

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners 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:

Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Amanda Vaughn (BSC Construction), Helen Schmitt (Public), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Jim Hudack (Public), Amy Marten-Shanafelt (Blair HealthChoices), AC Stickel (Controller), Rich Huether (Farmland Preservation), Kim Corle (Director of Nursing UPMC Altoona), Timothy Balconi (UPMC Altoona Foundation), Tricia Maceno, Melissa Gillin, and Theresa Rudy (Social Services), Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Adam Long (Keller Engineers), Abbie Tate (Prison Warden), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Judy Rosser (Drug and Alcohol Partnership), Allison Seidel (Victim/Witness), Tiffany Treese (Children, Youth and Families), and Ken Dean (Public).

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, February 8, 2023	8:30 a.m.	Affordable Housing Trust Fund (Social Services Conference Room)
Thursday, February 9, 2023	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)
Friday, February 10, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Blair County Airport Authority (Blair County Airport)
Monday, February 13, 2023		
Tuesday, February 14, 2023	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)

Announcement:

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the bid specs for the food and non-food items at the Blair County Prison would be accepted for review, rejection or award according to county code thereafter at the Business Session Meeting of February 9, 2023.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Amy Marten-Shanafelt, Blair HealthChoices Executive Director and Judy Rosser, Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnership Executive Director, both shared words in support for use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds for the development of an Empath Unit at UPMC Altoona.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Webster asked to keep the family, co-workers, and friends of fallen McKeesport Police Officer Sean Sluganski in thought and prayer.

Commissioner Burke asked to keep the victims of the earthquake in Turkey, and those near the train derailment in Ohio in thought and prayer.

Commissioner Erb echoed Commissioner Webster and Burke's comments.

Consent Agenda

Resolution 58-2023:

- a. Payment of the following five-5 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
02/07/2023	230207SS	\$182,762.32
02/07/2023	230207CY	\$ 38,531.75
02/07/2023	230207CO	\$ 18,801.94
02/07/2023	230207WW	\$314,466.79
02/03/2023	230207TC	\$171,052.28

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- Blair County Community Action Agency, in the total amount of \$3,750.00.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
02/02/2023	230202WC	\$ 12,168.65
02/01/2023	230201HI	\$538,097.30
02/01/2023	230201FN	\$117,026.65
02/02/2023	230202HR	\$ 12,258.77
01/30/2023	230130FS	\$ 1,210.96

- c. **Bridge #82/Frankstown Branch Superstructure Replacement Project:**

Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #10, Part 4, Construction Inspection, in the total amount of \$3,906.47, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 100% reimbursable through the Road Map Fund.

- d. **Bridge #70/County Road 101 over South Poplar Run Replacement Project:**

Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #3, Part 7, Construction Services, in the total amount of \$915.31, Invoice #6, Part 6, Final Design, in the total amount of \$443.65, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 100% reimbursable through the Road Map Fund.

- e. **Bridge #67/West Loop Road Replacement Project:**

Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #7, Part 4, Construction Inspection, in the total amount of \$532.70, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

- f. **NBIS Bridge Inspection and Inventory:**

Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #45, in the total amount of \$22,158.96, Invoice #46, in the total amount of \$6,371.81, received from Stiffler McGraw for inspection of county owned bridges. Expenses are 80% reimbursable, with 20% paid from Act 44 Bridge Fund.

- g. **Employment:** Kanjuette Wakefield and Holly L. Acker, FT, Caseworker I, CYF, \$17.29/hr., effective 02/06/23; Mattea L. Dunn, FT, Parole and Probation Officer, APO, \$16.30/hr., effective 02/06/23; Russell J. Stone, FT, Maintenance Technician/Truck Driver, \$16.43/hr., effective 02/06/23; Jonathan D. Thomas, FT, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney, \$49,000.02/yr., effective 02/06/23; and Marc E. Seifert, From FT, Unit Supervisor, Domestic Relations, \$16.78/hr., To FT, Deputy Director, Domestic Relations, \$1,782.89/bi-weekly, effective 02/06/23.

- h. **Retirements:** Jon D. Fisher, FT, Lieutenant, Prison, \$52,828.88/yr., effective 02/03/23.

Commissioner Erb noted his abstention on the payment of an invoice to Blair County Community Action Agency due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 58-2023 with the abstention as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS

Commissioners:

- i. Timothy Balconi and Kim Corle requested approval of a Letter of Commitment from the County of Blair to UPMC Altoona Foundation for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, in the total amount of \$200,000.00, to support a new Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Health (EMPATH) Unit.

Mr. Balconi UPMC Foundation Director and Ms. Corle UPMC Altoona Director of Nursing stated that UPMC Altoona is proposing to construct an Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing Unit known as an EMPATH Unit with the Altoona UPMC Emergency Department. The Unit would be staff with psychiatric-trained nurses, mental health workers and evaluator clinicians. The EMPATH Unit would provide timely psychiatric/behavioral health services to the community, as there are over 1,000 inpatient psychiatric admissions annually. The estimated cost of the EMPATH Unit project is \$1,323,016.00.

Blair County Drug and Alcohol Partnership has collaborated with UPMC Altoona on a grant application from the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs for a Substance Abuse Disorder and Crisis Stabilization Service Grant, in the amount of \$773,015.00 over a two-2 year period.

UPMC Altoona has a funding commitment for \$250,000.00 from the US Department of Health Resources and Services Administration. The funds will come from the department's Health Facilities Construction and Equipment budget in the Labor HHS Education Bill.

UPMC Altoona has a pending request with the City of Altoona for ARPA Funds in the amount of \$100,000.00.

UPMC Altoona is requesting \$200,000.00 from Blair County's ARPA Section 1.10 Funds, which authorize ARPA funds to be used to support public health including behavioral health.

UPMC Altoona will fund all remaining or excess costs associated with the project.

Jim Hudack, retired County Social Services Director shared words of support for the use of ARPA Funds for the construction of an EMPATH Unit. He shared some of the patient, community and economic and hospital impacts that such a Unit provides.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Nicole Hemminger requested approval for the acceptance of PennDot’s approval of the County of Blair Engineer of Record Designation.

Discussion followed.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board:

- i. Adam Long requested approval for the acceptance of bids received for the Valley View Park Amphitheater general construction and electrical construction for review, rejection or award according to county code thereafter.

Mr. Long stated that the general construction and electrical construction projects were recently advertised for rebidding. He stated that bids were received and opened at 1:00 p.m. on February 3, 2023.

Mr. Long requested that the board consider acceptance of the following bids received for review, rejection or award according to county code thereafter:

BIDDERS LIST
VALLEY VIEW COUNTY PARK AMPHITHEATER
2895-70
Bid Opening on 2/3/23 @ 1:00pm

CONTRACT 1 GENERAL		
Contractor	Bid Bond (Y or N)	Base Bid Amount
John Claar Excavating, Inc.	Y	\$184,780.00
BCS Construction, Inc.	Y	\$245,950.00
Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.	Y	\$248,000.00
CONTRACT 2 ELECTRICAL		
Contractor	Bid Bond (Y or N)	Base Bid Amount
Stelco, Inc.	Y	\$61,700.00
Westmoreland Electric Services, LLC	Y *DIGITAL	\$77,500.00

Discussion followed.

Resolution 59-2023: Approving the acceptance of the bids received for the Valley View County Park Amphitheater general construction and electrical construction projects for review, rejection or award according to county code thereafter:

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 59-2023.

- ii. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds (035), in an amount not to exceed \$800.00 for service and tires for the parks tractor.

Discussion followed.

Farmland Preservation:

- i. Rich Huether requested approval of a Contract for Services between County of Blair, and Agrarian Associates, Inc. for easement appraisal of the James R. and Linda J. Negley farm, in the total amount of \$1,650.00. Cost will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth at the time of easement settlement.
- ii. Rich Huether requested approval of a Contract for Services between the County of Blair, and Agrarian Associates, Inc. for easement appraisal of the Brian and Rachael Detwiler, Joseph and Valala McCutcheon farm, in the total amount of \$1,650.00. Cost will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth at the time of easement settlement.

Mr. Huether stated that presently there are 8,760 acres in Blair County easements. The addition of these two-2 farms will bring the acreage to over 9,000. He stated that the Commonwealth will reimburse the cost of the appraisals at the time of settlement, and the landowners paid appraisal deposits that cover the appraisal costs should the easements not be completed.

Discussion followed.

Victim Witness:

Allison Seidel requested approval of a renewal Maintenance and Service Agreement between the County of Blair and the PA District Attorney’s Institute for the PA SAVIN Program within the Victim/Witness Office, in the amount of zero dollars, for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Ms. Seidel stated that the SAVIN System would provide notification to registered persons regarding the escape, release from custody or transfer from one facility to another of persons held in custody as required by the Crime Victims Act of Pennsylvania. She stated that the Pennsylvania District Attorney’s Institute (PDAI) receives grant funding to provide the SAVIN service statewide; therefore, there is no cost to the county associated with this renewal agreement.

Discussion followed.

Social Services:

- i. Melissa Gillin requested approval of Contract Amendment 2 to the FY 21/22 contract between the County of Blair, and Family Services, Inc., dated June 1, 2021 and first amended on January 26, 2022, now amending said contract by increasing the maximum contract amount from \$130,000.00 to \$205,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, based on review of un-audited actual expenditures and available funds.

Ms. Gillin stated that Solicitor Karn reviewed the contract amendment and his requested changes to the amendment have been made.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Melissa Gillin requested approval of a FY 22/23 contract renewal between the County of Blair and Blair County Community Action Program, in the maximum contract amount of \$250,000.00, for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Ms. Gillin stated that Solicitor Karn has reviewed and approved the contract boilerplate, business associate agreement and the insurance documents for the program.

Discussion followed.

Children, Youth and Families:

Tiffany Treese requested approval of the FY 20/22 Purchase of Service Agreement and Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and Kids First, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

Ms. Treese stated that Solicitor Karn has reviewed all of the documents. She stated that Kids First has not requested any rate changes for the time-period.

Discussion followed.

Prison:

Abbie Tate requested approval of a Second Amendment to the Comprehensive Health Services Agreement dated March 1, 2018, and First Amended on or about June 28, 2022, between the County of Blair and PrimeCare Medical, Inc. now amending to extend the Underlying Agreement, as amended, for six (6) months from February 28, 2023 until August 31, 2023, at the rate of \$142,981.04/per month during said extension, in accordance with the same billing cycle as provided for under the Underlying Agreement, as amended. All other provisions of the Underlying Agreement, as amended, not inconsistent with this Second Amendment, shall remain in full force and effect.

Warden Tate stated that the current amended agreement is due to expire on February 28, 2023. She requested that the board consider extending the amended agreement an additional six (6) months for the period of February 28, 2023 until August 31, 2023 with all provisions of the underlying amended agreement remaining in full force and effect.

Discussion followed.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of the 2023 Fort Special Event Schedule as listed on the Fort Calendar and the public announcement.

Mr. Nelson requested approval of the following special events to be held at Fort Roberdeau for 2023. He stated that the events would be listed in the 2023 Fort Roberdeau brochure and provided during a public announcement of upcoming events.

Fort Roberdeau Special Events

Distaff Day- June 17, 2023

Star Spangled 4th- July 4, 2023

Mountain Lion Observatory 5th Anniversary- July 28, 2023

Rev War Days- August 12-13, 2023

Constitution Day- September 17, 2023

Halloween Adventures with AAHS Astronomy Club- October 7, 2023

Veterans Tribute- October 28, 2023

Mountain Lion Observatory Public Sky Watch- May 26, 2023; June 23, 2023;

July 28, 2023

Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 54-2023: Approving a resolution declaring an emergency at the Blair County Prison due to a faulty water heater, and authorization to enter a contract for replacement of the same without bidding.

Held for discussion Thursday, February 9, 2023.

ADJOURN:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk