

**MEETING SESSION: THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, 1:00 P.M.**

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

*\*Public meetings are being held both in-person and by Zoom. To participate in the meeting please dial-1-309-205-3325 or-1-646-876-9923, enter meeting number 988 9066 9264, and enter the meeting passcode 423423.*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:**

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent reflection.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

Commissioner Kessling requested that those participating in the meeting please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, and Chief Clerk Hemmingger.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brooke Lafferty (Prison), Lindsay Dempsey and Brandon Meck (Finance), Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel), Carol Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Heather Linskold, Kevin Yoder, Jennifer Knisely, Jennifer Powell and Danette Feathers (Blair County Library Systems).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Chief Clerk Nicole Hemmingger confirmed there were no Executive Sessions since the last Board of Commissioners meeting on April 2, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 3/26, 3/28, and 4/2**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Kessling called for public comment.

Chief Clerk Nicole Hemmingger read a letter from Ken Diebold submitted to publiccomment@blairco.com suggesting his model for a solar ordinance, which he states would protect valuable farmland as it utilizes solar power equipment on less fertile farmland and on rooftops.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Kessling called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Burke stated that she just returned from a Criminal Justice Advisory Board Meeting and is excited to bring new ideas back to Blair County.

Commissioner Webster stated Envirothon is currently being held at Fort Roberdeau and she will soon be able to announce the winners.

Commissioner Kessling stated he just returned from Terrorism Taskforce Event/Training. He thanked the 911/EMA, Sheriff, and the Altoona and Hollidaysburg Police Departments for their response and investigation of a recent incident at the prison.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Commissioner Webster read the following proclamation:

**Proclamation  
National Library Week  
April 7-13, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, libraries offer the opportunity for everyone to connect with others, learn new skills, and pursue their passions, no matter where they are on life's journey; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries have long served as trusted institutions, often the heart of their cities, towns, schools, and academic campuses; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries are an essential public good and fundamental institutions in democratic societies, working to improve society, protect the right to education and literacy, and promote the free exchange of information and ideas for all; and,

**WHEREAS**, the PA Forward@, Literacy is POWER, initiative highlights how libraries and staffs encourage literacy in Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health, and Financial, which contributes to greater personal and community success; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, developing and expanding collections, programs, and services that are as diverse as the populations they serve; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries' workers have worked to expand fluency in the digital literacy skills needed to navigate the online world which 21<sup>st</sup> century information exists; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing civic engagement and shared community goals; and,

**WHEREAS**, getting a library card is a financially literate action; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries play a pivotal role in economic development by providing resources and support for job seekers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, thus contributing to local prosperity and growth; and,

**WHEREAS**, libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim National Library Week, April 7-13, 2024 in Blair County. During this week, I encourage all residents to visit their library and celebrate the adventures and opportunities they unlock for us every day. Ready, Set, Library!

**BLAIR COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Kessling, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura O. Burke, Secretary

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to accept the Proclamations as prepared.

Heather Lindskold, Kevin Yoder, Jennifer Knisely, and Danette Feathers from Blair County Library Systems were present to accept the proclamation.

Ms. Knisely gave each commissioner a children’s book to pass along to child and encourage them to visit their local library. She stated that the Blair County Library System had 225,640 visitors in 2023. She reminded everyone that the libraries have a variety of items besides books available and the Blair County Library System has saved tax payers over \$5,434,478 in 2023.

Commissioner Burke expressed her appreciation of the receipts showing how much her family has personally saved.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
**Resolution 187 – 2024:**

a. Ratification of the following 9-nine Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/09/2024	240409WW	185,184.09
04/09/2024	240409CO	35,891.91
04/09/2024	240409CY	394,779.83
04/09/2024	240409SS	43,143.48
04/03/2024	240403HI	540,765.07
04/01/2024	240401FN	117,016.69
04/04/2024	240404HR	9,525.25
04/01/2024	240401FS	1,582.87
03/28/2024	240328HR	3,231.18

b. Ratification of the Total Payroll for the check dated 4/5/2024 in the total amount of \$875,491.21.

c. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover Justifacts, Inc. fees for March 2024:

From	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$175.93 012011-42000 APO
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$208.72 762011-42000 APO, supervision fund
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$183.47 01112-42000 Controller
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$46.93 01160CO-42000 Custody
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$434.64 113201-42000 CYF
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$50.47 01158-42000 District Attorney
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$183.53 34156-42000 Domestic Relations
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$175.93 01602-42000 EMA
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$1185.86 01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$361.94 01153-42000 Prothonotary
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$1041.52 01151-42000 Sheriff
01101GCO-42250 General County Operations	\$11.66 01101-42250 Commissioners
01101GCO-42250 General County Operations	\$11.66 01151-42250 Sheriff
01101GCO-42250 General County Operations	\$11.66 01158-42250 District Attorney
01101GCO-42250 General County Operations	\$11.66 01160WK-42250 Judge Kagarise

d. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover a printer lease agreement:

From	To
01101GCO-41999 General County Operations	\$1,271.64 01109-44700 Treasurer

e. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover equipment maintenance for the annex building:

From	To
01103BM-44710 Building Maintenance	\$193.80 01161FM-44710 MDJ Tyrone
01103BM-44710 Building Maintenance	\$356.00 01103HW-44710 Highway

f. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover March 2024 legal fees from Campbell Durrant:

From	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$3234.60 01209PO-44080 Prison

g. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover charges from Liberty Fire Solutions:

From	To
01103BM-44710 Building Maintenance	\$66.80 01161DD-44710 MDJ DeAntonio

- h. **Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board:** Requesting approval for the appointment of Erica Castine for an open seat with the term ending 12/31/26.
- i. **Resignations:** Jacobs, David D., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$22.76/hr., effective 4/6/2024; Branting, Jazlin R., FT, Parole and Probation Officer, APO, \$16.95/hr., effective 4/19/2024; Myers, Wendy J., PT, Probation Officer Support, APO, \$12.28/hr., effective 4/19/2024.
- j. **Termination:** Shipley, Katana L., FT, Telecommunicator Trainee, Public Safety-911, \$13.88/hr., effective 2/16/2024.
- k. **Employments:** Evans, Ashley N., Probation Officer Aide, APO, \$11.58/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Kimberly, Brett M., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Coughlin, Stephen T., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Doran, James E., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Ferricola, Joseph M., FT, Clerk Typist, CYF, \$13.00/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Holmberg, Lisa M., Per Diem, Deputy, Coroner, \$80.00 per shift, effective 4/8/2024. Kennedy, Linda L., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Sharer, Calvin M., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Steiner, Barbara L., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Wardrop, Derek R., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Zink, Nicholas A., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2024.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commission Webster to approve to adopt Resolution 187-2024.

**STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**Prison:**

Brooke Lafferty requested approval to accept the bid(s) received for two-2 milk products for the Blair County Prison and to award or reject per county code thereafter.

**Resolution 188-2024:** Approving to accept the bid(s) received for two-2 milk products for the Blair County Prison and to award or reject per county code thereafter.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 188-2024.

**Prothonotary:**

Chief Clerk Hemming, on behalf of the Prothonotary's office, requested approval of a Service Agreement extension between Modern Business Service (MBS) and the County of Blair, on behalf of the Prothonotary's office, for two Lektriver's and seven Kompact Movable Shelving Systems for the period of January 1, 2024 through January 1, 2025 in the total amount of \$2,331.00.

**Resolution 189-2024:** Approving the Service Agreement extension between Modern Business Service (MBS) and the County of Blair, on behalf of the Prothonotary's office, for two Lektriver's and seven Kompact Movable Shelving Systems for the period of January 1, 2024 through January 1, 2025 in the total amount of \$2,331.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 189-2024.

**IT:**

Chief Clerk Hemming, on behalf of the IT department, requested approval of a quote between the County of Blair and Xcitem Inc. for 500 licenses of endpoint security software for the period of February 1, 2024 through February 1, 2027 in the total amount of \$15,000.00.

Chief Clerk Hemming added funds are available in the budget for this software.

**Resolution 190-2024:** Approving the quote between the County of Blair and Xcitem Inc. for 500 licenses of endpoint security software for the period of February 1, 2024 through February 1, 2027 in the total amount of \$15,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 190-2024.

**Controller:**

Jindsay Dempsey, on behalf of the Controller, requested approval of an Engagement Letter for professional auditing services year-end 2023 between the County of Blair and Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC in the total amount of \$85,000.00.

**Resolution 191-2024:** Approving the Engagement Letter for professional auditing services year-end 2023 between the County of Blair and Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC in the total amount of \$85,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 191-2024.

**Finance:**

Brandon Meck requested approval for the submission of the calendar year 2022 Act 13 Unconventional Wells spending report to the Public Utility Commission.

**Resolution 192-2024:** Approving the submission of the calendar year 2022 Act 13 Unconventional Wells spending report to the Public Utility Commission.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 192-2024.

**Commissioners:**

i. Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger requested approval to rescind Resolution 129-2024, dated March 14th, 2024, and to approve a new resolution to clarify language from the contract.

Chief Clerk Hemminger explained the Resolution approved the Election System and Software (ES&S) Contract and the pricing in Resolution 129-2024 did not match the contract language. The new Resolution would clear up any confusion by matching the contract language.

**Resolution 193-2024:** Approving to rescind Resolution 129-2024, dated March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and to approve a new resolution to clarify language from the contract.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 193-2024.

ii. Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger requested approval of a Letter of Support for the grant application submitted by the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library for the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program grant.

Jennifer Powell, Tyrone-Snyder Public Library Director, added that this grant would allow for improved community development by providing access for telehealth, education, and work force opportunities.

**Resolution 194-2024:** Approval of a Letter of Support for the grant application submitted by the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library for the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program grant.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 194-2024.

**Old Business:**

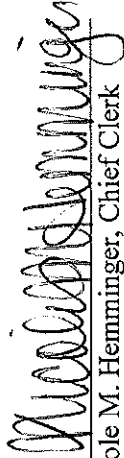
Requesting approval of a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repair Project dated October 20, 2023.

Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger requested that this item be held for a future meeting pending solicitor approval.

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Kessler requested a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

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

  
Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk