

BUSINESS SESSION: THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

**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

Others Present:

Allison Senkevich (Commissioners Office), Sarah Chuff (Finance), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Sheriff Jim Ott, Cathy Lythgoe (Court Admin), AC Stickel (Controller), Senator Judy Ward and Amanda Walker, Bonita Shreve (Pres 2nd Amend Coalition), Marlyn Graffius (citizen), and Edwin L. Figart (citizen).

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Chief Clerk Hemminger read each of the public comments sent to the publiccomment@blairco.org email, which is monitored by the Commissioners' office staff.

Email: dsalsgiver1@atlanticbroadband.net, James Burley, Robert Staph, and Angela Lombardi all submitted the same following public comment:

“We want to Keep the Wording Exactly how it was Stated I believe that the following words could start out the Intermunicipal Agreement as Such: For the People By The People of Blair County Pennsylvania this Day We Enter into a County Wide as well as All 24 Municipalities Intermunicipal Agreement that No Taxpayer Resources shall be used to enforce any legislation passed after November 2nd, 2021 that would Infringe upon an Eligible Citizen's Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Also in Accordance that No other Referendum can over- ride these Referendums without superceeding the full count of votes for both County-wide and All 24 Municipalities. If any Municipalities take any other Referendum that over-rides this Referendum for their own Municipality they Shall still Abide by the County-wide Referendum. If the County-wide Referendum was to be was to be overridden that the Municipalities shall still abide by their Referendum in its own Municipality. In order for any other Referendum to over-ride what these current Referendums state then they must also over-ride Both County-wide and All 24 Municipalities in the Same Election Cycle. This is what Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition Proposes to Be Fair and Balanced.”

Ying Li:

“Dear Blair County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Hollidaysburg, PA and a member of the Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition. The president of our coalition Bonita Shreeve has sent you the statement that we would like you to put in the Intermunicipal Agreement. Please give it your serious consideration. Thank you very much!”

Dawn Willett:

“The government shall not authorize or appropriate funds for the purpose of enforcing laws that infringe on the right to bear arms”.

Deena Ketner:

“Hello, I am a member of the Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition and I helped get those thousands of signatures. I've been following the newspaper articles about the referendums from November and sanctuary. I'm confused! I don't understand why there is a need for ANOTHER committee. I thought the work was done. Please help me understand this. Anxiously, awaiting your response. Thank you, Deena Ketner”

Georgia Gampe:

“As one of the 5,603 Blair county residents that voted NO on the second amendment sanctuary, what and who is going to protect our rights to freedom from gun intimidation in the county? I grew up in a family of hunters, my father and brothers all own hunting rifles and shotguns. I do not fear guns, but I do not want to enter restaurants, stores or

entertainment venues where guns are present. What are you going to do to protect us non gun toting citizens. We also have a right to our freedoms!"

Marlyn Graffius:

"It passed on the ballot in November. Now the end off January it seems to be a dead item. Why has it not put on the Country books ? The people would like to know, are the elected Commissioners not doing there job ? One could only know. If you went a task force. There is one in place it is called the 2 Ammendment collection. What more do we need to do"

Commissioner Erb then called for public comment from those present at the meeting and on the telephone:

Bonita Shreve, President of the Blair County Coalition talked about how she would like to be a part of the proposed task force being formed. She mentioned her ~2,700 followers on Facebook who question when the referendum will be established. She went on to give the Commissioners her background about her mother and why this means so much to her.

Special Presentation - 175th Anniversary of Blair County:

Senator Judy Ward read the following citation of the Blair County 175th anniversary:

Whereas the Senate of Pennsylvania is always pleased to recognize those esteemed communities which, through the observance of significant events in their history, contribute to preserving the continuity of Pennsylvania's great heritage; and

Whereas, Blair County is celebrating the momentous occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary; and

Whereas, Established on February 26, 1846, Blair County was formed from portions of Huntingdon and Bedford Counties and is named after John Blair, a prominent citizen and eventual member of the Pennsylvania legislature who helped to promote the organization of a turnpike between Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Counties. Since its establishment, the county has been a crossroads for business and trade due to its accessibility to the Allegheny Front, and its lauded as the heart of southcentral Pennsylvania in terms of business, cultural, and educational activity. Throughout its rich history, Blair County has been blessed with dedicated civic leaders who have helped it to grow and flourish, as well as diligent and productive citizens who have helped it to become an inspiring presence in this Commonwealth.

Now therefore, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania heartily congratulates Blair County on the momentous and joyous occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary; offers best wishes for growth and prosperity in the years to come;

And directs that a copy of this document, sponsored by Senator Judy Ward, be transmitted to Blair County, 423 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution# 31-2022/ Bridge#70: A resolution approving the Notice to Proceed for Part 6, Final Design Rehabilitation project with a scheduled Let Date of 7/28/22 (twelve-12 month duration).

Motion by Commissioner Webster, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #31-2022.

Resolution# 33-2022/ Bridge #73: A resolution approving the signature of a proposal of service between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers for supplemental design, project management, shop drawing review, and construction consultation for additional repairs discovered during construction of Bridge #73 in the total amount of \$12,490.00 (lump sum plus estimated costs).

Motion by Commissioner Webster, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #33-2022.

Resolution# 34-2022/Salt Storage and Building Project: A resolution approving the signature of a proposal of service between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers for structural design, land development, storm water management plan, erosion & sedimentation control plan, documents & bidding, shop drawing review, construction consultation, and electrical design services in the total amount of \$55,860.00.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #34-2022.

Resolution# 35-2022: A resolution approving the signature of a contract between Agrarian Associates, Inc. and Blair County to conduct an easement appraisal of the Leonard R. Burket Estate Home Farm.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #35-2022.

Resolution# 37-2022: A resolution approving an independent contractor agreement between the County of Blair (on behalf of the County Assessment office) and Pittsburgh Realty Valuation, Inc. DBA Integra Realty Resources – Pittsburgh, effective 1/1/2022 through 12/31/22 or sooner if all court appeals filed in 2021 for the 2022 assessment year have concluded.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, second by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #37-2022.

Resolution# 38-2022: A resolution approving the signature of two Election Polling Place Lease Agreements between the County of Blair and the property owners (Municipal/Federal Government and Privately-Owned Facility) for the May 17, 2022 Primary Election and the November 8, 2022 General Election.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #38-2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement:
Continued discussion.

Commissioner Burke commented on the public comment the Commissioners received on Tuesday and how it compares to the comments they received on Thursday. She noted that the comments focused on the language used in the referendum and how it correlates to what was on the ballot and pointed out that the language used in both documents is almost identical except for the phrase “whether jointly or severally”, which was the only change made to the language in the referendum.

She also addressed the public comments made about whether a future referendum would be valid.

Commissioner Webster said that she agrees that the agreement is ultimately approved by all 24 municipalities. The issues they have found are that there is no statement in the referendum stating consequences if there is a violation/penalty and that there is nothing stating who is responsible for enforcing those consequences and if anyone has the authority to put a statement as such in the referendum.

She questions if the referendum should be enacted as it is right now or do we address the above issues first.

Commissioner Erb said that Commissioner Burke and Webster brought up great points and he is now questioning what they can or cannot do, which is why they urged the need for public comments. He mentioned again that the word “teeth” keeps being brought up but no one has directly addressed what exactly that means or how it will be enforced.

Commissioner Burke noted that since the Commonwealth enforces the referendum agreement, how they, as Commissioners, would legally be able to change or address the issues that public comment keeps making.

Handbook Updates:

Section	Comments
Introductory Period	
Job Description	
Jury Duty	
Paid Leave Donation Policy	
Light Duty	
Military Leave	
Outside Employment	
Paid Sick Time	
Payroll	
Pre-Employment Hiring Information	
Performance Reviews	
Personnel Data Changes	
Personnel Files	
Political Activity	
Pregnancy Discrimination	
Problem Resolution	
Progressive Corrective Action	
Prohibited Weapons	
Religious Accommodation	
Retirement	
Security and Inspections	
Separation from Employment and Rehire	
Service Animals	
Short-Term Disability	
Smoking	

Held for discussion at a future Commissioners’ meeting when all three Commissioners are physically present.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Adjourn:
Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk