health, substance abuse (whether their own or that of a caregiver) and/or developmental disability. Sometimes, older children also have involvement with the juvenile justice system, which adds yet another layer of complexity.

Although the system favors keeping kids with family and in familiar situations in order to reduce trauma, there are situations where placement is necessary because the child's needs cannot be met in the community or because there is a safety issue that cannot be mitigated without placement. However, we lack appropriate options for placements for kids with complex needs. Anecdotally we have heard of other child welfare agencies licensing their own employees' homes as foster care so they can send children home with workers. Here in Blair County when we are unable to find placement for a child they stay in our office during the day unless we can find an in person educational resource for them. Overnight they stay in hotels and are monitored by two staff members at a time. We have had at least two situations in the past year where this was necessary.

This is not only an immense burden on an agency that is already short staffed; it fails to provide any sort of treatment to address the underlying needs of the child. We are acutely aware that this is not the best thing for these kids, but we have no other options. The frustration that comes with this knowledge may actually be more harmful to the morale of our employees than the stress and exhaustion of providing 24-hour coverage. While we receive good cooperation from social services and providers like Blair Health Choices in assessing complex cases and looking for placements, there simply are not enough facilities that will take complex children and, perhaps more importantly, that will keep them. There is nothing worse than having a child sent back to us because they acted out in a way typical for a person with their diagnoses by the very place that was supposed to be helping them. It is a failure of our system and our society that this is allowed to happen and happens with such frequency. We need contracting policies enforced by the state to prevent facilities who receive taxpayer money from rejecting or ejecting kids who meet their criteria for admission.

Furthermore, to be proactive and reduce costs, an increase in mental health base funds would increase the likelihood that complex needs could be addressed in the community with services instead of requiring placement. I want to emphasize that this should be base funding and not grant funding. Grant funding requires more administrative work and cost to facilitate. I already have employees spending two hours on paperwork for every hour they spend serving families. None of us needs more paperwork. I am, once again, asking the state legislature to support and vote in favor of an increase to the mental health base funding.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 246-2023:

- a. **Payment of Invoices Received:** Blair Senior Services, in the total amount of \$692.90 (Warrant #230523SS dated 05/23/23).
- b. **Ratification:** Of one-1 Warrant, #230510FP, dated 05/10/23, in the total amount of \$249,100.00, which includes a payment to Thomas and Chandra Jandora, in the total amount of \$1,500.00.
- c. **Fort Roberdeau:** Requesting approval of one-1 Mount Aloysius College Intern, Karl Kinkopf (120 hours), for the period of May 30, 2023 through August 29, 2023. Internship is for credit only and at no cost to the county.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payment of invoices to Blair Senior Services and to Thomas and Chandra Jandora due to a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Webster noted her abstention on the approval of one-1 Mount Aloysius College Intern, Karl Kinkopf due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 246-2023 with the abstentions as noted.

Unfinished Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 247-2023: Approving the acceptance of the FY 2021/2022 Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) allocation, in the amount of \$1,233,089.00.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on voting to adopt Resolution 247-2023 due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 247-2023 with the abstention as noted.

Resolution 248-2023: Approving the submission of Revision 3, of the State FY 2021/2022 Income and Expense Report for the Human Services Block Grant for Mental Health, Housing Assistance Program, Human Services and Support Services, Intellectual Disabilities, and Drug & Alcohol Programs to the PA Department of Human Services (DHS), for a new retained earnings amount of \$217,553.00 (a reduction of \$921.00).

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 248-2023.

Resolution 249-2023: Approving an Affordable Housing Trust Fund disbursement in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, for Operation Safe Space to assist in providing housing services for those being relocated from inhabitable living conditions.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 249-2023.

Resolution 250-2023: Approving a FY 2022/2023 Purchase of Service Agreement and a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Children's Aid Society of Clearfield County.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 250-2023.

Resolution 251-2023: Approving a FY 2022/2023 Purchase of Service Agreement and a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Pressley Ridge.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 251-2023

Resolution 252-2023: Approving the submission of the Senior Judge Chambers & Support Staff Application for Senior Judge Reimbursable Costs incurred in calendar year 2022 to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), in the total amount of \$9,694.00.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 252-2023.

Resolution 253-2023: Approving a 2023 pricing agreement between the County of Blair and ProActive Sports for the following employee uniform items:

- 29M, Adult, Safety Green Tee Shirt \$ 6.50
- 1799S, Adult, Safety Green Coat \$125.00
- G185, Adult, Safety Green Pull Over Hood \$ 18.00
- G186, Adult, Safety Green Full Zip \$ 24.00
(Sizes SM-XL)
(Add an additional \$2.00 for size XXL; add an additional \$3.00 for size XXXL)

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 253-2023.

Resolution 254-2023: Approving the 2023-2024 PCoRP Commercial Insurance Renewal Proposal received, in the total premium amount of \$455,504.00, for the policy period of June 1, 2023 through June 1, 2024, and the 40%-30%-30% payment option as outlined below:

- June 1, 2023 40% \$182,202.00
- September 1, 2023 30% \$136,651.00
- December 1, 2023 30% \$136,351.00

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 254-2023

Resolution 255-2023: Approving the acceptance of the 2022-2023 PCoRP Loss Prevention Grant Award, in the total amount of \$13,515.98, which includes \$1,443.98 for a new projector system provided by BenQ for the public meeting room, and \$12,072.00 for seven-7 door swipes for various locations within the courthouse.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 255-2023

Resolution 256-2023: Approving to dissolve the Solid Waste Authority.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 256-2023.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Antis Township:

Commissioner Erb requested approval of a Letter of Support for the submission of a PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant Application by Antis Township for the Bellwood Antis Community Park Upgrades Project.

Commissioner Erb stated that there is no financial obligation from the county for this project.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 257-2023: Approving a Letter of Support for the submission of a PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant Application by Antis Township for the Bellwood Antis Community Park Upgrades Project.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 257-2023.

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk